

# Frequently Asked Questions about Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

A guide for EMAs, Jurisdictions, Planners, etc.

Note that the information provided in this FAQ is not intended to supersede federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or policy, nor should it be considered legal advice. It is the reader's responsibility to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Take me to...

[Why do I need to update my Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(LHMP\)? How often should I update my plan?](#)

[What are the benefits of having a valid LHMP? What grant funding requires a mitigation plan?](#)

[Do I need a current plan to be eligible for Public Assistance \(PA\)?](#)

[Why should my jurisdiction/organization participate in the county/regional plan?](#)

[What is the process for creating or updating a LHMP?](#)

[Do I have to rewrite the entire plan every five years?](#)

[Can I get an extension on my plan to avoid a lapse?](#)

[If I right-size my plan update, what needs to happen at minimum?](#)

[Can I get grant funding to update my plan?](#)

[Do I have to have a current plan to get grant funding for the plan update?](#)

[Is there a cap on grant funding?](#)

[Can I combine my county's plan with a neighboring county? Are multi-county / regional plans allowed?](#)

[Who is responsible for updating the plan?](#)

[How should I procure a vendor to update the plan? Can I use the same one as last time?](#)

[How do we start the plan update process?](#)

[Where can I find FEMA's rules about LHMPs?](#)

[Who should be involved in updating the plan?](#)

[Jurisdictions](#)

Personnel

Stakeholders

Is there a minimum time the plan must be available for public comment? Can the state review the plan while it is out for public review?

Where can I find resources for updating the plan?

How can I fund a LHMP update?

Who should sign the forms for planning grant applications? How does the authorized representative role work?

How does local in-kind match work?

Which hazards need to be addressed in the plan?

What are some common pitfalls in the approval process? How can I get it right the first time?

How can I meet the requirement for an action per jurisdiction per hazard (C4-a)? What actions count as mitigation?

What is Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status?

Should we adopt the plan before FEMA has approved it? Should any or all jurisdictions have adopted the plan prior to submitting the plan to FEMA?

What qualifies as “formal adoption”?

What happens once a jurisdiction’s adoption resolution is sent to FEMA?

Glossary of Acronyms

APA

BRIC

COG, RPC

EMA

EMGrants Pro, EMGP

FMA

FEMA

FEMA GO

HMA

HMGP

HMP

HSEM  
LHMP  
LMPPG  
LPDM  
MJHMP  
NOI  
PA  
PAPPG  
PRT  
SHMP  
STRLF  
28E

## Why do I need to update my Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)? How often should I update my plan?

According to federal regulation, hazard mitigation plans are no longer effective after five years. 44 CFR 201.6(d)(3). You should aim to begin updating your plan at least one year prior to plan expiration. If you plan to use federal funding to update your plan, you may want to talk to Iowa [HSEM](#) at least two years before expiration.

In addition to federal requirements, regular updates to [LHMPs](#) ensure that the information is not outdated, and more importantly that the mitigation strategy remains relevant to the community.

## What are the benefits of having a valid LHMP? What grant funding requires a mitigation plan?

Per federal regulations, a [LHMP](#) is required to receive [FEMA](#) funding from Hazard Mitigation Assistance ([HMA](#)) programs. 44 CFR 201.6(d)(3). This includes:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program ([HMGP](#))
- Flood Mitigation Assistance ([FMA](#))
- Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund ([STRLF](#))
- Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation ([LPDM](#))

A LHMP is NOT required for:

- Public Assistance ([PA](#))

Beyond funding eligibility, hazard mitigation planning shows a community its opportunities to break the disaster cycle by avoiding future damages. The planning process can engage stakeholders and raise public awareness of natural hazards and ways to reduce their impact, ultimately increasing individual and collective preparedness.

### Do I need a current plan to be eligible for Public Assistance ([PA](#))?

In short, no.

According to the [PAPPG](#) v4.0, the recipient (the state) must have a current, [FEMA](#)-approved [SHMP](#) in order for the state or subrecipients (i.e., local governments and other eligible entities) to receive funding for [PA](#) “Permanent Work” (i.e., everything except debris management and emergency protective measures). There is no requirement for a [LHMP](#).

