

Hazard Mitigation Planning for States

This fact sheet provides an overview of hazard mitigation planning for state governments.

Disasters can cause loss of life, damage buildings and infrastructure and harm the state's¹ economic well-being. Hazard mitigation lessens the impact of disasters by reducing loss of life and property. Hazard mitigation plans raise awareness of hazards, risks and vulnerabilities. They also identify ways to reduce risk and focus state resources on the greatest risks. The state mitigation plan reduces risk to key assets in the long term. It also gives jurisdictions within the state information about the state's risks, capabilities, priorities and action plans. This helps local governments² develop and update their hazard mitigation plans. States must:

- Update their hazard mitigation plan every 5 years.
- Support the development of local mitigation plans through planning grants, training and technical assistance.
- Complete the coordination and initial review of local and tribal mitigation plans.
- Communicate plan status and expiration dates to local and tribal governments as well as assist with applying for planning and project grants.

A state must have a mitigation plan to receive certain kinds of non-emergency disaster assistance. For more details, visit [Mitigation Planning and Grants](#).

State Mitigation Planning Requirements

State mitigation plans follow the same basic steps:

- Identify the planning team and organize resources.
- Assess risks.
- Develop a mitigation strategy.
- Adopt and implement the plan.

¹ For this fact sheet, the term "state" includes the five inhabited U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

² Please refer to [44 CFR § 201.2 Definitions](#) for information on what constitutes a local government.



The state must meet additional requirements to apply for the [High Hazard Potential Dams](#) grant program or to obtain the enhanced status needed to receive additional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding.

Enhanced status shows that the state has a comprehensive mitigation program and can manage increased funding for its mitigation goals. Please see FEMA’s [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) for details.

The table below describes a state plan’s required elements.

Element	Overall Intent
Planning Process	Demonstrates a comprehensive and equitable approach to how the plan was prepared, who participated and how decisions were made.
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)	Describes what hazards may affect the state, where they may occur, and how frequently they may happen. This helps identify risk-informed mitigation actions. The HIRA must account for future conditions like climate change and changes in population and land use.
State Mitigation Capabilities	Documents the state’s capabilities to lower risk and increase resilience using a wide range of programs, policies and initiatives.
Mitigation Strategy	Guides the development and implementation of hazard mitigation by setting goals, identifying actions and detailing an action plan that reflects the state’s risks and priorities.
Local Planning Coordination and Capability Building	Shows how the state supports local and tribal jurisdictions’ capabilities to accomplish hazard mitigation. It also shows how the state directs resources toward effective mitigation planning and investment decisions.
Review, Evaluation and Implementation	Establishes a process for keeping the plan current. This step ensures the plan is carried out over time. Evaluating feedback on the state’s progress toward its mitigation strategy is important.
Adoption and Assurances	Demonstrates the state’s commitment to mitigation planning and implementation. Confirms that the state will comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations.

State Planning Guidance and Training

FEMA provides a variety of [guidance, resources and training](#) to help states develop their hazard mitigation plans.

- The State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletins provide approaches and tools to develop the [planning process, risk assessment, mitigation capabilities](#) and [mitigation strategy](#).
- [IS-329: State Mitigation Planning](#) is a self-paced online course. It teaches state officials about the policies and procedures for state mitigation planning.
- [L-329: State Mitigation Planning Workshop](#) is an in-depth, 2-day state mitigation planning course. For more information on this course or others, contact the appropriate [FEMA regional office](#).
- The [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#) provides additional information about mitigation planning and related grant