

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Executive Overview 2019

The Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (CCMJHMP) was submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) for review and approval pending adoption on July 16, 2019. FEMA guidance (Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000) requires that the CCMJHMP be updated every 5 years. Cook County DHSEM has been able to update the 2014 CCMJHMP, which now includes 121 participating jurisdictions, making Cook County's plan the largest in the nation. The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan encompasses Cook County and includes the incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictional areas of the County and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) service area. The result of these combined efforts has been to produce a Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Adoption of the CCMJHMP makes participants eligible to apply for grants funds through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. FEMA requires that each participating partner must adopt the plan by resolution.

The following represent key elements from the 2019 CCMJHMP update:

- 121 total jurisdictions participated in the 2019 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (CCMJHMP).
- The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following hazards considered to be of paramount importance within Cook County and listed in descending order of general risk to the County. It is important to note that the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that all "natural hazards" be addressed in this plan.
 - Severe winter weather
 - Severe weather
 - Flood
 - Earthquake
 - Tornado

WHAT IS THIS PLAN?

Mitigation is defined in this context as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation planning is the systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions and following through with an effective mitigation strategy. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability and can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. Mitigation can also protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability and minimize post-disaster community disruption.

WHY IS THIS PLAN SO IMPORTANT?

Adoption of the CCMJHMP makes participants eligible to apply for grants funds through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

- Drought
 - Dam/levee failure
- A total of 367 new mitigation projects were identified Cook County and participating jurisdictions.
- 6 jurisdictions that had not previously participated in the 2014 CCMJHMP are now part of the 2019 MJ-HMP.
- 14 of the jurisdictions that opted not to participate in this year's plan represent jurisdictions that reside geographically in multiple counties and are participating in neighboring county plans. The goal of DHSEM is to have all 135 jurisdictions in Cook County participate in the Cook County CCMJHMP going forward.

The CCMJHMP consists of 2 Volumes:

- Volume 1 is the base plan that applies to all participants, providing context about Cook County and the natural hazards that exist here.
- Volume 2 consists of Action Items from each participating municipality and Cook County itself that describe in more detail mitigation actions that will reduce impacts of natural hazards particular to the community and in an overarching sense, the county.

We understand that plan adoption may require some language adjustment to the resolution to meet the needs of your community. Each participating Cook County municipality needs to adopt the HMP Update in order to be eligible for federal grant funds. This adoption needs to be done as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kim Nowicki at Kimberly.Nowicki@cookcountyil.gov.