

2.0 The Planning Process

Section 201.4 (a) of the CFR reads as follows, “The mitigation plan is the demonstration of the State’s commitment to reduce the risks from natural hazards and serves as a guide for State decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effect of natural hazards.” Therefore, an effective planning process is the key to a strong mitigation strategy plan.

Mitigation planning can:

- Help communities become more sustainable and disaster resistant,
- be incorporated as an integral component of daily government business,
- help focus efforts on particular hazards by determining and setting priorities for mitigation planning, and
- save money by providing a forum for engaging in partnerships.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has taken great care in developing and executing a mitigation plan that fully serves the citizens of the state of Mississippi. The following is documentation of the State’s effort to save lives and property.

Summary of Changes- Documentation of the Planning Process

The entire section has been reviewed and updated. All tables and figures have been updated to reflect changes since the plan was updated in 2018.

2.1 Documentation of the Planning Process

44CFR: 201.4(c) Plan Content. To be effective, the plan must include the following elements:

Description of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how other agencies participated.

Mitigation Planning is...

Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation planning is a process for states and communities to identify policies, activities, and tools for implementing mitigation actions. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency decided to continue with the following four basic steps or phases in updating its plan:

- organization of resources;
- assessment of risks;
- development of a mitigation plan; and
- implementation of the plan and monitoring progress.

Phase 1: Organization of Resources

In 2007, the State of Mississippi made a firm commitment to identify and organize its resources through the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council. Established by Governor Haley Barbour under Executive Order 985, the Council has played a major part in steering the State's Mitigation Strategy. The Council has served the people of Mississippi by providing a platform from which an integrated statewide plan could be developed to complete mitigation goals. The State continues to use this organization in the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The Council has in fact identified 2 extra members since its conception. The members of the Council are further discussed in a later section of this document.

The Council is comprised of citizens who were jointly selected by MEMA's executive staff and Governor Barbour in 2007 based upon the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary for:

- forging partnerships from among a broad range of groups,
- integrating existing plans and planning efforts,
- identifying and articulating needs to state and federal officials, and
- providing continuity in statewide planning that seeks to achieve a common goal.

Governor Tate Reeves continues this commitment to hazard mitigation through the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council.

Phase II: Assessment of Risks

The State of Mississippi is diverse by nature and climate. From severe weather to wildfires and flooding to unstable dams, Mississippians have faced their share of disasters throughout the years. The plan developers began an assessment of risks by researching historical records and learning from past hazardous events. This history has been used to assist in the assessing of today's risks by using a Hazard Ranking Worksheet. From this process, the past documented events were profiled, and vulnerabilities identified. The plan developers then projected the estimated potential future losses.

The Hazard Ranking Worksheet operates like this: The probability of each hazard is determined by assigning a level, from one to four, based on the likelihood of the occurrence from historical data. The total impact value includes the affected area, primary impact, and secondary impact levels of each hazard. These levels are then multiplied by the importance factor to obtain a score for each category. The probability score is multiplied by the sum of the three impact categories to determine the total score for the hazard. Based on this total score, the hazards were then separated into four categories based on the hazard level they pose to the communities. Those four categories are:

- unlikely,
- possible,
- critical, and
- highly likely

This backbone of information forms the bases for MEMA's mitigation plan and helps to shape it in an economically feasible and environmentally sound manner.

Phase III: Development of a Mitigation Plan

Each phase of MEMA's planning process in developing Mississippi's Mitigation Plan is documented within this report. Statewide hazard mitigation goals and objectives have been developed by the Hazard Mitigation Council and presented to stakeholders, partnering agencies, and the general public for review and comment. Details of this process are included within the next section.

In addition, state capabilities have been identified and assessments have been made concerning current effectiveness. Alterations to existing plans based on the state's capabilities have been identified and analyzed and, if found deserving, have been included within the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Finally, funding sources have been considered and where applicable, factored into the final document's operational procedures.

Phase IV: Implementation of the Plan and Monitoring Process

Upon adoption of this plan, Mississippi's mitigation actions statewide will take on a more cohesive, stronger, and more easily recognized existence. Existing local and regional hazard mitigation plans will continue to move closer to statewide goals and objectives due to increased communications and understanding. Built in milestones for reviewing and tweaking the plan will help to ensure that stakeholders and the general public are afforded the opportunity for input. As the plan continually evolves, it will be altered to meet our ever-changing environment. This plan is part of a more unified and thus more effective and economically feasible strategy for saving lives and reducing future losses.

To help organize changes made from the 2018 to 2023 plan, a Table of Contents "Roadmap" for the 2018 to 2023 Update is provided in Appendix 7.2-A.

2.2: Coordination with Federal and State Agencies and Interested Groups in the Planning Process

44 CFR 201.4(b): Planning Process. An effective planning process is essential in developing and maintaining a good plan. The mitigation planning process should include coordination with other state agencies, appropriate federal agencies, and interested groups.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan (The Plan) was prepared by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) Bureau of Mitigation Planning with assistance from numerous state agencies, organizations, and concerned citizens.

Early in the update process, multi-level involvement was achieved by engaging mitigation specialists from all areas of the state. MEMA chose this approach to achieve the most effective mitigation plan possible – one that works in tandem with municipal, local, state, and federal entities.

Hazard Mitigation Council

Governor Haley Barbour, being highly supportive of the State's mitigation strategies, executed Executive Order # 985, creating the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council. Mississippi's Hazard Mitigation Plan is a "living document", and has been reviewed and updated in meetings held by the Hazard Mitigation Council since January 2007.

The Council is effective in guiding mitigation goal and objectives for the State of Mississippi. Appointees to the council were carefully selected to provide representation from key state and local agencies capable of contributing resources, implementing mitigation actions, and integrating mitigation planning efforts. It is anticipated that the Hazard Mitigation Council will remain intact and continue to strengthen communities and working relationships by coordinating mitigation efforts between all levels of governmental agencies, academia, tribal agencies, private non-profit organizations, and the private sector for years to come. This in turn bolsters development, supports on-going maintenance, and improves planning efforts. It is expected that the Council will remain intact indefinitely and that it will continue to assist in:

- creating a vision for addressing future needs,
- accurately and quickly responding to economic and environmental changes,
- regularly evaluating the success of the state hazard mitigation plan, and
- providing necessary resources whenever possible for updating or changing goals and addressing new laws and regulations.

MEMA also established a well-rounded team of plan developers for the 2023 plan. Following the same format of the 2018 team, plan developers included state employees and a consulting agency to serve as plan developers for the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Through a series of emails, workshops, and meetings, many public entities have been involved in the planning process, and the mitigation actions of many stakeholders, emergency response organizations, and agencies have also been included in this plan. The State of Mississippi is therefore transitioning from many individualized mitigation strategies to a statewide planning effort.

