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## 5. Coordination of Local Mitigation Plans

This chapter focuses on three aspects of the state’s involvement in local mitigation planning:

- Local funding and Technical Assistance
- Local Plan Integration
- Prioritizing Local Assistance

### 5.1. Local Funding and Technical Assistance

**Requirement 201.4(c)(4)(i): [The section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include a] description of the State process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local mitigation plans**

#### 5.1.1. Background

The State of Kansas is committed to supporting a successful mitigation planning and programming effort at the local level. To date, this commitment has included financial and technical assistance for planning as well as project implementation.

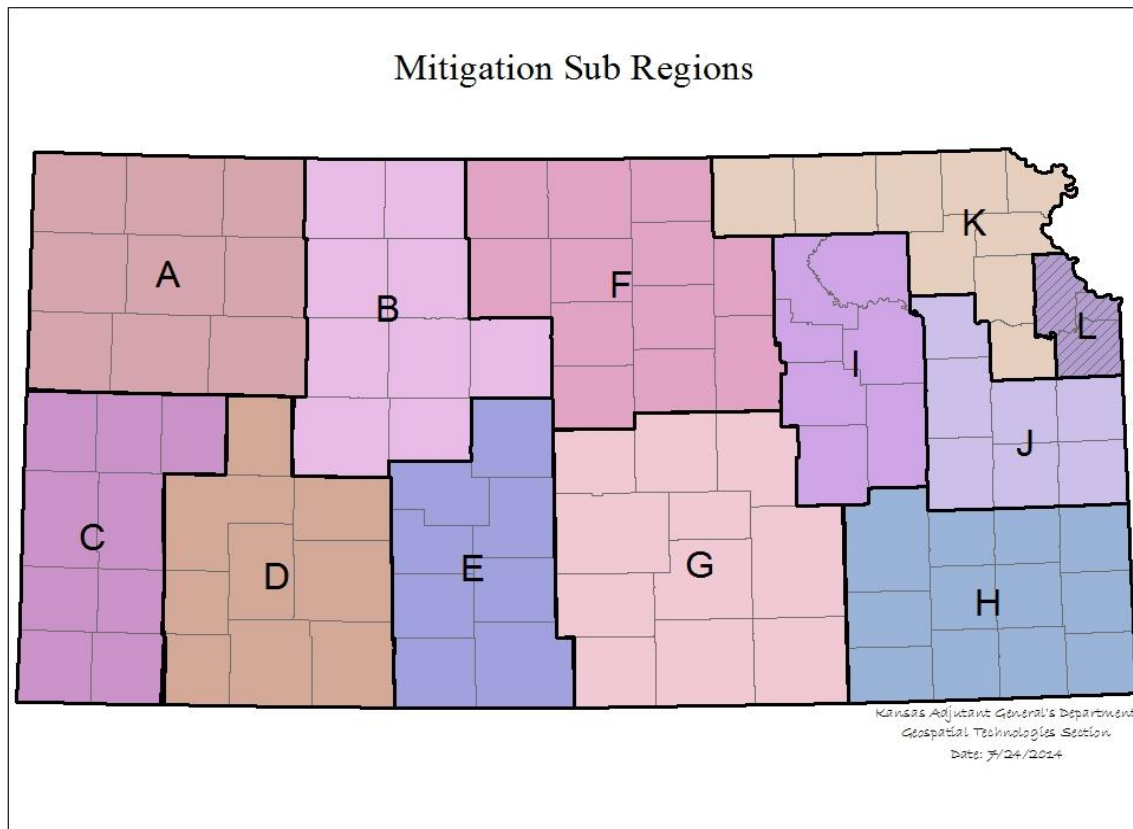
During the 2013 plan update, the State of Kansas began the Regional Plan Initiative whereby all counties were given the option to participate in a Regional Mitigation Plan at no cost to their county. As of this 2018 plan update, of the 105 counties in the State of Kansas, 104 elected to be a part of this initiative. Greenwood County did not participate and was not included in the Regional Plan. All of the regional plans have been adopted as depicted in **Table 5.1** below:

**Table 5.1. Status of Hazard Mitigation Plans**

| Type of Plan          | Approved Plans | In Progress Plans |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Regional Plan         | 12             | 0                 |
| State Plan (Standard) | 1              | 1                 |

The Regional Mitigation Plans coincide with the Homeland Security Regions per the map in **Figure 5.1**.

