

L-329 State Mitigation Planning

Purpose and Organization

L-329 State Mitigation Planning walks state mitigation staff through the steps needed to produce a state hazard mitigation plan. The instructor-led course includes everything from gathering and analyzing data to adopting the plan and implementation. The course focuses on four specific aspects of state hazard mitigation planning: the planning process, risk assessment, mitigation capabilities, and mitigation strategy.

There are six lessons detailing the mitigation planning process. The L-329 course combines instructor-led lecture, peer to peer discussions in breakout groups and informational presentations from subject matter experts. The course is designed for a classroom with an optimal capacity of 20-30 participants representing one or more states. The two-day course is designed for 16 hours of lectures, activities and breaks. Instructors from FEMA Regional Mitigation Planning teams modify content to include examples from across the nation.

Learning Objectives

The course brings together state agencies and other partners to leverage their knowledge in support of their hazard mitigation plans. Participants establish a common set of values to validate both the mitigation plan and the state's overall mitigation program. After this training, participants will be able to:

- Provide an overview of hazard mitigation planning and know where to go for more information.
- Describe the planning process and the importance of stakeholder contribution.
- Describe the steps to update the risk assessment including changes in development and the incorporation of future conditions.
- Describe the steps to evaluate state capabilities.
- Describe the steps to update the mitigation strategy.
- Describe the requirements to qualify for enhanced plan status.



American Planning Association members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) can earn 12 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for this training. When CM credits are available, they are noted at the end of an activity description. More information about AICP's CM program can be found at planning.org/cm. Instructors will provide specific details, including the event number and how to log credits, during the course.



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Who should take this course?

State emergency management agency staff, state agencies that have participated or will participate in plan updates, state mitigation advisory committee members, non-governmental partners and organizations and regional planning organizations.

Why is this important?

State mitigation plans set the foundation for local mitigation planning. Communities can identify and reference hazards in their state's plan when creating their own. L-329 focuses on materials in the State Plan Review Guide and State Key Topics Bulletins. It also covers several new topics that have emerged more recently, including:

1. Addressing changes in the probability of future hazard events, including how weather and climate patterns will affect changes in location, frequency, extent and intensity of events.
2. Collaboration with the seven sectors described in the National Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Framework for a holistic approach to planning and implementation.
3. State and FEMA responsibilities, including the annual mitigation program consultations, which are the yearly meetings between the state and FEMA to coordinate on mitigation programs.
4. The High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program, which provides technical, planning, design and construction assistance to communities that have dams that pose an unacceptable threat to life and property.

State mitigation plans are a prerequisite for receiving certain kinds of non-emergency disaster assistance, including FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, Public Assistance Mitigation funds, and the Rehabilitation of High-Hazard Potential Dam grant program. For more details, visit [Mitigation Planning and Grants](#).

Resources and Additional Information

The [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide \(2015\)](#) is FEMA's policy on and interpretation of the mitigation planning requirements for state mitigation planning.

[FEMA's mitigation planning site](#) provides numerous resources and information on the entire mitigation planning process.

[Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards \(2013\)](#) provides a resource that state governments can use to identify and evaluate a range of potential mitigation actions for reducing risk from natural hazards and disasters.

The American Planning Association's [Survey of State Land-Use and Natural Hazards Planning Laws](#) provides a summary of legislation from all 50 states for laws that are intended to require, promote, or encourage local mitigation of natural hazards and how they relate to land use in state legislation.

The sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that establish requirements for state standard and enhanced plans are located in [44 CFR 201.4 \(Standard State Plans\)](#) and [201.5 \(Enhanced State Plans\)](#).