Governor Barbour's executive order is presented on the following pages.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 985

MISSISSIPPI HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, there are significant opportunities to save lives and reduce future losses resulting from natural and human-caused hazards through hazard mitigation planning; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 106-390, known as the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), was signed into law by the President on October 10, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the DMA 2000 provides funding for disaster relief and recovery, and reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and disaster preparation; and

WHEREAS, the DMA 2000 establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and is intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the DMA 2000 specifically addresses mitigation planning at the state and local level, identifies new requirements that allow HMGP funds to be used for planning activities, and increases the amount of HMGP funds available to states that have developed a comprehensive, enhanced mitigation plan prior to a disaster; and

WHEREAS, state governments have certain responsibilities for implementing Section 322 of the DMA 2000, including: preparing and submitting a standard or enhanced state mitigation plan; reviewing and updating the state mitigation plan every three years; providing technical assistance and training to local governments to assist them in applying for HMGP grants and in developing local mitigation plans; and reviewing and approving local plans if the state is designated as managing state and has an approved enhanced plan.

WHEREAS, the Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event; identify cost-effective and technically feasible mitigation measures that will reduce losses from future disasters in an environmentally sound manner; encourage long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability; build partnerships with sectors not previously involved; protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability, minimize community disruption; facilitate funding priorities, especially following a disaster; and create more sustainable communities.

WHEREAS, establishing a Hazard Mitigation Council is in the best interest of the State of Mississippi;

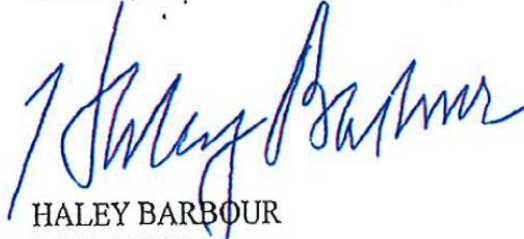
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of this State, do hereby:

1. Direct that a Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council (“Mitigation Council”) be established and include representation from the following:
 - a. Governor’s Office;
 - b. Mississippi Emergency Management Agency;
 - c. Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;
 - d. Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration;
 - e. Mississippi Department of Transportation;
 - f. Mississippi Department of Public Safety;
 - g. Mississippi Department of Marine Resources;
 - h. Mississippi Levee Board;
 - i. Mississippi Development Authority;
 - j. Mississippi State Department of Health;
 - k. Mississippi Department of Archives and History;
 - l. Mississippi Municipal League;
 - m. Mississippi Association of Supervisors;
 - n. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges;
 - o. Mississippi State Department of Education; and
 - p. State Institutions of Higher Learning.
2. Declare that the Executive Director of MEMA shall serve as the Chairperson of the Mitigation Council.
3. Declare that MEMA’s Executive Director may, as chairperson of the Mitigation Council, designate additional executive and non-executive branch personnel or quasi-governmental and non-governmental personnel to assist the Mitigation Council as needed for their expertise and counsel arises.
4. Declare that the Mitigation Council shall act as an advisory council in all matters related to Mississippi’s Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan.
5. Require that the Mitigation Council review issues relating to the creation of Mississippi’s Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as other mitigation efforts, as deemed appropriate by MEMA in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
6. Direct that the Mitigation Council shall make recommendations for:
 - a. An overall strategy for the adoption and use of Mississippi’s Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan;
 - b. Addressing potential technical, scientific, economic, security, privacy, and other issues related to the adoption of Mississippi’s Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan;
 - c. Identifying existing mitigation information resources, including funding sources, to support the development of Mississippi’s Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
 - d. Supporting continuing, educational efforts to promote development of a population capable of being self-sustaining before, during and after a disaster event.
7. Direct all Executive branch departments, agencies, boards, and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government, to fully cooperate with the Mitigation Council and provide staff support and any other assistance as requested.

8. Direct the Mitigation Council to meet periodically as needed to:
 - a. Review Mississippi's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan;
 - b. Review statewide hazard mitigation goals and objectives; and
 - c. Review priorities for categories of hazard mitigation projects.
9. Authorize the Mitigation Council to seek grants from government or private sources to achieve the goals and objectives set forth.
10. Deem that the Mitigation Council shall continue in existence until all of its objectives are achieved, unless otherwise directed by a future Executive Order.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the 17th day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.


HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR:



SECRETARY OF STATE

Members of the Hazard Mitigation Council and the agencies and/or associations they represent are indicated in table 2.2.1.

**Table 2.2.1
Mississippi's Hazard Mitigation Council**

Agency	Representative
Office of the Governor	Governor
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)	Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)	Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)	Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR)	Executive Director
Mississippi Levee Board	Executive Director
Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)	Executive Director
Mississippi State Department of Health	State Health Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History	Executive Director
State Board for Community and Junior Colleges	Executive Director
Mississippi State Department of Education	Executive Director
State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL)	Executive Director
Mississippi Municipal League (MML)	Executive Director
Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS)	Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services	Executive Director
Mississippi Forestry Commission	Executive Director

Team Approach

Alongside the Council, the planning team for the Mississippi 2023 Update consisted of Allen Engineering and Science Planners, GIS/Hazus-MH specialist, data visualization specialist, MEMA Executive Staff, and MEMA mitigation planners.

On June 3, 2023, a project kick-off meeting for updating Section 3: Risk Assessment of the State Plan was held With Allen Engineering and Science Planner and MEMA Mitigation Planning Staff. The scope of work was discussed with emphasis on climate change, cyber-terrorism, and pandemics. On July 22, 2022, an email was sent to the State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council notifying them that the update of the State plan had begun and that the Mitigation Planning Staff would be reaching out for input on the sections of the plan. Starting Oct. 21, 2022, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey was sent out to the Mitigation Council, stakeholders, partners, and the general public. On November 17, 2022, an email was sent to state agencies providing 2018 mitigation capabilities and asking that they be updated. On February 2, 2023, the project profiles sheets were sent to the Mitigation Council requesting that they be updated. On March 10, 2023, the Mitigation Council was asked to review the mission statement, goals, and objectives for changes and approval.

In this 2023 State Plan Update, mitigation planners compiled the FEMA approved local and regional plans that cover the entire State of Mississippi and provided them to the contractor. Results from the local and regional mitigation plans, council meetings, and an updated risk assessment were compiled to reflect natural hazard occurrences and risks.

On July 27, 2023 the Hazard Mitigation Council Hazard Identification (HIRA) presentation was conducted by Allen Engineering and Science and the process of updating the State Plan was discussed with the Mitigation Council. The New guidelines from FEMA for the mitigation plans were discussed as well as ways to implement them. A hazard identification exercise was conducted where hazards being profiled were ranked, as well as a review of the process for HIRA, and a determination of hazard ranking methodology was completed. MEMA's Mitigation Planning Bureau had previously issued the mission statement, goals, objectives, and state capabilities from the 2018 plan for the Council to review for update. The Council made the final determination on July 27, 2023 that the mission statement and the goals were still valid and would remain the same. One objective was added to Goal 1 and four objectives were modified (1.3, 1.9, 3.1, and 3.3).

Additionally, mitigation programs, table of mitigation actions, and funding sources were reviewed for update. Changes in state capabilities were reported. The reports are included in Section 4.2 of this document. From 2007 until now, members of the Council have continually updated project profiles and project information for their agencies over the 5-year period between plan updates.

During the plan development, experts from various private, state, and local entities statewide, as well as representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), were given the opportunity to participate in the planning process to increase integration with ongoing state hazard mitigation planning efforts. MEMA solicited participation from industry associations and volunteer agencies (Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse), as well as mitigation planners and specialists representing all levels of governments and numerous specialized areas. Table 2.3.2.1 lists the organization representatives. A status report of 2023 mitigation actions and local mitigation action analysis was provided along with educational materials. The purpose was to stimulate open discussion for updating existing mitigation actions, identifying lead agencies that might take ownership of particular actions, prioritizing the actions, and then developing a draft strategy for maintaining identified actions.

