National Investment Mitigation Strategy

**Goal 1**

Show How Mitigation Investments Reduce Risk:
Objective: Provide stakeholders with a foundational understanding of how mitigation investment protects what they value.

**Goal 2**

Coordinate Mitigation Investments to Reduce Risk:
Objective: Foster better understanding of risks (quality risk data) to support investment decisions, assure alignment of programs and incentives toward risk reduction goals, and reduce complexity in access to investment funds.

**Goal 3**

Make Mitigation Investment Standard Practice:
Objective: Assure that national stakeholders are participating in mitigation activities, especially decisions to enhance building codes and infrastructure (lifeline) standards and the use of financial products that link to mitigation (insurance, cat bonds, resilience bonds).
Investment Strategy Intent

1. Improve collaboration between the federal government and communities, respecting local expertise in mitigation investing.

2. Catalyze private and non-profit sector mitigation investments and innovation across the whole community.

3. Make data- and risk-informed decisions that include long-term costs and risks.

Mitigation investments are defined as risk management actions taken to avoid, reduce, or transfer risks from natural hazards, including severe weather.
On October 5, 2018, Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA). With the economic disruption and the cost of disasters on the rise nationwide, FEMA worked closely with Congress over the past year as they considered, and Congress ultimately passed, important reforms to federal disaster programs. These reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility of disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of FEMA, and build the nation’s capacity for the next catastrophic event.

✔ Establishes more than 50 new authorities and requirements across FEMA
✔ Designed to address the rising costs of disasters and reform federal disaster programs

www.fema.gov/drra
DRRA – Fully Implemented Provisions

**DRRA Section 1204: Wildfire Prevention**
- Authorizes FEMA to provide hazard mitigation grant funding under Sec. 404 in areas that receive FMAGs as a result of wildfire
- Policy and fact sheet are available on fema.gov/drra and the HMGP post-fire FEMA webpage

**DRRA Section 1231: Guidance on Hazard Mitigation – Acquisition**
- Contains new requirements for the project notification process and emphasizes a community’s responsibilities regarding acquired land
- Fact sheet and model statement of assurances to be posted to fema.gov

**DRRA Section 1246: Jeopardy Biological Opinion Extension**
- FEMA extended the implementation deadline
- Letter sent to Oregon on communities on February 6, 2019
DRRA – Authority Available; Implementation Ongoing

**DRRA Section 1205: Expands Eligible Wildfire Activities**

- Authorizes FEMA to provide assistance under HMGP and PDM for activities related to wildfire and windstorm disaster mitigation.
- The specific activities listed in the provision are eligible for assistance as of the date that the DRRA was signed into law.

**DRRA Section 1210(b): Federally Authorized Water Resources Development Project**

- Authorizes FEMA to provide assistance to states under its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for water resource development projects that fall under the authority of USACE.
- Allows FEMA to fund projects that were once considered a duplication of programs under HMGP as those projects were primarily authorized by USACE.
**DRRA Section 1215: Management Costs (HMGP)**
- ✔ Expands the definition of management costs to include both direct and indirect administrative expenses by the state, local, tribal or territorial government
- ✔ Establishes new management cost reimbursement rates
- ✔ Applies retroactively to major disasters declared on or after August 1, 2017

**DRRA Section 1222: Stafford Act-to-Title 5 Appointment Authority**
- ✔ Authorizes FEMA to appoint temporary personnel, after serving continuously for 3 years, to positions in FEMA in the same manner that competitive service employees with competitive status are considered for transfer, reassignment, or promotion to such positions.
DRRA – Not Yet Implemented - Building Codes Provisions

DRRA Section 1206: Code Administration and Enforcement
✓ Amends Stafford Act Sec. 402 to authorize assistance to State and local governments for building code and floodplain management ordinance administration and enforcement
✓ Amends Stafford Act Sec. 406 to make eligible base and overtime wages for extra hires for enforcement of adopted building codes for 180 days

DRRA Section 1234: BRIC
✓ Allows for code adoption as an eligible PDM activity

DRRA Section 1235(b): Consensus-Based Codes and Standards
✓ Authorizes FEMA to provide Public Assistance funding to replace and restore disaster damaged facilities to the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes and standards to ensure that facilities are restored in a matter that allows them to be “resilient.”

DRRA Section 1241: Post-Disaster Building Safety Assessment
✓ Directs FEMA to develop guidance for building experts to use when they assess structures for safety after a disaster.
DRRA – Not Yet Implemented

DRRA Section 1233: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Earthquakes
- Authorizes FEMA to provide assistance under HMGP and PDM for activities that reduce earthquake risk and support building capability for earthquake early warning in areas affected by earthquake hazards
- FEMA is considering implementation options including policy, guidance, new NOFO language and project types, and interagency coordination.

DRRA Section 1235a: HMGP for Resilience
- Section 404(a) now reads: 
  ... hazard mitigation measures which the President has determined are cost effective and which substantially reduce the risk of, or increase resilience to, future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by a major disaster.
- NIST Definition of Resilience: The ability to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruption.
DRRA – Not Yet Implemented

DRRA Section 1220: Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review

✔ Requires FEMA to study the inter-agency expedited environmental and historical review process and provide a report to Congress

✔ Report will include recommendations on any further actions, including any legislative proposals, or regulatory changes that would expedite and streamline the environmental and historic preservation review process for disaster recovery projects.

DRRA Section 1221: Closeout Incentives

✔ Amends Stafford 705 to authorize FEMA to develop “incentives and penalties” to timely closeout disaster grants

✔ Cross-agency working group established
FEMA and its partners are working on the development and implementation of DRRA Section 1234: National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This program, which FEMA has named Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), will be funded through the Disaster Relief Fund as a six percent set aside from estimated disaster grant expenditures.

- Leverage 6% set-aside funding mechanism
- Encourage community-wide mitigation of critical lifelines
- Prioritize resilient infrastructure projects
- Competitive, risk-informed projects
- Build capacity and capability
- Support building code efforts

Gathered Stakeholder Feedback and still developing guidance and policy
Hazus Training (NWHUG) –
Projected Course (2 Years – POP Oct 2019- September 2021)

* Using GIS to Describe and Measure Risks and Vulnerabilities from Flood and Earthquake Hazards
* Inventory Collection Requirements and Strategies to Support Hazard Risk Assessment using Hazus-MH and More
* Modeling, Visualizing and Communicating Earthquake and Tsunami Risk with GIS and Hazus-MH: Fundamentals and Beyond
* Modeling, Visualizing and Communicating Riverine and Coastal Floods with Hazus-MH: Fundamentals and Beyond