**Figure 5.1. Regional Mitigation Plan Map**



### **5.1.2. Process to Provide Local Assistance**

The Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team has established a statewide program for local mitigation planning. The Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) is the coordinating body for local/regional hazard mitigation planning. Its responsibilities include:

- Providing funding, as available, to develop regional hazard mitigation plans;
- Developing a schedule for completion of local/regional hazard mitigation plans;
- Establishing local/regional hazard mitigation planning criteria;
- Establishing standard methodologies for the identification of hazards, definition of vulnerabilities, and estimation of risk;
- Suggesting categories of critical facilities and systems that are to be addressed in local/regional hazard mitigation plans;
- Providing planning guidance and/or training for local jurisdictions;
- Providing technical support for local/regional hazard mitigation planning efforts;

- Establishing a procedure for receipt and review of completed local/regional plans (including working with FEMA); and
- Implementing a process to monitor implementation of local/regional hazard mitigation plans.

Using protocols provided by FEMA, such as the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning guidance under DMA 2000*, the “how-to” guides, and the *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide and Review Tool*, KDEM assists Kansas jurisdictions to better understand the planning process and their hazard landscapes to allow the most beneficial projects to be selected. This ongoing support function consists of workshops as well as one-on-one meetings with individuals and committees. In addition to the planning guidance, training, and support offered by KDEM, there are several state agencies and programs that can provide local governments with technical assistance in their hazard mitigation planning. Some of this assistance is described below. More information can be found in Section 4.2 State Capability Assessment.

- The Data Access and Support Center and KDEM GOIS provides GIS data.
- The Kansas Department of Agriculture provides information and advice about food supply safety, flood control (floodplain management, dams and levees, RL and SRL properties), and water availability.
- The Kansas Department of Commerce administers community development programs, which can help local governments incorporate mitigation into community development programs.
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment helps local governments plan for response to major disease outbreaks and to protect the environment.
- The Kansas Forest Service helps with wildfire planning and is working to map the wildland-urban interface.
- The Kansas Geological Survey provides information about geological hazards in Kansas as well as surface and groundwater issues.
- The Kansas Water Office has developed guidelines for preparation of municipal water conservation plans. Technical assistance for plan preparation is provided by the Kansas Rural Water Association. The Kansas Water Office also has prepared a guide for local officials covering drought actions they should consider and available assistance.
- The State Conservation Commission works with local conservation districts to plan for watershed development and protection (including flood control and rehabilitation projects).

## 5.2. Local Plan Integration

**Requirement 201.4(c)(4)(ii): [The section on the coordination of local mitigation planning must include a] description of the state process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the state mitigation plan.**

**Update 201.4(d): [The] plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities.**

### **5.2.1. Review and Approval of Local/Regional Plans**

Submitted local and regional hazard mitigation plans are reviewed by KDEM within 45 days of receipt and offers guidance and recommendations to the planning groups on how to improve the plans and/or make them better comply with federal requirements. As part of the State review, the FEMA Review Tool is completed. After the tool is completed, and any revisions are made, KDEM forwards the plan to FEMA for federal review. FEMA conducts a similar review and works through KDEM to get necessary revisions made and issue approvals. Once FEMA is satisfied that plans meet federal requirements, they approve the plans “pending adoption.” Once approved and pending adoption, it is then up to the local jurisdictions to formally adopt the plan and send copies of the adoption resolutions to FEMA through KDEM. FEMA officially approves the plan once the adoption resolutions are received. At this point local jurisdictions become eligible for the benefits available to those with approved local/regional hazard mitigation plans.