Communication – the Key to a Cohesive Plan

An intranet site was created on MEMA's mitigation management site, my.msema.org for managing and updating information concerning mitigation planning activities. Participants (including Hazard Mitigation Council, individuals with technical expertise, and the plan developers) that have mitigation projects can access and update their project profiles on this site. This has been a tremendous asset to the project managers and has continued throughout the 2023 Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

With the semi-annual meetings and a Summary of the Hazard Mitigation Council Meeting going out to all members, Council Members, Project Managers, and stakeholders were kept informed on the State Plan Developments. The Hazard Mitigation Council has agreed that future meetings will be held semiannually.

Public Participation and Outreach Efforts

Associations

Plan developers involved various hazard mitigation stakeholders in the planning process by attending various Mississippi based conferences and providing information and accepting comments for use in the development of the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Due to COVID, fewer conferences have been attended, but the conferences and objectives of each are listed in Table 2.2.2. Other outreach efforts include emails, phone calls, and person to person contact.

**Table 2.2.2
Public Outreach**

Conference/Activity	Date/Location	Purpose
MS Association of Supervisors	June 13-16, 2022 Biloxi, MS	State plan survey is placed on the MAS website for outreach and feedback.
Mississippi Municipal League	June 27 – 29, 2022 Biloxi, MS	MEMA’s Mitigation survey is placed on the MML website for outreach and feedback.
MS Civil Defense Emergency Management Assoc	November 15-17, 2022 Philadelphia, MS	Informed of purpose and need for updating State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Plan and invited participation through state plan survey
Association of Floodplain Managers of MS	May 2-4, 2023 Natchez, MS	Present purpose and need for updating MS’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and invite participation through MEMA booth
MS Partners in Preparedness Conference	May 16-19, 2023 Biloxi, MS	MEMA staff invited participation through distributing state plan surveys for feedback
Building Association of MS	June 12-16, 2023 Natchez, MS	Informed of purpose and need for updating State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Plan and invited participation through state plan survey
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency	July 24 – Present Pearl, MS	Hazard Mitigation Plan placed on the MEMA Web- site for review and comment.

A survey designed to provide plan developers with information concerning hazard mitigation issues from the local perspective was made available to each conference. A copy of the survey is located in Appendix 7.2-C and the survey results are tabulated in section 4.3 of this report.



Jana Henderson, Office of Mitigation Director, presents at the Annual Floodplain Management (AFMM) Conference 2023



Annual Floodplain Management Conference 2023



Panola County EMA/FEMA HM CEO/Mitigation Planning Staff share booth on June 17, 2023. Mitigation for Kids provide parents, guardians, teachers, and children with tips, activities, and a story to help the whole family prepare for emergencies. (Sardis, MS)



Panola County Sheriff's Office Kids Academy held June 27, 2023, Mitigation for Kids Event

Business, Non-Profit and Professional Organizations

Because of the successes noted from reaching out to governmental associations, plan developers used the same strategy in 2023 to engage businesses, as well as non-profit and professional associations. Emails explaining the purpose and need of the mitigation plan and inviting participation in the process were sent to business associations listed for the State of Mississippi, as well as several churches and volunteer organizations. This was also sent to the 2023 president of the Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), who in turn forwarded it statewide to his constituency.

By capitalizing on the name recognition and trust generated by business leaders who partnered with MEMA, the agency's message was received much more readily by the business community. Thus, readership and response to emailed information tended to be higher and educational benefits, as well as increased participation in plan development. Individuals with the business community were asked to participate by submitting comments to MEMA concerning the goals of the statewide comprehensive mitigation plan.

In addition to an increase in participation from the business community, MEMA also reached out to VOAD leaders of the state. Members of the Red Cross, the United Way, and the Salvation Army were also notified to review and comment on the goals and objectives of the updated plan.

Local, State, and Federal Agencies Engaged

While many of Mississippi's state agencies were invited to join the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council, others had never been personally invited to develop mitigation planning strategies. They were sent letters from the MEMA Executive Director urging their participation with the hope of strengthening their understanding and for future partnership opportunities.

In addition to open invitations to participate in the planning process, plan developers met with the following statewide agencies and/or organizations to review their mitigation plans and coordinate statewide activities. These outreach efforts included meeting with the following:

- Mississippi's Planning and Development Districts
- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- The United States Army Corps of Engineers
- The Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness
- The United Geological Survey and
- National Weather Service

Continuing the practice began in 2007, plan developers for the 2023 update sought to work more closely with federal agencies in the planning process. Input and guidance were sought from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region IV employees. FEMA responded by directing plan developers to various written materials available through the internet and provided input through one-on-one conversations, e-mails, and letters. A complete list of federal agencies that plan developers consulted is found in Section 2.3, in Table 2.3.2.1.

Meeting with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

MEMA Planning Staff have met with representatives of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (the Tribe) in Choctaw and Pearl, Mississippi on several occasions to discuss mitigation projects. The Tribe now has its own FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2023 State Plan Survey was sent out requesting feedback and distribution.

Currently, the Tribe has a statutory framework (Known as Ordinance 50) that:

- Establishes the emergency management team of the Directors of the Fire Department, Police Department, the Health Department, and Facilities;
- provides equipment for facility building in each community designated as shelters (includes generators);
- significantly improves communications; and
- provides for a draft risk analysis.

Tribal mitigation activities resulting from review and evaluation of events that are either in the works or completed. They include:

- increased training opportunities;
- increased purchases of emergency related equipment;
- improved 'on the ground' communications for effective contact of first responders;
- recent acquisition of communication equipment that has been installed in all faculty buildings (radios); and
- evaluation of policies for addressing staff burnout, which will likely be implemented.

Opportunity for Public to Comment

Individuals participated in the second public involvement process via the internet. Information for review and comment were sent electronically for further dissemination statewide to the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the MS Department of Transportation, and the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, thus providing easy access for large segments of the population. Individuals that responded proved to be very interested and expressed a desire to participate in the current process as well as future planning efforts.



Other educational information about hazard mitigation planning, the mitigation strategy, and the mission statement that was developed jointly by the Hazard Mitigation Council and specialists statewide, was made available. The mission statement listed proposed goals and action steps for hazard mitigation and was available for review and comment. The public was invited to rank the proposed goals to provide suggestions for new or amended actions steps. Over 57 participated in this public involvement process. Information received is tallied on the subsequent page.

Another opportunity for the public to comment will be available prior to the plan adoption as per FEMA requirement. Participants will be given the opportunity to comment and give feedback on the plan. Visitors will be invited to make suggestions and write questions on provided comment sheets. This type of public participation allows visitors to physically take part in the development process. Appendix 7.2-D contains a list of volunteer organizations, individuals, stakeholders, and partners who participated in the 2023 plan update. Appendix 7.2 E contains state agencies that participated in the 2023 plan update.



Mission: To develop and maintain a disaster-resilient, sustainable Mississippi through perpetual planning and review of a comprehensive statewide mitigation strategy.

