

NTHMP External Review Addendum 2

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NTHMP Weaknesses

Support from NOAA and NWS Leadership: There is tepid support and ambivalence within the NWS leadership about the continuation of support for the NTHMP and particularly for the grant program, which provides funding to state partners. The practice of removing requests for funding for the NTHMP by NOAA when preparing the annual input to the President's Budget, assuming that it will be restored by Congress, is very risky public policy. Advocacy within the leadership for sun-setting of the program or reduction of funding to a maintenance level has not been helpful to the program. Completion of those "first order" goals should be interpreted to mean that other equally compelling goals should now be addressed.

Although the states have confidence and trust in the NTHMP Administrator and his leadership, there are concerns among reviewers that NWS Headquarters leadership is not very engaged in the program, nor does enough to promote its work to upper NOAA management or Congress.

Support for Staff Participation by Federal Partners: FEMA and the USGS are to be commended for having active representation in the program, but it became apparent during the 2017 NTHMP annual meeting that federal partners are not providing adequate support for their staff to participate in the NTHMP. This is evident in the lack of adequate funding to participate in meetings of the NTHMP and allotted time for projects involving research or the application of new technologies that would be beneficial to NTHMP partners.

Apparently, support for the NTHMP does not reach a level in the chain of command that would facilitate full participation of agency staff. This problem is further exacerbated by the 2017 *Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act* (TWERA) removing designation of FEMA and USGS as NTHMP partners.

Coordination between State and Federal Tsunami Programs: The absence of representatives from the NWS Weather Forecast Offices at the NTHMP annual meeting has exacerbated the problem of adequate coordination between some federal tsunami programs and state programs that share similar goals. There are also some NOAA training programs offering workshops and training within the states that are poorly coordinated with state programs.

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