Since the last update there are 12 approved Regional Mitigation Plans that encompasses 104 counties. Greenwood County has indicated they will participate in the regional updated plans beginning in 2019.

### **5.2.2. Linking Regional and Local Plans with the State Plan**

In Kansas, there is a strong interest in integrating the State’s hazard mitigation plan and programs with the mitigation planning and programming efforts at the local and regional level. While the local and regional plans use the state plan as a resource for their planning efforts, the KHMT recognizes the importance of using data developed through the local planning processes in the state plan, since it is more relevant to community needs, desires, and capabilities. For all future state plan updates the State will review available regional and remaining local plans and consider the following for incorporation into the state plan:

- Identification of hazards and risk estimation, specifically those hazards that are unique and varied
- Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss properties
- Compilation of property value and populations at risk for different hazards
- Identification of locally important critical facilities and their vulnerability
- Identification of rapidly developing communities
- Identification of any regionally conducted capability assessments
- Identification of regional planning resources
- Evaluation of any regionally created mitigation goals, programs, policies, and actions
- Compilation of the local costs of disasters and the demonstrated value of preexisting mitigation initiatives
- Identification of regional and local proposals for mitigation initiatives
- Implementation status of regional and local mitigation initiatives

The information will be used to:

- Update the statewide mitigation strategy

- Support the statewide risk assessment process
- Update the comprehensive, statewide inventory of state and local critical facilities
- Identify jurisdictions with development pressures and assess the strength of the corresponding hazard mitigation plans, policies, and programs
- Provide a basis for ongoing documentation and assessment of local mitigation strategies and actions
- Facilitate the efforts of KDEM to prioritize and select local mitigation actions for funding

Currently, the plans are being integrated into the state plan during the update processes.

### **5.2.3 Challenges in Plan Integration**

At the time of this update, 12 regions consisting of 104 counties have an approved Regional Mitigation Plan. While Greenwood County elected not to participate they have indicated that during the update of 2019 they will participate.

Prior to the Regional Mitigation Plan Initiative, the county mitigation plans were varied as far as identified hazards, methodologies, and vulnerability assessments. One of the accomplished goals for the regional plans was to make everything uniform and consistent and fall in line with the State Plan and vice versus. All mitigation plans are now consistent and provide a uniformed platform, while identifying unique and varied hazards for various jurisdictions. One example of consistency and uniformity is rather than having thunderstorm winds as many county plans had, all plans now have windstorm as a hazard. The State of Kansas is now on the same page as it relates to its State Plan and its Regional Plans.

### **5.3. Prioritizing Local Assistance**

**Requirement 201.4(c)(3)(iii):** [The section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include] criteria for prioritizing communities and local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding programs which should include:

- Consideration for communities with the highest risks,
- Repetitive loss properties, and
- Most intense development pressures.

Further that for non-planning grants, a principal criterion for prioritizing grants shall be the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of proposed projects and their associated costs.

**Update Requirement §201.4(d):** [The] plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts and changes in priorities.

### **5.3.1. Criteria for Planning Grants**

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) requires regional and local jurisdictions to have approved plans in order to receive project funding. KDEM evaluates plans for opportunities for planning and other projects.

### **5.3.2. Criteria for Project Grants**

KDEM, with guidance from the KHMT, is responsible for administration of state and federal grants that support local mitigation programming. The criteria for project grants presented in the original plan have been largely replaced by the “Project Priorities and Selection” process set forth in the State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administrative Plan. Because the amount of funding continues to be lower than prior years and the number of eligible applicants for funding has increased, it has become necessary for KDEM to make revisions to its process for soliciting and evaluating projects. Once funding is available, KDEM undertakes a Notice of Intent process and notifies local emergency managers that funding is available and that projects are being solicited. Limited information regarding the proposed projects is collected and evaluated using criteria described below.