The percentage indicates the importance of the objective per response. The results were obtained by the survey on the following page that lists the goals and objectives and the degree of importance.

Goal 1 – Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from natural hazards.

		High	Medium	Low
Objective 1.1	Protect critical facilities, infrastructure, and systems.	92%	8%	0%
Objective 1.2	Reduce the number of at-risk and repetitive loss/ SRL properties.	49%	48%	3%
Objective 1.3	Reduce potential damage to future buildings and infrastructure and increase resilience to disasters.	62%	34%	3%
Objective 1.4	Develop and maintain hazards-related research, modeling, data, and analysis to support program and project implementation.	46%	46%	8%
Objective 1.5	Identify needs and appropriate projects from post disaster damage assessments.	56%	41%	3%
Objective 1.6	Preserve, create, and restore natural systems to serve as natural mitigation functions.	49%	39%	12%
Objective 1.7	Protect historic and cultural resources.	42%	41%	17%
Objective 1.8	Provide state and local agencies with a statewide communications network with an Interoperable, highly reliable, fast access, public safety-grade communication system for use during events that threaten the health and welfare of the citizens of Mississippi.	80%	15%	5%
Objective 1.9	Promote State identified mitigation initiatives, such as saferooms, storm shelters, severe weather warning systems, emergency generators, and public outreach campaigns.	73%	20%	7%
Objective 1.10	Mitigate risk and reduce the number of high hazard potential dams.	34%	34%	31%

Goal 2 – Build and enhance the local mitigation capabilities

Objective 2.1	Support and provide guidance for local hazard mitigation planning and projects.	68%	29%	3%
Objective 2.2	Encourage the adoption, improvement, and enforcement of local codes, ordinances, and land use planning.	58%	34%	8%
Objective 2.3	Provide and promote technical assistance and training to local governments.	63%	36%	1%
Objective 2.4	Identify and provide financial incentives and funding opportunities.	64%	32%	3%

Goal 3 – Improve public education and awareness

Objective 3.1	Develop and improve outreach programs and materials to increase awareness to the public and private sector about climate adaptation principles, risk, and mitigation in Mississippi.	46%	46%	8%
Objective 3.2	Promote and utilize existing hazard mitigation education programs from federal, state, and non-profit sources.	54%	41%	5%
Objective 3.3	Develop tailored outreach strategies for vulnerable, underserved populations, such as tourists, disabled persons, children and the elderly, non-English speakers, and low-income residents.	58%	37%	5%

Goal 4 – Sustain and enhance a coordinated state mitigation program

Objective 4.1	Strengthen coordination, communication, capabilities, and partnerships with levels of government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations.	76%	19%	5%
Objective 4.2	Institutionalize hazard mitigation as integrated state policy.	49%	41%	9%
Objective 4.3	implement, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy and promote successes.	56%	37%	8%

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey

Hazard Mitigation – any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

Directions: Please read each Objective in the State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation plan, and place an **X** in either **High**, **Medium**, or **Low**, based your thoughts of importance. **Please answer questions 1 and 2 before completing the survey.**

1) Which county do you live in ? _____

2) What is your Agency and/or Occupation ? _____

Goals and Objectives		High	Medium	Low
Goal 1 – Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from Natural Hazards.				
Objective 1.1	Protect critical facilities, infrastructure, and systems.			
Objective 1.2	Reduce the number of at-risk and repetitive loss/SRL properties.			
Objective 1.3	Reduce potential damage to future buildings and infrastructure and increase resilience to disasters.			
Objective 1.4	Develop and maintain hazards-related research, modeling, data, and analysis to support program and project implementation.			
Objective 1.5	Identify needs and appropriate projects from post disaster damage assessments.			
Objective 1.6	Preserve, create, and restore natural systems to serve as natural mitigation functions.			
Objective 1.7	Protect historic and cultural resources.			
Objective 1.8	Provide state and local agencies with a statewide communications network with an Interoperable, highly reliable, fast access public safety-grade communication system for use during events that threaten the health and welfare of the citizens of Mississippi.			
Objective 1.9	Promote State identified mitigation initiatives, such as safe rooms, storm shelters, severe weather warning systems, emergency generators, and public outreach campaigns.			
Objective 1.10	Mitigate risk and reduce the number of high hazard potential dams			
Goal 2 – Build and enhance the local mitigation capabilities.				
Objective 2.1	Support and provide guidance for local hazard mitigation planning and projects.			
Objective 2.2	Encourage the adoption, improvement, and enforcement of local codes, ordinances, and land use planning			
Objective 2.3	Provide and promote technical assistance and training to local governments.			
Objective 2.4	Identify and provide financial incentives and funding opportunities.			
Goal 3 – Improve public education and awareness.				
Objective 3.1	Develop and improve outreach programs and materials to increase awareness to the public and private sector about climate adaptation principles, risk, and mitigation in Mississippi.			
Objective 3.2	Promote and utilize existing hazard mitigation education programs from federal, state, and non-profit sources.			
Objective 3.3	Develop tailored outreach strategies for vulnerable underserved populations, such as tourists, disabled persons, children and the elderly, non-English speakers, and low-income residents.			
Goal 4 – Sustain and enhance a coordinated state mitigation program.				
Objective 4.1	Strengthen coordination, communication, capabilities, and partnerships with levels of government, private sector, and non-profit organizations.			
Objective 4.2	Institutionalize hazard mitigation as integrated state policy.			
Objective 4.3	Implement, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy and promote successes.			

2.3: Integration with Other Planning Efforts, Programs, and Initiatives

44 CFR 201.4(b): The Plan must discuss how the planning process was integrated to the extent possible with other ongoing state planning efforts, as well as other FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.

As jurisdictions have realized a limited number of resources, integration of programs, goals, and resources have become ever more necessary. From the initial 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan to the 2007 Mitigation Plan until now, integration of programs and resources have significantly increased among local, state, and federal entities in the State of Mississippi. In addition to oversight of Hazard Mitigation Assistance, floodplain management, the Earthquake Program, and mitigation planning programs, MEMA follows and includes Mississippi Statutes in the hazard risk plans of the State Departments of Public Safety, Development Authority, Transportation, Insurance, Corrections, Environmental Quality, Health, Human Services, Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Office of Administrative, Education, and the Public Service Commission. MEMA accomplishes many mitigation projects through collaboration. The Mississippi Development Authority partners with MEMA in joint funding of flood acquisition and drainage projects, and in storm shelter/saferoom projects. The Office of Geology in the Department of Environmental Quality and MEMA also partner in the NFIP Risk Map Program, while the Department of Transportation and MEMA partner in highway and bridge development to ensure the floodplain management component is addressed. The Dam Safety Division in the Department of Environmental Quality partners with MEMA in providing evaluation studies, inundation maps, and data to reduce risk to lives and property from high hazard dams.

Multi-jurisdictional and local mitigation plans comprise another part of the program. As such, the development process for the state plan takes into consideration the mitigation goals and objectives identified therein. MEMA routinely works with numerous state and federal agencies on various issues, included partnering are with the Mississippi Development Authority; the American Red Cross for emergency sheltering; Department of Environmental Quality, Dam Safety Division on issues of high hazard dams; Mississippi Departments of Transportation and Public Safety on emergency evacuation issues; and the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security on all threats to the citizens of this state. MEMA extends an open-door policy to federal and state agencies, regional planning and development districts, and local governments to build stronger, more cohesive mitigation efforts whenever possible.

