

# Multi-Jurisdictional Plan Update

## Project Summary

**Purpose:** A local jurisdiction must review and revise its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit it for approval within 5 years in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding (44 CFR §201.6(d)(3)). Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. It has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs (FEMA, 2011).

**Overview:** Multnomah County and the cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village are developing a combined Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the 5-year update requirement. Developing a multi-jurisdictional plan will The cities must have approved updates completed and adopted by January 26, 2016. Oregon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA Region X must review the updated plan prior to this date. Taking into consideration the review period and time it will take to adopt the plan within our jurisdictions, our target completion goal for a final draft of the combined and updated plan is August 31, 2015.

The plan update must include Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village and the County since these plans are due for updates. As much as possible, however, the plan will be modified to be a countywide plan. If the City of Gresham participates in the planning process and would like to adopt the multi-jurisdictional plan upon completion they are encouraged to do so in order to be on the same update schedule as the other jurisdictions. The City of Portland is conducting their own plan update but data will be shared between the two plan update processes.

**Plan Enhancements:** *Multi-jurisdictional* – By creating a multi-jurisdictional plan during this update process, we are maximizing cost-effectiveness and providing planning support to the smaller jurisdictions. The increased coordination of this process will also allow for consistency among hazard vulnerability assessments and more opportunity to address hazards that cross jurisdictional boundaries. A multi-jurisdictional steering committee with representation from the County and each municipality has been formed to oversee the plan update process and future implementation.

*All-hazards* – The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is only required to address natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, etc. (44 CFR §201.6(c)(2)(i)). It is a best practice, however, to address all hazards in local planning efforts. The County has secured grant funding to begin the next step in creating an all-hazards mitigation plan by developing a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment report focusing on human-caused and technological hazards. This report will be completed by September 2015 and will complement the natural hazard risk assessment included in the plan. The report will also benefit other emergency management planning occurring in the county in addition to the Hazard Mitigation Program.

**Grant Funding:** Multnomah County is receiving technical assistance as part of a statewide Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant from FEMA to support natural hazard mitigation planning. The County will benefit in approximately \$40,000-50,000 worth of technical assistance from the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience, University of Oregon. The County will provide an in-kind services match of 25% for any assistance it receives.

The County also received a State Homeland Security Grant of \$40,000 for consultant services to develop a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment report focused on human-caused and technological hazards that will augment the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## **FEMA updated its Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance on Feb 27, 2015**

Guidance document: [https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279Job aids - 102051](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279Job%20aids%20-%20102051)

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### Significant changes

- The guidance now incorporates changes to be consistent with SuperCircular (2 CFR Part 200). This mostly included terminology changes and rules regarding risk of recipients or pass through entities (risk = history of not complying with award rules)
- Climate change projects are now eligible (“Miscellaneous/other activity types” category)
- Emphasis on applicants “frontloading” project scoping considerations including new focus on universal access and inclusive mitigation (ADA requirements, whole community). Basically this is guidance to think through all the project requirements when developing the project.
- New job aids and management tools to increase efficiency of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-calculated benefits for acquisition and elevation projects where the structure is equal to or less than a certain value means easier applications by bypassing cost benefit analysis.
- 5% Initiative (HMGP funds that don’t require a cost benefit analysis) can now be applied to any hazards
- Increase in Uniform Relocation Assistance allowance for homeowners and renters
- Tightening of Period of Performance definition. Begins with opening of application period and ends no later than 36 months from date of subapplication selection.

### This year’s application cycle

- \$25 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants nationally
- \$150 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance grants nationally
- Notice of Funding Opportunity expected by end of April on grants.gov