



COOK COUNTY EMRS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AND REGIONAL SECURITY

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Executive Overview 2024

The Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (CCMJHMP) was submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) for review and approval pending adoption. FEMA guidance (Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000) requires that the CCMJHMP be updated every 5 years. Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) updated the 2019 CCMJHMP, which now includes 125 participating jurisdictions/partners, 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 and Cook County Forest Preserve. The result of these combined efforts has been to produce an 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 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. FEMA requires that each participating partner adopt the plan by resolution.

The following represent key elements from the 2024 CCMJHMP update:

- 125 total jurisdictions/partners participated in the 2024 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (CCMJHMP).
- The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following natural hazards considered to be of paramount importance within Cook

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 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program.

County. It is important to note that the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that all “natural hazards” be addressed in this plan. They are dam or levee failure, drought, earthquake, flood, severe weather, severe winter weather, tornado, and wildfire.

- Over 1,500 mitigation projects were identified and updated by Cook County and participating jurisdictions.
- Two jurisdictions that had not previously participated in the 2019 CCMJHMP are now part of the 2024 plan.
- 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 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 mitigation action items from each participating municipality and Cook County. This volume describes the mitigation actions that will reduce the impacts of natural hazards particular to each community and the County.

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