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National Disaster Resilience

Competition offered through HUD

On June 14, 2014, President Obama announced the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Responding to demand from State, local, and tribal leaders who are working to increase the safety and security of their communities, the nearly \$1 billion competition will invite communities that have experienced natural disasters to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters.

The competition will support innovative resilience projects at the local level, while encouraging communities to adopt policy changes and activities that plan for the impacts of extreme weather and climate change, and rebuild affected areas to be better prepared for the future.

Read more about this competition and the communities it supports at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/14/fact-sheet-national-disaster-resilience-competition>.

Building More Resilient Communities

Resilience is the capacity of a community to adapt in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of structure and function after being exposed to a hazard. Resilient communities are prepared for and able to respond and recover from adverse situations such as flooding. Resilience is determined by the degree to which the community is capable of organizing itself to increase its capacity for learning from past disasters. Resilient communities are better able to withstand the damaging effects of disasters, thereby saving lives and protecting economic assets.

Building or enhancing community resilience does not necessarily mean expensive structural or protective measures. Some examples of actions that communities can take to become more resilient include:

- Have up-to-date evacuation and shelter-in-place plans
- Develop a plan for offsite critical records storage
- Revise the Hazard Mitigation Plan; include a broad range of community participants on the planning team
- Develop a strategic plan that addresses disaster preparedness
- Undertake flood control projects in areas of localized flooding
- Harden critical facilities against natural disasters
- Coordinate with other local communities to develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) to assist one another during and after an event
- Develop an education program about disaster mitigation options for the community
- Work with local businesses to understand their plans for natural disasters and develop agreements for mutual assistance during a disaster
- Work with local faith-based organizations and civic groups to discuss coordination of efforts during a disaster
- Use capital improvement programs to fund hazard mitigation measures
- Use infrastructure improvements to guide growth away from known hazards
- Use zoning and other land use controls to prohibit or discourage hazard development patterns
- Preserve or restore natural functions that minimize hazard impacts, such as wetland restoration
- Preserve natural areas or open space as buffers against known hazards, such as wildfire breaks

Decisions relating to land use, environmental protection, economic development, capital improvements, government operations, and budgets all have a role to play in mitigating hazard risks. The most effective way to promote resilience at the community level is to integrate the consideration of risk, and ways to reduce or eliminate risk into all decisions.

"A sustainable community, then, is a resilient one; it is a community that seeks to understand and live with the physical and environmental forces present at its location."

~ Timothy Beatley,

The Vision of Sustainable Communities

Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards

FEMA has a document available online that provides a resource that communities can use to identify and evaluate a range of potential mitigation actions for reducing risk to natural hazards and disasters.

The suggested mitigation actions are summarized into four types: (1) Local Planning and Regulations, (2) Structure and Infrastructure Projects, (3) Natural Systems Protection, and (4) Education and Awareness Programs. Examples of activities that can be used to accomplish each mitigation goal are identified, as well as the relevant FEMA publications or resources if applicable.



This document is intended to be a starting point for gathering ideas and should not be used as the only source for identifying actions. Communities should seek innovative and different ideas for reducing risk that meet their unique needs.

Download a free copy of this very informative document at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/30627?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=6938>

Mitigate Your Business from Natural Disasters

Most businesses keep on-site records and files (both hardcopy and electronic) that are essential to normal operations. Some businesses also store raw materials and product inventory. The loss of essential records, files, and other materials during a disaster is commonplace and can not only add to your damage costs, but also delay your return to normal operations. The longer your business is not operating, the more likely you are to lose customers permanently to your competitors. To reduce your vulnerability, determine which records, files, and materials are most important; consider their vulnerability to damage during different types of disasters (such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes) and take steps to protect them, including the following:

- * Raising computers above the flood level and moving them away from large windows**
- * Storing vital documents (plans, legal papers, etc.) in a secure off-site location**
- * Regularly backing up vital electronic files (such as billing and payroll records and customer lists) and storing backup copies in a secure off-site location**

Building Science—Building Stronger

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a wealth of information to help communities protect themselves not only from flooding, but other types of disasters like earthquakes, tornadoes, and fires. FEMA's Building Science Branch studies how structures perform during disasters, and then develops recommendations about how to build stronger, more resilient structures. The full library of Building Science publications is available at www.fema.gov/building-science-publications.

Additional Resources

FEMA. *Developing and Promoting Mitigation Best Practices and Case Studies: Communication Strategy Toolkit*.

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3751?id=1774>

FEMA. *Integrating hazard mitigation into local planning*.

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31372?id=7130>

FEMA. *RiskMAP6.com*— Many additional resources are available through our project website:

<http://www.riskmap6.com/Resources.aspx>

FEMA. *National Flood Insurance Program: Training, Workshops and Conferences*. <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-training-workshops-and-conferences>

FEMA. *National Preparedness Community*.

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/readynpm/view?objectId=127524>

Upcoming Webinar Trainings

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|---------------------------|---|
| Topic: | Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA) |
| Date/Time | July 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, & 31/ 10am CST |
| Where to Register: | http://hfiaaupdate.eventbrite.com |
| Topic: | Preparing an Annual Recertification (CRS) |
| Date/Time: | August 19, 2014, 12:00 pm CST |
| Where to Register: | http://crsresources.org/training/ |
| Topic: | Natural Floodplain Functions (CRS) |
| Date/Time: | August 20 2014, 12:00 pm CST |
| Where to Register: | http://crsresources.org/training/ |
| Topic: | Developing Outreach Projects (CRS) |
| Date/Time: | October 22 2014, 12:00 pm CST |
| Where to Register: | http://crsresources.org/training/ |