If it is necessary to select from a range of projects due to funding or other constraints, the governor’s authorized representative/state hazard mitigation officer will, with the assistance of the KHMT, and other state agency staff members as required, evaluate and prioritize all eligible applications. This ranking will be in accordance with the established KDEM criteria for funding of projects (see below). Projects must be in compliance with the minimum project criteria identified in 44 CFR 206.434:

- Be in conformance with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan approved under 44 CFR part 201;
- Have a beneficial impact upon the designated disaster area, whether or not located in the designated area;
- Be in conformance with 44 CFR part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, and 44 CFR part 10, Environmental Considerations;
- Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed. Projects that merely identify or analyze hazards or problems are not eligible; and
- Be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster. The grantee must demonstrate this by documenting that the project:

- Addresses a problem that has been repetitive, or a problem that poses a significant risk to public health and safety if left unsolved;
- Will not cost more than the anticipated value of the reduction in both direct damages and subsequent negative impacts to the area if future disasters were to occur (both costs and benefits will be computed on a net present value basis);
- Has been determined to be the most practical, effective, and environmentally sound alternative after consideration of a range of options;
- Contributes, to the extent practicable, to a long-term solution to the problem it is intended to address; and
- Considers long-term changes to the areas and entities it protects, and has manageable future maintenance and modification requirements.

KDEM uses the following criteria to determine project eligibility and to assist in prioritizing projects. Evaluation factors for mitigation projects under HMGP and the respective weighting of each are:

- 1) Was the community in the declared disaster area? (25 percent – this is an all or nothing score);
- 2) Is the project the community is applying for in direct relation to the hazard that precipitated the declared disaster?(25 percent – this is an all or nothing score);
- 3) Was the community applying directly affected by the disaster, for which they are applying? (25% this is an all or nothing score);
- 4) Viability of the proposed mitigation project. Is it an appropriate strategy? Is it consistent with community plans/goals? Is it potentially cost-effective? Does it solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution? (25 percent);
- 5) Sufficient staff and resources for implementation of the proposed mitigation project (15 percent);
- 6) Durability of the financial and social benefits that will be achieved through the proposed mitigation project. Will the mitigation option, to the extent practicable, contribute to a long term solution to the problem it is intended to address? (15 percent);
- 7) Does the proposed mitigation project address a hazard where there have been repetitive impacts or occurrences in the project area? (10 percent);
- 8) Protection of critical facilities as defined below (5 percent)\*;
- 9) Inclusion of outreach activities appropriate to the proposed mitigation project (e.g., signs, press releases, success stories, losses avoided analysis) that advance mitigation and/or serves as a model for other communities (5 percent)

\*Per FEMA PDM Guidance, critical facilities are defined as Hazardous Materials Facilities, Emergency Operation Centers, Power Facilities, Water Facilities, Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Communications Facilities, Emergency Medical Care Facilities, Fire Protection, and Emergency Facilities.



In the event that all the grant money made available to the State, due to the declared disaster, is not dispersed to the affected counties, the application period will be open statewide to all applicants with eligible projects. The same priorities will be followed.

Following is the List of Priorities for the current Disaster Period.

|                              |                        |                                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Flood                     | 2. Tornado             | 3. Windstorm                      |
| 4. Winter Storm              | 5. Wildfire            | 6. Agricultural Infestation       |
| 7. Hailstorm                 | 8. Hazardous Materials | 9. Utility/Infrastructure Failure |
| 10. Drought                  | 11. Earthquake         | 12. Civil Disorder                |
| 13. Expansive Soils          | 14. Land Subsidence    | 15. Major Disease Outbreak        |
| 16. Terrorism/Agri-terrorism | 17. Lightning          | 18. Extreme Temperatures          |
| 19. Dam and Levee Failure    | 20. Landslide          | 21. Radiological                  |
| 22. Soil Erosion and Dust    |                        |                                   |

**5.3.3. Successes and Challenges of Prioritization**

To simplify administration of the State’s mitigation program, the KHMT streamlined the plan’s prioritization process so that it is more consistent with the existing process established by the State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administrative Plan. The State now has one set of criteria for project prioritization that can be expanded upon as necessary based on the requirements of the particular grant program being pursued.