The state’s current plan is valid until September of 2028, by which time a new plan will be approved.

### Why should my jurisdiction/organization participate in the county/regional plan?

Developing or updating a hazard mitigation plan takes time and money. When all the jurisdictions in a county (or multiple counties) can develop a plan together, it saves planners’ time, and therefore the jurisdiction’s money.

Plan reviewers at the state and federal level also save time when a plan includes multiple jurisdictions, allowing them to solve issues for multiple jurisdictions at once and to be more responsive to requests for technical assistance.

It does happen where a jurisdiction that could have participated in the countywide plan for no cost later decides they would like to apply for [HMA](#) funding, but find themselves ineligible unless they can find the time or money to develop their own plan.

#### **For non-government [HMA](#) applicants:**

Often only municipalities or school districts participate in a plan. However, any [HMA](#)-eligible special districts and [28E](#) entities that participate in their local hazard mitigation plan can apply for [HMA](#) funding directly as subapplicants, without needing the local government to sponsor the mitigation project. Certain non-profits may be eligible for funding, but do not need to be plan participants.

## What is the process for creating or updating a [LHMP](#)?

If not applying for [FEMA](#) grant funding: Skip to [How do we start the plan update process?](#) below.

### If applying for [FEMA](#) grant funding:

1. See Can I get grant funding to update my plan?
2. Submit a Notice of Interest ([NOI](#)) to [HSEM](#) on [EMGrants](#)
3. Complete and submit a grant application on [EMGrants](#) and [FEMA GO](#) (instructions will be sent following submission and approval of your [NOI](#))
  - a. Note that the applicant entity should be registered on [SAM.gov](#) (not just have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), but be registered to apply for assistance)
4. [HSEM](#) reviews the application and submits it to [FEMA](#). Timing may depend on grant availability.
5. [FEMA](#) approves the application and awards the grant.
6. [HSEM](#) meets with the grant awardee and provides a “subaward agreement” to be signed.
7. Planning efforts may only begin after the grant is awarded. Work performed prior to grant award is ineligible for reimbursement (unless applied for as pre-award costs).

## Do I have to rewrite the entire plan every five years?

No. [HSEM](#) and [FEMA](#) encourage “right-sized” plan updates. Your plan is probably mostly up-to-date and mostly compliant with [FEMA’s](#) planning requirements. You are welcome to rewrite the plan or to add or remove as much as you like, but the plan will be considered approvable as long as the plan:

- meets the requirements outlined in the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide ([LMPPG](#)),
- contains updated information in the risk assessment and mitigation strategy (where appropriate), and
- incorporated the appropriate public and stakeholder input.

Note that plans written prior to April 2023 were approved under older guidelines. There may be some nuances in current interpretation of the federal regulations (provided in the [LMPPG](#) and clarified to some degree at the state level in [this document](#)), that will require potentially significant updates to come in line with the new guidance.

## Can I get an extension on my plan to avoid a lapse?

No. Federal regulations require that a plan be updated within the past five years to be valid. There is no option for extensions.

However, when it comes to HMA eligibility, FEMA may make exceptions under extraordinary circumstances. See the current [HMA Program and Policy Guide](#) for more information.

### If I right-size my plan update, what needs to happen at minimum?

- Review current FEMA planning requirements, and ensure that the plan meets them.
- Review the plan for outdated information (e.g., disaster/hazard history, assets at risk, NFIP properties, expected future conditions, planning process)
  - Some jurisdictions may not have seen much change in the past five years. If that is the case, a simple statement verifying that the previous information was reviewed and is accurate will suffice.
- Conduct stakeholder outreach and provide and document an opportunity for public engagement.
- Review previous actions in your mitigation strategy and provide an update on progress for each (e.g., completed, delayed, ongoing, or removed).
- Describe how the plan was updated to reflect changes in priorities, integration into other planning mechanisms, the effect of changes in development on vulnerability, and the planning process used for the current plan update.
- [HSEM](#) and FEMA must review and approve the plan update.
- Each participating jurisdiction must formally adopt the updated plan.

