

2024 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard mitigation planning is the process of identifying potential natural or man-made disasters, assessing their potential impact on a community, and taking actions to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm. Hazard mitigation planning is essential for protecting communities from the effects of natural disasters such as floods, tornado and windstorms, extreme temperatures, and drought, as well as human caused hazards such as hazardous material releases and terrorism.

The purpose of the hazard mitigation planning is to reduce the vulnerability of people and property to disasters by identifying, assessing, and implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the risks. The goal of hazard mitigation planning is to create a safer and more resilient community that is better prepared to respond to disasters and recover from their effects.

Public feedback is crucial for hazard mitigation planning because it helps ensure that the plan is tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the community. Here are some reasons why public feedback is so important:

1. Identifying local hazards: Community members are often the first to experience and identify potential hazards in their area. Your input can help planners identify and prioritize local hazards that may not be evident from a broader perspective.
2. Assessing vulnerability: Community members can provide valuable insight into the potential impact of hazards on different parts of the community, including vulnerable populations such as the elderly, disabled, or low-income residents.
3. Prioritizing actions: Public feedback can help planners identify which mitigation measures are most important to the community, based on factors such as the likelihood and severity of hazards and the community's ability to implement and maintain the measures.
4. Building support: Engaging the community in the hazard mitigation planning process can build support for the resulting plan and increase the likelihood of successful implementation. It can also increase community awareness of the potential hazards and preparedness measures, which can be critical in the event of a disaster.
5. Meeting legal requirements: In some cases, public feedback is required by law for hazard mitigation planning. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that state and local hazard mitigation plans involve public participation to be eligible for certain types of funding.

Overall, public feedback is essential for hazard mitigation planning to be effective and responsive to the needs of the community. Planners who engage with the public can create plans that are more likely to be implemented successfully and ultimately reduce the risk of harm from natural or human-made disasters.

To learn more about this project can go to the project website at

<https://www.jeo.com/KossuthCountyHMP>