2.3.1 Integration of Local Plans

MEMA is the primary state coordinating agency for all local emergency operations plans and hazard mitigation plans. The Mitigation Planning Bureau has the primary responsibility of working with regional and local governments in developing, reviewing, and updating multi-jurisdictional and local hazard mitigation plans. The Preparedness Plans Bureau has the primary responsibility of working with local governments in developing, reviewing, and updating local emergency operation plans.

As part of the state mitigation planning initiative, multi-jurisdictional and local mitigation plans are being developed in conjunction with counties and regions. These multi-jurisdiction plans address the mitigation issues and initiatives for unincorporated and incorporated jurisdictions. This helps ensure as many jurisdictions as possible remain involved in the mitigation planning process. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is normally a separate, stand-alone plan that represents a county or region. Any jurisdiction within a county may prepare a mitigation plan specific to that jurisdiction and separate from the county or regional mitigation plan.

Mississippi has 82 counties in the state, and all have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) in place. These plans are scheduled for review and/or update by MEMA every five years. In addition, approximately 15 incorporated cities maintain separate CEMPs. These plans are included in the five-year MEMA review/update process.

The local governments, the Mississippi Planning and Development Districts (PDD), and consultants are using the information contained in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan to develop multi-jurisdictional and local hazard mitigation plans. As the local hazard mitigation plans are developed, the information provided through those planning efforts will be available to MEMA for incorporation into the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This cooperative effort contributes to the continuous improvement of all the plans as they are reviewed and updated every five years.

2.3.2 Integrating Planning Information with Other Mitigation Partners

MEMA's efforts to identify and engage mitigation partners continues to increase. New efforts include engaging traditional partners through unique public involvement outreach efforts. For example, to assist the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council, MEMA invited mitigation planners/specialists from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as the private sector, to participate in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Participants could go online and review and comment on the hazard mitigation plan. Table 2.3.2.1 lists those agencies/associations invited to participate in the development of the 2023 Standard Mitigation Plan Update.

Table 2.3.2.1

Name	Title	Organization
Allison Ingram	President	Association of Floodplain Managers of MS
Brian Measells	President	Building Officials Association of Mississippi
James M. Wilkinson	Director	Central US Earthquake Consortium
Brandon Bolinski	Hurricane Program Manager, Region IV	Federal Emergency Management Agency
	Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief, Region IV	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Darlene Booker	Mitigation Division Director, Region IV	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mary Comas	Chief Financial Officer	Federal Emergency Management Agency
	R IV Acting Planning Lead	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Gracia B. Szczech	Earthquake Program Manager, Region IV	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Stephen McCraney	Executive Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Clayton French	Deputy Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jana Henderson	Mitigation Office Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Cody Fisher	Emergency Response and Preparedness	MS Department of Environmental Quality
Steve Champlin	Geospatial Resources Division Director/Flood Mapping	MS Department of Environmental Quality
William McKercher	Chief of the Dam Safety Division	MS Department of Environmental Quality
Garreth DeKlerk	Floodplain Bureau Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Malory White	Chief Communications Officer	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Alex Hopkins	Hazard Mitigation Grants Bureau Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Frank Hill	Hazard Mitigation Planning Bureau Director	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Katrina McLin	Earthquake Program Manager	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Andrew McMillin	Operations Bureau Director, Office of Response	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Bob Anderson	Executive Director	MS Department of Human Services
R. Bozeman	Director of Conservation Education/Public Outreach	Mississippi Forestry Commission
Stephen Wilkinson	Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, Weather Office	National Weather Service
Kurt Readus	State Conservationist	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Trent Baldwin	Project Chief, P. E.	United States Geology Survey
Chris L. Mullen	Professional Engineer, Associate Professor	University of MS, Department of Civil Engineering
Greg Easson	MS Mineral Resources Institute	University of Mississippi
Thomas L. Minyard	Hydrologist, P.E.	US Army Corps of Engineers, Lower MS Gulf

MEMA's participation in the Mississippi Civil Defense/Emergency Management Association (MCDEMA) is another strong indication of the state's commitment to integrate statewide planning initiatives with local efforts. MCDEMA was originally organized by local Civil Defense Directors on May 21, 1961, to seek legislation and additional funding for local programs. Over the years, MCDEMA continued to grow. A new initiative, which began in 2006, is a partnership between MEMA and MCDEMA to engage emergency management professionals in Alabama in the first Bi-State Hurricane Conference. The MS-AL Bi-State Hurricane Conference proved to be successful and had its second meeting in Mobile, AL, in May of 2008. Another meeting followed on April 27-29, 2009, at the MS Coast Civic Center (Coliseum) in Biloxi, MS. In 2010, the meeting was held in the River Room Conference Center in Flowood, MS on June 10-11. In 2012, the Hurricane Conference involved three states, MS, AL, and Louisiana. It was held on the MS Gulf Coast. The Central Gulf Coast Hurricane Conference was held on June 23-24, 2015, in Mobile, Alabama with only Mississippi and Alabama participating. The 2023 National Hurricane conference was held April 3 – 6, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. The primary goal is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property. MEMA and MCDEMA enjoyed a close working relationship which expanded to educational, communication, and partnership opportunities with organizations at all levels of government. In 2023, the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Civil Defense Emergency Management Association Management Association, Mississippi Hospital Association, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Fire Marshall Office, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Military Department, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Fire Academy, Mississippi Firefighters Association and the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission hosted the 2023 Mississippi Partners in Preparedness (PIP) Summit. The PIP 2023 took place in Biloxi, Mississippi on May 16-19, 2023. The summit gave professionals involved all aspects of emergency preparedness and response the opportunity to network with peers throughout the State. Approximately 500+ participants attended.

Unfortunately, due of Covid 19, these types of conferences/summits have not been possible until recently. On Nov. 15-17, 2022, MCDEMA held a conference at the Pearl River Resort in Philadelphia, MS. This was one of the 1st conferences in several years. The Hurricane Conference was held on April 3-6, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. The AFMM Conference was held in Natchez, MS, May 2-4, 2023. The Partners and Preparedness Summit 2023 was held in Biloxi, MS on May 16 - 19, 2023.



Stephen McCraney, MEMA Executive Director, gives opening comments during the PIP Conference May 2023



Jim Craig, MSDH Senior Deputy, gives opening comments during the PIP Conference May 2023



Joe Spraggins, MDMR Executive Director, gives opening comments during the PIP Conference May 2023

MCDEMA has proven to be very effective in reaching stated goals, and it is anticipated, the annual conferences will continue into the foreseeable future.

In addition to working with FEMA in all aspects of hazard mitigation projects and plans, MEMA has worked with many planners to integrate mitigation steps into projects and plans. The Corp of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Economic Development Administration partnered with Leflore County, MEMA, FEMA, the Mississippi Development Authority, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and the Greenwood/Leflore Economic Development Association to develop a storm water drainage plan and project that saved the major industry in this region. This achievement is significant in that it employs over 700 citizens within a 12-county area.