### Can I get grant funding to update my plan?

Yes. [HSEM](#) may have funding available through various mitigation grant programs at different times. [HMGP](#) funding opens after a presidential disaster and can fund local plans. [FEMA](#) reviews [HMGP](#) applications on a rolling basis

### Do I have to have a current plan to get grant funding for the plan update?

No. All jurisdictions are eligible for planning grants, with or without a current plan. These planning grants must be used to develop or update a hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA.

### Is there a cap on grant funding?

[HSEM](#) generally caps *federal cost share* at \$30,000 (i.e., 75% of a total project cost of \$40,000), subject to change with inflation or special circumstances (e.g., higher or lower demand for planning funds, or funding leftover in a grant budget). Costs beyond the capped amount will be the responsibility of the applicant (e.g., of a \$45,000 total: \$30,000 federal, \$4,500 state (10%), and the rest local (\$10,500).

## Can I combine my county's plan with a neighboring county? Are multi-county / regional plans allowed?

Yes. Multi-county plans, like multi-jurisdictional plans, are strongly encouraged. Participating counties should be contiguous. Multi-county plans can save time and effort (and money) for the plan update by working together.

Different counties may have different plan update schedules, which might discourage one from updating early to get on the same schedule as a potential partnering county, but the cost savings may be worth it in the long run.

Even just two neighboring counties working together can make the effort more manageable.

This may be an especially attractive option for cities or metro areas that span county borders. [COGs](#) may also benefit by doing a single plan for their region, instead of updating several county plans at different points.

## Who is responsible for updating the plan?

No single person is officially responsible for maintaining the hazard mitigation plan (unless local policy states otherwise), and it varies by jurisdiction. However, Iowa Administrative Code does currently require EM Commissions to develop hazard analyses and risk assessments. In most counties, the [EMA](#) manages the update, but hires a [COG](#) or consultant to do the plan update. In some counties, the county's planning agency or [COG](#) manages and conducts the plan update. In some counties, the [EMA](#) may update the plan without help from outside consultants or agencies.

Because the plan affects eligibility for [FEMA HMA](#) funding, and requires coordination across multiple jurisdictions, the [EMA](#), being already most familiar with [HSEM](#) and [FEMA](#), is often the best-suited to organize the plan update. As a fundamental piece of emergency management, mitigation plans are also often funded by [EMAs](#) or counties, but cost-share from the participating jurisdictions is also an option. [EMAs](#) are, however, free to allow someone else to manage the plan updates. Ultimately the question should be answered by local policy.

If a [COG](#) or private consultant/vendor is hired, they will typically be familiar with the plan update requirements and can help guide you through the process. Often, they will lead public meetings, conduct or assist with public outreach, gather data, write the plan, submit the plan to [HSEM](#), and revise as necessary, leaving little to the [EMA](#) and local jurisdictions except to participate and provide meeting places.

## How should I procure a vendor to update the plan? Can I use the same one as last time?

Understandably, the vendor/agency who last completed the plan update may have more familiarity with the plan contents and participants, but this does not necessarily mean they are the vendor you should choose.

Procurement rules will depend on whether you are using federal funds to pay a vendor or planner to update the plan. Federal funds will mean federal procurement rules, outlined in [2 CFR Part 200](#), will need to be followed.

In any event, local procurement policy should be followed. Procurement policies may mean that you will need to publish the opportunity, and you may end up choosing (or having to choose) a different vendor.

The state (specifically [HSEM's Mitigation Bureau](#)) often has master service agreements with planning vendors, which are generally open to use by all political subdivisions in Iowa. [HSEM](#) can request quotes on behalf of the planning area from these vendors, who have been procured to meet state and federal procurement requirements.

**No special procurement process is required for you to contract with your [COG](#) to update your plan.** If you're not familiar with your [COG](#) (Council of Governments), you can find their contact information here: <https://www.iowacog.com/find-your-cog>

## How do we start the plan update process?

First, decide who will be directing and/or conducting the plan update. See "[Who is responsible](#)" above.

