

## Section 2

# Hazard Mitigation Planning Basics

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# What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?

Hazard mitigation consists of long-term actions taken before disasters to reduce risk to people, property, and services:



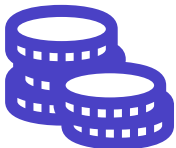
- Focuses on reducing risk, not responding to emergencies



- Addresses natural hazards (flooding, storms, heat, etc.)



- Emphasizes long-term resilience



- Proven to reduce future losses and recovery costs



# Why Hazard Mitigation Planning Matters

**An HMP documents risks, priorities, and actions over time.**

**Through it, communities work to:**

- Identify local hazards and vulnerabilities
- Define mitigation goals and priority actions
- Meet planning requirements commonly tied to FEMA mitigation funding
- Strengthen competitiveness of future grant applications

**Note:** Maintaining an HMP supports eligibility but does not ensure funding.



# How Hazard Mitigation Planning Works

## Hazard mitigation planning follows a local-state-federal framework:

- Local governments identify risks and projects
- States coordinate planning and funding submissions
- FEMA sets requirements and reviews plans
- Plans follow a five-year update cycle
- Plans must be maintained and adopted to remain current

# Participation, Adoption, & Eligibility (Conceptual)

**These are related but distinct concepts:**

**Participation:**  
involvement in  
the planning  
process

**Adoption:**  
formal approval  
by a governing  
body

**Eligibility:**  
coverage under  
an approved and  
adopted plan

**General principle:** Participation supports inclusion, while adoption is generally necessary to maintain access to mitigation funding programs.



# Elements of a Typical HMP

Typical  
Hazard  
Mitigation  
Plans  
include:

## Stakeholder Process

- Municipalities, agencies, and partners help identify risks and priorities

## Risk Assessment

- Analysis of hazards and vulnerabilities affecting the community

## Mitigation Strategies

- Projects and actions that reduce risk

## Implementation & Monitoring

- Tracking progress and updating the plan over time

# Multi-Jurisdictional Planning: Why Counties Lead

Many municipalities participate through **county-led HMPs** to:



Share data, tools, and technical expertise



Reduce duplicative planning effort



Support municipalities with limited staff capacity



Allow local actions to be included in a regional plan

**Note:** Participation & documentation requirements are defined through FEMA guidance and communicated by the state.



# Aligning HMPs with Local Priorities

Effective HMPs align with other local planning efforts, such as:

**Comprehensive plans**

**Stormwater or flood studies**

**Capital improvement programs**

**Infrastructure planning**

**Climate or resilience plans**

**Community priorities and constraints**

# State & County Roles (High-Level Overview)

## At a general level:



State partners typically coordinate plan review and mitigation funding applications and share guidance as available



County partners typically coordinate the planning process and support municipal participation and submissions

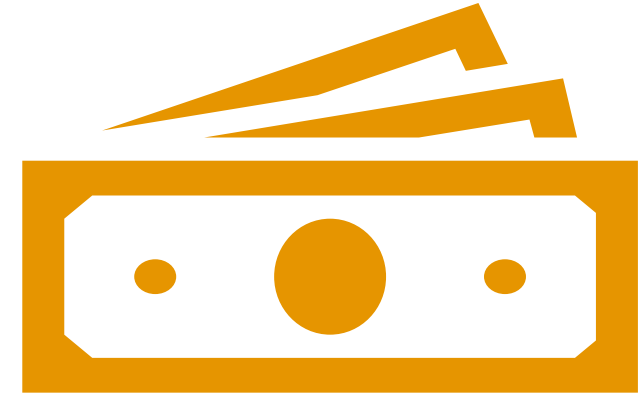
**Note:** Specific roles, timelines, and requirements vary by planning cycle and funding opportunity.



Provides the framework for identifying local risks and mitigation actions



Allows municipal projects to be included in a FEMA-approved plan



Helps communities pursue mitigation funding