Some 335 Mississippi communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and 28 participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). All of these floodplain management activities are supported by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Building Officials Association of Mississippi, and the AFMM. The USCOE and MDEQ assist the state and local communities in establishing base flood elevations in areas that have not been studied.

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) has complemented the MEMA buyout program by removing homes and businesses from flood hazard areas throughout the state. Many local communities are unable to provide the non-Federal cost share. By working together, MEMA and MDA are assisting local communities in addressing flood risk areas and improving housing stock. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has worked with MEMA on endangered species, fish and wildlife management issues associated with flood buyouts, water management, and conservation questions. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History works with MEMA concerning the National Environmental Policy Act as it relates to historic issues.

The Mississippi Department of Insurance supports MEMA in promoting flood and earthquake insurance, preparedness, response, mitigation issues, and plans. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has worked with MEMA on flood buyouts, hazardous materials planning, earthquake mitigation, and dam safety plans and issues. The Mississippi Department of Transportation, the US Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration have worked with MEMA on flood buyouts, open space restriction issues, and earthquake planning and bridge retrofits. In addition to the state and federal transportation agencies, the Geological Survey, the Central US Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), MDEQ, the Mississippi Department of Insurance, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Mississippi Society of Professional Engineers, the University of Mississippi Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness, the University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI), and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, New Madrid Chapter, work with MEMA on earthquake mitigation, including retrofits, public education, soil mapping, and seismic studies.

StormReady Communities

Figure 2.3.2.1: StormReady Communities



The National Weather Service (NWS) and the Mississippi Civil Defense and Emergency

Management Association (MCDEMA) support the NWS Storm Ready Program in Mississippi with 30 counties, 14 communities, 8 universities, 1 commercial site, 5 government sites, and 25 supporters, as well as the many mitigation measures included in that program and its plans (Figure 2.3.2.1 and Charts 2.3.2.1). The State of Mississippi offers a safe room program called “A Safe Place to Go” encouraging homeowners to construct individual safe rooms at their residence. The State also provided funding for FEMA 361 and community saferooms. In August 2022 MEMA launched the Individual Safe Room Program to help residents in disaster-prone areas build safe rooms/storm shelters from severe weather. With the current grant funding \$2.5 million covering application period August 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022, MEMA anticipates building over 600 safe rooms. MEMA has supported efforts to reduce injuries, fatalities, and damages from severe weather events by funding weather radios to local schools and call-down systems to local governments for distribution to high population concentrations such as schools, industries, and hospitals. MEMA’s Statewide Coordinator has worked for years to educate local, state, and national voluntary organizations through the Disaster Recovery Partnership and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), concerning the importance of Mitigation.

Chart 2.3.2.1: StormReady in Mississippi

Counties	Communities	Government	Commercial	Universities	Supporters
1) Adams	1) Bay St. Louis	1) Jackson Air National Guard Base	1) Tanger Outlet Mall	1) Alcorn State University	1) Anderson Regional Medical Center
2) Attala	2) Brandon	2) John C. Stennis Space Center		2) Hinds Community College	2) Anel Corporation
3) Bolivar	3) Clinton	3) Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)		3) Jackson State University	3) Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto
4) Claiborne	4) Columbia	4) Naval Air Station Meridian		4) Meridian Community College	4) Forrest General Hospital
5) Clarke	5) Hattiesburg	5) NCBC Gulfport		5) Mississippi State University	5) Forrest County School District
6) Clay	6) Jackson			6) University of MS	6) Greenwood-Leflore Hospital
7) Copiah	7) Louisville			7) University of MS Medical Center	7) Gulfport Premium Outlets
8) DeSoto	8) Madison			8) University of Southern MS	8) Hol-Mac Corp
9) Forrest	9) Magee				9) Keith Huber Corporation
10) Grenada	10) Mendenhall				10) Lamar County School District
11) Hancock	11) Oxford				11) MS Baptist Medical Center
12) Hinds	12) Pelahatchie				12) Mississippi State Hospital
13) Jackson	13) Prentiss				13) North MS State Hospital
14) Jones	14) Richland				14) Northpark Mall
15) Lafayette					15) Nucor Steel and General Recycling
16) Lamar					16) Petal School District
17) Lauderdale					17) Promise Hospital of Vicksburg
18) Leake					18) Rush Hospital
19) Lowndes					19) Simon Northpark Mall
20) Marion					20) Southeast Lauderdale High School
21) Neshoba					21) South-Central Regional Medical Center
22) Newton					22) Southern Lumber Company, Hermanville
23) Oktibbeha					23) Vertex Aerospace
24) Rankin					24) Veterans Administration Hospital
25) Smith					25) Wesley Medical Center
26) Stone					
27) Tallahatchie					
28) Tippah					
29) Warren					
30) Yazoo					

2.3.3 Mitigation Programs and Measures

The following is a synopsis of the State, FEMA, and other program initiatives that are integrated into the Standard Mitigation Plan and will be utilized in the accomplishment of the strategies developed in this plan and local mitigation plans. The State will manage and administer FEMA funding in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations. New programs and initiatives will be added to this ongoing list in subsequent updates in compliance with 44 CFR 13.11(d).

44 CFR 13.11(d): State Plans.

Amendments. A state will amend a plan whenever necessary to reflect: (1) New or revised federal statutes or regulations or (2) a material change in any state law, organization, policy, or state agency operations. The state will obtain approval for the amendment and its effective date but need submit for approval only the amended portions of the plan.

Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness

During February of 1994, MEMA partnered with the Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness (CCEP) at the University of Mississippi to gain a more solid understanding of earthquake effects on structures. The final report, titled Evaluation of Earthquake Effects on Selected Structures and Utilities at the University of Mississippi: A Mitigation Model for Universities was produced in October of 1999. This project was designed to determine responses of selected buildings and facilities to regional seismic activity at or near moment-magnitudes of four, six, and eight; identify potential mitigation that would minimize loss of lives during a regional seismic event; identify sites of potentially severe property damage resulting from a regional seismic event; increase the pool of technical experts capable of performing earthquake evaluations; establish general recommendations for earthquake hazards mitigation; and keep the issue of potential consequences of seismic activity before the public and the University of Mississippi administration. As a result of the partnership developed during this time, MEMA continues to work closely with the CCEP to develop a profile on earthquakes in Mississippi, identifying the risk from regional earthquakes, assessing the vulnerability of regional earthquakes using HAZUS-MH, and identifying potential mitigation actions that could be implemented to mitigate the effects of earthquakes on the state. The partnership between MEMA and CCEP will continue, and information from both entities will be mutually integrated to benefit the state's efforts to mitigate potential risks posed by the seismic hazard in Mississippi.