### If applying for FEMA grant funding:

1. Consider what jurisdictions will be participating in the plan update, including whether you are doing a multi-county plan.
2. Consider right-sizing your update. See [Do I have to rewrite the entire plan every five years?](#)
3. Check with [HSEM's Mitigation Bureau](#) to see what funding is available and what the timeline for that funding looks like.
4. Apply for and receive [FEMA](#) grant award before beginning any planning work. See [What is the process for creating or updating a LHMP?](#)
5. Move to step 3 of the section below for all plans

**For all plans** (whether applying for FEMA grant funding or not):



1. Consider what jurisdictions will be participating in the plan update, including whether you are doing a multi-county plan.
2. Consider right-sizing your update. See [Do I have to rewrite the entire plan every five years?](#)
3. If working with a vendor/consultant/[COG](#) to update the plan, choose a vendor. See [How should I procure a vendor to update the plan? Can I use the same one as last time?](#) A planning vendor will be familiar with the planning process and be able to work through the update.
4. Gather a hazard mitigation planning committee, schedule a kickoff meeting, and determine the timeline and process for the plan update.
5. Create a plan for involving the whole community, including each of the stakeholders [FEMA](#) identifies in the [LMPPG](#), Element A2-a.

## Where can I find [FEMA's](#) rules about [LHMPs](#)?

While [44 CFR § 201.6](#) outlines the basic requirements for local hazard mitigation plans, the LMPPG is the standard to which FEMA reviews all plans. [FEMA](#) created the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide ([LMPPG](#)) to improve consistency of interpretation across the nation. See the [2025 LMPPG here](#). See also FEMA's [mitigation planning webpage](#) for more information.

FEMA also has a [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#) that can help explain the process.

When reviewing a plan, FEMA will use the Plan Review Tool ([PRT](#)) provided by the local planner to ensure that the plan meets all requirements. However, note that the PRT does not get into specific interpretations of requirements. **It is highly recommended to consult the [LMPPG](#)** when updating the plan to ensure that the plan meets the updated interpretation of the rules.

## Who should be involved in updating the plan?

### Jurisdictions

Any jurisdictions interested in planning for hazard mitigation and/or receiving [FEMA](#) funding for hazard mitigation should be involved in the plan update. This might include cities, counties, municipal utilities, drainage districts, levee districts, universities, school districts, fire departments (if not organized under a single municipality), waste management commissions, watershed management authorities, etc.

Each plan might define participation differently, but there must be some evidence of participation from each jurisdiction that intends to adopt the plan. In some plans, this might mean attending at least two meetings, attending make-up meetings or viewing recordings,

completing surveys, etc. Note that some special districts may prefer to participate in meetings but *not* as a jurisdiction, to avoid the extra requirements involved.

## Personnel

While police officers and firefighters are highly knowledgeable about the response aspect of emergency management and can provide valuable insight for your plan, you might find that the people responsible for maintaining infrastructure in your community are the ones best-suited to assessing natural hazard risks to community assets and developing solutions to reduce that risk. This might include public works, utilities, roads or transportation, economic development, stormwater or watershed management, etc., or even local businesses that provide a product or service that reduces hazard impacts.

It is also important for decision-makers to be involved in the planning process, as they will ultimately have to support the mitigation strategy developed in the plan.

## Stakeholders

[FEMA](#) outlines several stakeholders that need to be provided an opportunity to be involved.

The general public should always be invited to participate. To make the invitation meaningful, do what you can to reach out to people where they are. If people don't read the public notices in the regional newspaper, you might want to do more targeted outreach and communicate in ways most appropriate for your community. This might mean placing notices in local stores or church bulletins, creating social media posts, reaching out to retirement communities or schools, etc.

The five categories of stakeholders that [FEMA](#) requires to be given an opportunity to be involved include:

1. Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities: Examples include public works, emergency management, local floodplain administration and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) departments.
2. Agencies that have the authority to regulate development
3. Neighboring communities
4. Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations
5. Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, among others

Review the Element A requirements in the [LMPPG](#) for more information.

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Is there a minimum time the plan must be available for public comment? Can the state review the plan while it is out for public review?

The state does not have a minimum number of days a plan must be available for public comment. However, the public review and comment period (along with any other public involvement used to meet requirements) must occur prior to formal review (per the [LMPPG](#), element A3-a).

