

SECTION 2: PLAN ASSESSMENT

INSTRUCTIONS: The purpose of the Plan Assessment is to offer the local community more comprehensive feedback to the community on the quality and utility of the plan in a narrative format. The audience for the Plan Assessment is not only the plan developer/local community planner, but also elected officials, local departments and agencies, and others involved in implementing the Local Mitigation Plan. The Plan Assessment must be completed by FEMA. The Assessment is an opportunity for FEMA to provide feedback and information to the community on: 1) suggested improvements to the Plan; 2) specific sections in the Plan where the community has gone above and beyond minimum requirements; 3) recommendations for plan implementation; and 4) ongoing partnership(s) and information on other FEMA programs, specifically RiskMAP and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. The Plan Assessment is divided into two sections:

1. Plan Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement
2. Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan

Plan Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement is organized according to the plan Elements listed in the Regulation Checklist. Each Element includes a series of italicized bulleted items that are suggested topics for consideration while evaluating plans, but it is not intended to be a comprehensive list. FEMA Mitigation Planners are not required to answer each bullet item, and should use them as a guide to paraphrase their own written assessment (2-3 sentences) of each Element.

The Plan Assessment must not reiterate the required revisions from the Regulation Checklist or be regulatory in nature, and should be open-ended and to provide the community with suggestions for improvements or recommended revisions. The recommended revisions are suggestions for improvement and are not required to be made for the Plan to meet Federal regulatory requirements. The italicized text should be deleted once FEMA has added comments regarding strengths of the plan and potential improvements for future plan revisions. It is recommended that the Plan Assessment be a short synopsis of the overall strengths and weaknesses of the Plan (no longer than two pages), rather than a complete recap section by section.

Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan provides a place for FEMA to offer information, data sources and general suggestions on the overall plan implementation and maintenance process. Information on other possible sources of assistance including, but not limited to, existing publications, grant funding or training opportunities, can be provided. States may add state and local resources, if available.

A. Plan Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

This section provides a discussion of the strengths of the plan document and identifies areas where these could be improved beyond minimum requirements.

Element A: Planning Process

Strengths:

Thorough explanation of how the Working Group members and stakeholders were invited to be involved in the planning process.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Explanation of public involvement could be strengthened by including more ways to involve the public or exploring alternatives to try out once the plan is approved.

Element B: Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

Strengths:

There is a good use of visuals (maps and graphs) throughout the HIRA, which helped to paint a clearer picture of hazard impact and vulnerability within the planning area.

Opportunities for Improvement:

While most hazards do a good job of assessing jurisdictional risk, there are a few hazards that more broadly discuss risk and vulnerability. This could be improved by including more specific examples from within the community.

Element C: Mitigation Strategy

Strengths:

Good explanation of prioritization of mitigation projects and goal to implement a scoring system that incorporated FEMA Lifelines.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Mitigation initiatives could include planning/outreach projects for a stronger project list.

Element D: Plan Update, Evaluation, and Implementation (Plan Updates Only)

Strengths:

Opportunities for Improvement:

This information could be strengthened by clearly separating the information and organizing it in a more understandable way.

B. Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan

Section 2 B: Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan

The [State of Florida Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan](http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/State/Index.htm) lists a number of funding and educational/training resources available to communities (<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/State/Index.htm>). We list a number of federal and state resources here:

- o The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance provides funding opportunities for pre- and post-disaster mitigation through:
 - o The **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program** which provides funds on an annual basis for mitigation planning and mitigation project implementation prior to a disaster. For additional information on the PDM visit (www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program).
 - o The **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program** which provides funds on an annual basis so that communities can take measures to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For additional information on the FMA visit <https://floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/flood-mitigation-assistance-program/>
- o Additional tools regarding flood insurance, through the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** administered by FEMA is available at (https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/partner/tools_resources.jsp)
- o Technical assistance to retrieve flood hazard information specific to your planning area is available through the **FEMA Flood Map Service Center** (<http://msc.fema.gov/portal>).
- o For assistance after a Presidential disaster declaration, consider the **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** which assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures in accordance with State, Tribal and local priorities. The HMGP is offered to both public and individual assistance. For additional information on the HMGP visit (<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/Hazard/>)
- o For assistance during the immediate repair phase following disaster events consider Hazard Mitigation Funding under the **Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program** which funds cost-effective mitigation efforts in repairing disaster-damaged public facilities. Additional information may be found at (<https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>)
- o For the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or private owned forests or grasslands consider the **Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program** which is initiated at the request for assistance to the FEMA Regional Director at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists. The FMAG provides a 75 percent Federal cost share with the State paying the remaining 25 percent of costs. Additional information on the FMAG may be found here (<https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>)
 - o For assistance with how to better integrate the LMS with other plans, see FEMA's Plan Integration document http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440522008134-ddb097cc285bf741986b48fdcef31c6e/R3_Plan_Integration_0812_508.pdf
- o State resources are additionally available through
 - o **Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP)** through the Florida Division of Emergency Management which receives funding from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Trust Fund. A significant portion of the funding is to be used to improve the wind resistance of residences through loans, subsidies, grants demonstration projects, direct assistance, and cooperative programs with local and federal governments. For additional information on the RCMP visit <https://floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hurricane-loss-mitigation-program/>
 - o Any smaller communities may be eligible for the **Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant**. This program provides federal funding for low income housing rehabilitation and community development. For additional information on this program visit (<http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/florida-small-cities-community-development-block-grant-program>)
 - o **Fire Wise Communities** provides information and links to resources for wildfire mitigation (www.firewise.org). The program provides resources on defensible space, construction tools/materials, and preparation for wildfire season.