MEMA is also a participant in the New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Response Planning Project. Partners in this effort include the following:

- DHS/FEMA Headquarters (Response, Recovery, Mitigation, Private Sector, Critical Infrastructure, etc.)
- FEMA Regions IV, V, VI, VII
- Other Federal agencies including USDOT, USGS, DHHS, DoD, and others
- CUSEC members states: AL, AR, IL, IN, KY, MS, MO, TN
- NORTHCOM
- Local Governments
- Business, industry, and voluntary organizations
- Catastrophic planning personnel assigned to support each participating FEMA region and state
- MAE Center, Sandia National Lab, George Washington University (ICDRM)

The mission of the Project is to increase the national readiness for a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). Specifically, this will be accomplished by developing a series of annexes or supplements to existing base plans for response and recovery or a series of major earthquakes in the NMSZ and integrating them into a single document with federal, regional, tribal, state, and local components. Additionally, the mission is to identify any issues that cannot be resolved based on current capabilities and to propose recommended courses of action for decision makers involved in the project.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Authorized to provide local match for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Mississippi Development Authority is the grant recipient of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on behalf of the State of Mississippi. The United States Congress allocated some \$2 billion of CDBG funding for water, wastewater, electrical, homeowner grants, planning, and downtown revitalization. In some cases, CDBG funds can be used as part of the local share for HMGP, provided that the law does not preclude them.

The CDBG funds for homeowner grants were used to elevate homes that are now in new flood zones, as well as to upgrade homes to the new International Building Codes. Also, the funds will be used to buy-out property and thus hopefully change the use of the property from residential to green space and commercial uses.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP)

The state, each county within the state (82 in all), and the MS Band of Choctaw Indians have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The plan serves as the operations and administrative guide for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Select mitigation strategies such as employment of saferoom/storm shelters, evaluation, retrofitting of critical facilities, and public alert warning systems are all a part of the CEMP.

The state plan and all county plans have been or are in the process of being updated by utilizing post-Katrina lessons learned, as well as incorporation of the guidelines contained in the National Response Framework.

Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (CPHCD)

The Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (CPHCD) is a requirement of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that consolidates the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Program, Home Investment Partnerships, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS formula programs. The CPHCD is a comprehensive planning document that identifies the state's overall needs for affordable and supportive housing and community development. In addition, the plan outlines a strategy to address those needs. The CPHCD development process represents an opportunity an opportunity to involve citizens and community groups in the process of assessing the state's overall housing and community development needs, establishing strategic priorities, and developing a plan to meet the state's identified housing and community development goals. The CPHCD is updated on a five-year cycle with action plans being developed annually. Identified hazard areas and information on vulnerable populations and structures identified within the mitigation plan will be integrated into the CPHCD to ensure that action plans developed to meet housing and community development needs are reflective of the mitigation goals identified within the mitigation plan.

State Emergency Response Commission

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is designated by executive order to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Title III (Public Law 99-499). Personnel involved in this on-going planning effort coordinate with Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPC) statewide. There is a particular emphasis on human-caused hazards as a result of the use of misuse of hazardous materials.

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG)

The EMPG provides funding for state and local emergency management programs to include the Natural Hazards Program and the State Hazard Mitigation Program. The EMPG is the backbone for funding local emergency management capability. Because of increased EMPG funding, all 82 counties now have active emergency management programs.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's)

The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) has responsibilities for statewide wildland fire suppression. MFC is in the process of updating county level CWPP's by working with local Emergency Management Agencies. The Plans highlight goals and objectives to strengthen and support wildfire suppression, mitigation, outreach, and Education at the county level.

Federal Dam Safety Program

This FEMA program is administered/enforced by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Strategies for expanding dam safety are discussed in Section 4.4. Additional information on dam safety and relevant issues will be discussed in subsequent updates of the State of Mississippi's Standard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

In 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency grouped together its grants programs and their requirements to form the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. HMA consist of the following programs:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

This FEMA funded program serves as the main post-disaster mitigation utilized by the State of Mississippi. The following initiatives have been selected as high priority for current and future funding.

Retrofit of Critical Facilities – It is the intent of the Mitigation Bureau to assign a high priority to the retrofitting of critical facilities identified in state and local mitigation plans. Wind and flood events have proven to have the highest history of damage, although earthquake vulnerability analysis has identified cost-effective measures for both structural and non-structural mitigation. Climate change encompasses changes in weather conditions, increases and decreases in temperature, and shifts in precipitation. It is the intent of the Mitigation Bureau to help the State adapt to climate change.

Planning – It has long been policy of the Mitigation Bureau to assign funding priority to those communities that have identified eligible mitigation projects through a planning process. Therefore, the funding of mitigation plans is the top funding priority.

Saferooms – Extreme windstorms, such as tornados and hurricanes, pose a serious threat to buildings and their occupants in many areas of Mississippi. Even a structure built “to code,” may not withstand extreme wind events. A shelter can be built in one of several places – beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation, or in an interior room on the first floor. To protect its occupants, an in-house shelter must be able to withstand the forces exerted by high winds and remain standing, even if the rest of the house is severely damaged. A saferoom or storm shelter is key to this plan's mitigation strategy to save lives. With changing risks of certain types of severe weather events, Mitigation purposes to advance risk reduction for populations most affected by hazard events.

Funds are available to the qualified homeowners from the HMGP administered by the Mitigation Bureau, through private lenders, and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Homeowners are requested to contact their local Emergency Management Agency for further information.

Repetitive Flood Loss Structures – These structures represent less than 4 percent of the insured structures in the state but have incurred over 25 percent of the total dollars paid on claims. A priority of the HMGP has been to

identify these structures and fund cost-effective acquisition, elevation, localized drainage, or relocation of the structures.

Public Alert and Warning System – A special initiative funded through a five percent set aside and the tornado mitigation initiative allows the state to fund warning systems on college and university campuses where large numbers of student and faculty reside. This program is coordinated with local emergency managers.

Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant Pilot Guidance – The HMGP Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant Pilot will provide funds for eligible HMGP Applicants for identifying and planning feasible projects and incorporating those projects into their Local Mitigation Plans (LMPs). The mitigation planning process assists eligible applicants in setting short and long-range mitigation goals and objectives.

Mitigation Planning is a collaborative process whereby hazards affecting the community are identified, hazard vulnerability is assessed and analyzed, and consensus is reached on how to minimize or eliminate the effects of those hazards. Because LMP's are the foundation of a strong mitigation strategy, the Pilot will bridge the gap between mitigation planning strategies and the implementation of actual mitigation projects as part of the overall disaster recovery effort.

Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program

FEMA's Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance for eligible rehabilitation activities that reduce dam risk and increase community preparedness.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government so they can rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future natural disaster losses in their communities. The program is authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act.

HMGP funding is authorized with a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. A governor or tribal chief executive may request HMGP funding throughout the state, tribe or territory when submitting a disaster declaration. The amount of funding made available to the applicant is based on the estimated total Federal assistance. The formula generally gives 15% of the total federal assistance amount provided for recovery from the presidentially declared disaster and is determined by the FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP)

The state has utilized Technical Assistance Task Orders to develop local and county plans, conduct regional workshops on Pre-Disaster Mitigation, publish a Mitigation Success Stories book, conduct community mitigation capability assessments to include community assistance visits and contacts, and to evaluate critical facilities in the wake of Tropical Storm Isadore and Hurricane Lili in September 2002.

Homeland Security Plan

Finding from this plan were integrated with the Mississippi Emergency Operations Plan, with particular emphasis on human-caused hazards. The Homeland Security Plan development was closely coordinated with this Hazard Mitigation Plan.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The US Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. The NFIP is a federal program that enables property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between communities and federal government. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risk to new and substantially improved construction in floodplains, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. The insurance is designed to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and contents caused by floods.