There may also be stipulations as to the length of the review in the project scope of work, if you received FEMA funding.

Finally, ensure that any applicable local rules on public engagement are followed.

Where can I find resources for updating the plan?

The Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide ([LMPPG](#)) describes FEMA's current standards and interpretation of federal rules. See the [2025 LMPPG here](#). See also FEMA's [mitigation planning webpage](#) for more information.

FEMA also has a [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#) that can help explain the process.

[HSEM](#) has annotated the PRT to identify common issues. [This document](#) can be found on HSEM's [Hazard Mitigation webpage](#).

Reach out to the HSEM [Mitigation Bureau](#) for more information on current resources.

How can I fund a [LHMP](#) update?

Mitigation plans can be funded with [FEMA](#) grants when available, including under the [HMGP](#), [FMA](#), and [STRLF](#) programs. With the exception of [STRLF](#) (a loan program), these all require a local cost share as well. Fifteen percent is standard, but it may vary.

[STRLF](#) may be used to cover the local cost share for [HMA](#) grants.

It is up to the participating jurisdictions how to divide costs, whether the local cost share or the full cost of the plan update, if no additional funds are being used.

In-kind match may be an option to help cover local costs as well. See [How does local in-kind match work?](#)

## Who should sign the forms for planning grant applications? How does the authorized representative role work?

Applications must be signed by an authorized representative. [HSEM](#) will provide a form that allows the applicant entity to designate an authorized representative. This form must be signed by the chief executive officer or the chair of the governing body.

Authorized representatives are also responsible for submitting the following:

- Applications in [EMGrants](#) and [FEMA GO](#)
- Quarterly reports
- Scope changes
- Time extensions
- Reimbursement requests

Unlike most other documents, the grant subaward agreement between the applicant and [HSEM](#) must be signed by the executive officer / governing body, not the authorized representative.

## How does local in-kind match work?

In-kind contributions are non-cash contributions used to satisfy the non-federal cost share. This is typically in the form of time spent on the plan update, but may also include provision of meeting space or printing handouts.

Note the following:

- In-kind match must be included in the application (i.e., pre-approved). It should not be added in later.
- Unless otherwise agreed upon with your planning vendor, vendors typically expect to be paid in cash. Thus, the vendor's costs will not be able to exceed the state and federal share and any amount of the local share provided in cash. So if a county intends to provide no cash for their match, the vendor's costs would be divided by 0.85 (0.75 federal + 0.1 state) to determine the total project cost. Local in-kind contributions would be an additional cost line item equal to 15% (0.15) of the total project cost.
- Documentation is key for justifying in-kind contribution claims. The level of documentation required by FEMA has led most counties to stop using in-kind contribution because the time spent on documentation was too burdensome.

Reach out to HSEM's [Mitigation Bureau](#) for further information if you would like to include in-kind match as part of your application.

## Which hazards need to be addressed in the plan?

Only natural hazards are considered under FEMA's hazard mitigation programs. Consequently, only natural hazards that impact the jurisdiction need to be included in the plan. However, you can include any hazards you deem appropriate to include in the plan. **You do not need to include all hazards from the state plan or from your previous plan.**

If a hazard such as expansive soils or earthquakes or landslides is not a significant risk, you can choose to omit it from your plan. This can be helpful because each jurisdiction is required to provide mitigation actions that address each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. So each insignificant hazard excluded from the plan is an action that does not have to be included in the mitigation strategy.

Plans are not reviewed for non-natural hazards, so any that are included will not require actions to address them. E.g., if terrorism and flooding were included, only flooding would require an action. However, this may be the best opportunity to get communities together to discuss non-natural hazards, so it is understandable if you wish to include it in the plan.

In addition to the natural / non-natural distinction, you might choose to include or exclude hazards that occur as a result of another hazard. E.g., "Infrastructure Failure" might be included as a hazard, but it is often the result of another, natural hazard such as flooding, tornados, landslides, etc. or it may occur as a result of insufficient maintenance.

## What are some common pitfalls in the approval process? How can I get it right the first time?

It is highly recommended that you consult the [LMPPG](#) before, during, and after the planning process to ensure that all requirements are met. Some specific interpretations of the rules are included in this document that are not obvious when using the Plan Review Tool ([PRT](#)).

