

Multi-Hazard Partners

COLLABORATION BETWEEN FEMA AND THE COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS (CTP) PROGRAM



FEMA and the National Service Provider (NSP) are working to implement enhancements to the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program that will foster new and productive partnerships. With an overall goal of increased partnerships, the NSP expects to extend the CTP Program to include multihazard programs in the future. In order to do this, the NSP is actively seeking potential partners on the national, State, county, and local levels. As the NSP seeks additional partners to join FEMA's Map Modernization effort, many potential partners have been identified.

Opportunities exist for partners to collaborate in acquiring and applying flood data to leverage resources. Organizations supporting mapping efforts and using Geographic Information Systems to develop infrastructure protection, evacuation planning, and disaster preparedness are potential partners. Stakeholders that use and enforce flood hazard regulations are also partners and natural allies in Map Modernization, as they may have direct and indirect access to documents valuable to the flood study efforts.

In order to include more multihazard partners, the existing CTP Mapping Activity Statements (MASs) would be expanded to include long-term map maintenance activities. Currently, ordinance adoption is permitted and covered under outreach activities,

but FEMA's goal of devolving map maintenance to capable communities requires that a careful look be made at the existing activities included in MASs.

HOW CRS LINKS TO CTP

Surprisingly, fewer than 20% of the current CTP members participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program. The most obvious CTP potential partners are those communities that already belong to the CRS Program and thus are already participating in Map Modernization activities. The NSP recommends targeting members of the CRS Program as potential CTP members.

At present, the maximum number of credits that can be awarded under the CRS for CTP participation is 143. However, literally thousands of points are available under the CRS Program for participation in activities that either directly relate to the goals of Map Modernization or activities that can be facilitated by Map Modernization products.

EXPANDING BASE OF PARTNERS

It is our goal to foster mutually beneficial partnerships that achieve shared outcomes through the communication of flood risk and other hazard information and improve the systems that support them. Partnerships will result in enhanced delivery of risk management applications and operations.

Fostering Partnerships and partnership programs should include the following objectives:

- Promote increased partner involvement through the development of an environment of trust where mentoring and assistance ensures that the data is reliable, usable, and accessible for widespread use
 - Ensure that the products resulting from partnerships do not conflict and are complementary, not duplicative
 - Allow the continued addition of partners
 - Increase FEMA's reliance on partners with proven capabilities that can assume responsibility for floodplain management and data ownership
 - Create compelling incentives to strengthen partnerships.
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