The NFIP authorizes the Community Assistance Program (CAP), the Community Rating System (CRS), the Increased Cost of Compliance Insurance Program (ICC), and the Risk Map Program, all of which serve as mitigation incentives for reducing the cost of flood losses.

Community Assistance Program—State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)

The State's formal participation in the NFIP is through the FEMA funded Community Assistance Program (CAP). The CAP annual agreement provides partial funding for the state to establish and maintain an office responsible for providing NFIP technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions, for conducting NFIP compliance audits referred to as "Community Assistance Visits" and conduct training and public outreach/education. The Governor has designated MEMA as the state coordinating agency for the CAP program. The MEMA Floodplain Management Bureau Director serves as the state NFIP Coordinator.

In Mississippi, the CAP is implemented through a five-year, long-term plan and a one-year plan. These plans address NFIP compliance, public outreach/education, and mitigation of flood risk structures.

As of July 2023, there are 335 local communities participating in the NFIP. Of those 335 communities, 28 also participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Mitigation capability assessments have been conducted in these communities to ensure that local administrators are trained to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM).

Participating NFIP communities (with low to moderate flood risk) receive compliance visits every five years. Most of these communities have adopted the State Model Ordinance and community leaders/administrators have attended regional workshops.

The NFIP State Coordinator has developed a Local Flood Protection Ordinance Handbook, a Quick Guide, for local administrators and a model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that exceeds the FEMA standards for riverine and coastal communities. These tools are available in hardcopy and on the MEMA website. Statewide and regional NFIP workshops are conducted annually.

The Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi (AFMM) was established in 1999 and became a state chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers in 2001. In 2004 hosted the annual National Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Members of AFMM attaining their certification are now assisting the state with training and "peer to peer" assistance to other communities.

Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)

ICC coverage provides the payment of an additional claim to help pay for the increased costs to comply with state and community floodplain management laws or ordinances after a flood, in which a building has been declared substantially damaged or repetitively damaged. When an insured building is damaged by a flood and the community declares the building to be substantially or repetitively damaged, this triggers the requirement to comply with its community floodplain management ordinance, ICC will help pay for the cost to floodproof (non-residential buildings only), relocate, elevate, or demolish a structure up to a maximum of \$30,000. This coverage is in addition to the building coverage for the repair of actual physical damages from flood under the policy, but the total paid cannot exceed the maximum limit set by Congress for that type of building.

The maximum limit of \$30,000 helps property owners insured under the NFIP to pay for a portion, or in some cases, all the costs of undertaking actions to protect homes and businesses from flood losses. In addition, an ICC claim payment can be used to complement and supplement funds under other mitigation programs such as the FMA and FEMA's HMGP, which assist communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the NFIP.

FEMA Risk MAP Program

The Risk MAP is the successor to FEMA's Map Modernization (Map Mod) program and expands the focus to include risk assessment, mitigation planning, and traditional hazard identification (flood mapping or DFIRM) activities. Risk MAP is meant to better inform communities as they make decisions related to reducing flood risk by implementing mitigation measures. Where Map Mod studies were county-wide based, Risk MAP studies are based on HUC-8 basins and may include portions or multiple counties and cities/towns. The initial 5-year Risk MAP program was funded for the years of FY2010 through FY2014. In addition to the traditional regulatory products (Flood Insurance Study (FIS), DFIRM, and DFIRM GIS Database), communities in a studied basin will receive new non-regulatory products which will include the following; Watershed Flood Risk Report, Watershed Risk Map, and Flood Risk GIS Database with changes since the last FIRM data, Multi-Frequency Flood Depth Grids, Percent Annual Chance of Flooding Data, percent chance of flooding over 30- years, and new HAZUS Annualized Risk Data.

FEMA is working with federal, state, tribal, and local partners across the nation to identify flood risk and promote informed planning and development practices to help reduce that risk. Risk MAP provides high quality flood maps and information, tools to better assess the risk from flooding, planning, and outreach support to communities to help them take actions to reduce or mitigate flood risk. Each Risk MAP flood risk project is tailored to the needs of each community and may involve different products and services.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants provide funding to states, local communities, tribes, and territories to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This program is authorized by Section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act.

FEMA distributes funds annually to develop community or individual flood mitigation projects. These grants address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing National Flood Insurance Program flood claim payments and to mitigate the risk of flooding to individual flood insured structures. In addition, funding is also used for technical assistance and management costs. As a requirement of the FMA program, all sub-applicants must be participating and in good standing with the NFIP.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

The FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program makes federal funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters. This funding is offered in addition to funds provided through other FEMA grant programs for projects that will support growing mitigation needs nationwide.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Loans for Small Businesses

The Small Business Administration published a Final Rule on its Pre-Disaster Mitigation Loan Program in the Federal Register on October 7, 2002. After November 1, 2003, a business must be located in a community with a FEMA-approved mitigation plan to be eligible for this program. Eligible small businesses may borrow up to \$50,000 each fiscal year at a fixed interest rate of 4 percent per year or less for mitigation measures approved in the loan request. Businesses proposing mitigation measures must be located in a Special Flood Hazard Area. A written certification from a local emergency management official is required as part of the loan application to satisfy this requirement. This program will coordinate with the State of Mississippi Standard Mitigation Plan to provide capital necessary to fund hazard mitigation projects.

Natural Hazards Program

Located in Preparedness, Training, and Exercise Bureau of MEMA, the Natural Hazards Program Manager develops and coordinates the State Hurricane Program and the State Earthquake Program and coordinates the update of the Hurricane and Earthquake component of the plan.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) competitive annual grant program supports state, local, tribal, and territorial governments as they implement hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards. The program is authorized by the Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,

The BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward proactive investment in community resilience. FEMA funds BRIC with a 6% set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funds, such as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance grants. As a competitive grant program, applicants can apply on a yearly basis.

FEMA's priorities for the FY 2022 BRIC program are to:

- 1) Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad;
- 2) Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions;
- 3) Enhance climate resilience and adaptation;
- 4) Increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes; and
- 5) Encourage mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities.

Through BRIC, FEMA continues to invest in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, nature-based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation, and adopting hazard resistant building codes.

Management costs allow FEMA to provide financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation project or Capacity and Capability-Building (C&CB) activity. Management Costs can be submitted under the State/Territory Allocation, Tribal Set-Aside, and national competition.

The BRIC Program also offers non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) and encourages communities to participate. BRIC DTA gives full support to communities that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own. FEMA will give wide-ranging support to BRIC DTA communities including climate risk assessments, community engagement, partnership building, mitigation and climate adaptation planning, and BRIC program requests throughout the grant lifecycle.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Post Fire Program provides funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures focused on reducing the risk of harm from wildfire. HMGP Post Fire funding is authorized under Sections 404 and 420 of the Stafford Act, and provides hazard mitigation grant funding to SLTT governments in areas receiving a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declaration.

Fire Management Assistance Grants

The Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program is available to states, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program

The Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act became law on Jan. 1, 2021 and authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants to states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters.

The STORM Act amends the Stafford Act. FEMA's priorities for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program are to: empower eligible entities; create innovative funding solutions; deliver equitable investments and increased access; reduce grant application complexity; and maximize administrative flexibility.