Certain requirements in [FEMA's LMPPG](#) have been clarified or updated under the most recent guidance, meaning some plans approved under old guidance might not pass new requirements.

## How can I meet the requirement for an action per jurisdiction per hazard (C4-a)? What actions count as mitigation?

For every hazard that is identified in the risk assessment, an action addressing that hazard must be included in the mitigation strategy. Some actions might address multiple hazards (e.g., improving stormwater infiltration might address both flooding and drought).

When a community identifies a hazard as a priority or a major concern, there should be a solid action to address it. If flooding is a major concern, for instance, FEMA may have difficulty approving a plan for the community that only includes increasing public awareness (unless the plan provides a clear method for increasing awareness and explains how that will reduce risk).

Conversely, if a hazard can affect a community but is generally not impactful or is very low-priority, the plan could note this about the community, and state that an action was therefore not included. However, it should be clear that the jurisdiction is omitting that hazard, in the sense provided in requirement B1-a.

For an action to count as mitigation, **it must demonstrate reduction in risk from an identified hazard**. This should be distinguished from actions that assist in responding to the consequences of a hazard event (i.e., preparedness or response activities, which are different parts of the emergency management cycle and do not satisfy this requirement. Demonstrating risk reduction requires a certain level of specificity on one hand, but on the other hand you may want to leave the action open enough to include various projects you might be considering (e.g., an action to “assess and improve stormwater conveyance, infiltration, and storage” is specific enough for a reader to understand that flood losses would be reduced, without excluding locations or types of mitigation solutions). Alternatively, you may want to list out the places where flooding occurs and the solutions identified, for your own future reference.

Public awareness and education can address any hazard. However, an action that simply states, “Increase public awareness” does not demonstrate risk reduction. A better alternative would be, e.g., “Use signage to increase driver awareness of the dangers of driving through flash flooding” or “Provide handouts for local students during Severe Weather Awareness Week describing how families can prepare for severe thunderstorms and winter storms”. Note that despite this action improving individual responses to hazards (i.e., preparedness), it is a way for the community to reduce the risk of loss of lives and property (i.e., mitigation).

The following actions generally DO NOT count as mitigation measures.

- Purchasing supplies and equipment (including vehicles)
- Increasing staff, especially for response-related teams like police and fire
- Maintenance (including testing warning sirens, but NOT including vegetation management to prevent damage to infrastructure)
- For the purposes of meeting federal requirements: any action that addresses non-natural hazards, but not natural hazards (e.g., cybersecurity measures).
- Actions that are not specific enough (e.g., “ensure plans are current”; this does not explain which plans, nor whether/how they reduce hazard risks)
- Upgrading 911 systems

## What is Approvable Pending Adoption ([APA](#)) status?

Approvable pending adoption means a hazard mitigation plan has been approved but FEMA has not received any proof of formal adoption. Until FEMA receives an adoption from any jurisdiction that participated in the plan, it is not fully approved and is thus not the effective plan for the jurisdiction. Adoptions must be received within one year of [APA](#) status.

[APA](#) status may be advantageous to a county whose previous plan has not yet expired. If there is time remaining on the previous plan, and the next plan is ready to go, the participating jurisdictions can delay sending adoption resolutions to FEMA until right before the previous plan expires, thus taking full advantage of the five-year period of validity for the previous plan. This should be coordinated, however, because as soon as a single participating jurisdiction has adopted and sent the resolution to FEMA, the new plan is approved and effective, and the five-year clock begins.

Participating jurisdictions that adopt the plan more than one year after Approvable Pending Adoption ([APA](#)) status has been issued must either:

- Validate that their information in the plan remains current with respect to both the risk assessment (no recent hazard events, no changes in development) and their mitigation strategy (no changes necessary); or
- Make the necessary updates before submitting the adoption resolution to FEMA.

## Should we adopt the plan before FEMA has approved it? Should any or all jurisdictions have adopted the plan prior to submitting the plan to FEMA?

Adoption may occur prior to [FEMA](#) approval or after.

Many plans have to be revised when they go to the state or FEMA for review before they can be approved. Some jurisdictions prefer not to adopt until after the final plan has been approved. The changes that occur are typically minor however, and should not necessarily delay a jurisdiction's adoption of the plan.

If a jurisdiction is unsure if their adoption of a prior version of the plan would be valid, the adoption resolution could be worded such that the version approved by FEMA is the version being adopted. (e.g., "the city council hereby adopts the FEMA-approved version of the 20XX County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan")

## What qualifies as “formal adoption”?

Adoption of the plan should comply with local laws, so it may look different from one jurisdiction to another. However, it is typically a signed and dated board/council resolution to adopt the plan. The adoption must be by the entity’s governing body.

- Jurisdictions should be sure to use the term “adopt” rather than “approve”.
- Documents should be signed if at all possible
- Copies of official meeting minutes may suffice instead of a signature, but a signed resolution is always the best bet. Unsigned or unofficial copies may raise questions. Many minutes are marked as unofficial until the next council meeting, so bear that in mind.
- The [LMPPG](#) provides an example resolution on page 58. You may follow your own format if that would be more appropriate or expedient.

## What happens once a jurisdiction’s adoption resolution is sent to FEMA?

FEMA must receive proof of adoption within a year of plan approval for the plan to be valid for the adopting jurisdiction. Jurisdictions may also adopt before the plan is approved. Once FEMA receives the proof (usually a copy of the governing body’s adoption resolution), they record the jurisdiction as having adopted it in FEMA's MPP system.

If this was the first adoption received for a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan, then FEMA will send an approval letter with the plan’s dates of effectiveness. If the plan was already approved and adopted by at least one jurisdiction, there might be no further notification. The plan’s dates of expiration are the same for all jurisdictions participating in the plan, no matter when they adopted it.



Glossary of Acronyms	
APA	Approvable Pending Adoption. This is the status given to a HMP that has been approved by FEMA, but which has not yet been formally adopted by (any of) the jurisdiction(s) involved.
BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. Grant program active from 2020 to 2024. FEMA eliminated this program in 2025.
COG, RPC	Council of Governments. Sometimes called a Regional Planning Commission. A local commission established in Iowa Code for the provision of planning services to the constituent jurisdictions.
EMA	Emergency Management Agency. Usually refers to a county-level entity responsible for emergency management.
EMGrants Pro, EMGP	The website used by HSEM to manage grants. Not to be confused with EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grants)
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance. Grant program.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency. The federal entity responsible for emergency management; tasked with reviewing local hazard mitigation plans and administering emergency management grant programs.
FEMA GO	FEMA Grants Outcomes. An online platform from FEMA for all stages of grant management, from application to closeout.
HMA	Hazard Mitigation Assistance. An umbrella term that includes several grant programs for mitigating natural hazards.
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. A mitigation grant program that is activated after a presidentially declared disaster.

Glossary of Acronyms	
HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan
HSEM	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The state agency in Iowa responsible for coordinating emergency management, including review of hazard mitigation plans and administering most FEMA grant programs.
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LMPPG	Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide. FEMA's official policy on interpreting the requirements for local mitigation plans outline in the Code of Federal Regulations.
LPDM	Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation. A program for mitigation projects to which Congress specifically appropriates funding.
MJHMP	Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. A single plan involving more than one jurisdiction
NOI	Notice of Interest. This is a form completed by a potential applicant for FEMA funds on <a href="#">EMGrants</a> .
PA	Public Assistance. A grant program administered by FEMA and HSEM for disaster recovery, primarily paying for emergency work and restoring public facilities to pre-disaster conditions.
PAPPG	Public Assistance Program Policy Guide. FEMA's official policy for administering the PA program.
PRT	Plan Review Tool. This document is submitted with HMPs for review. HSEM and FEMA reviews will not begin until this document is received.
SHMP	State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The statewide plan for mitigating natural hazards.

Glossary of Acronyms	
STRLF	Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund. A loan program for local governments funded through FEMA grants and administered by HSEM for mitigating natural hazards.
28E	A Chapter of Iowa Code that allows political subdivisions (cities and counties) to create separate legal entities. These entities are often referred to as “28E entities”.