

# Mitigation in Action Strike Team:

## Increase Resilience in Underrepresented Communities



# FEMA

## Overview of the Community Education & Outreach (CEO) Function in Disaster Settings



- **Disaster Recovery Center Coordination:** Ensures the hazard mitigation and insurance messages are accurately disseminated to survivors at DRC's.
- **Education and Outreach:** Provides information and guidance on the value of mitigation in community venues.
- **Product Management:** Manages the development of best practices and distribution of hazard mitigation material.

## CEO Steady State in R10

- Instill equity into mitigation programs by developing products in different languages, mediums, and that reach the whole community.
- Provide mitigation messaging before, during and after disasters and during steady state to promote resilience.
- Develop long-term relationships with partners.



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## MAST (Mitigation in Action Strike Team)

- Developed and piloted during Hurricane Ida recovery.
- Goal: Build new relationships with communities that are underserved and underrepresented, as well as to build up existing partnerships and provide local entities with an option to reach back to FEMA SMEs.
- Provide underserved communities with information and opportunities to leverage mitigation.






# MAST Development

- Goals aligned with FIMA Strategic Outcomes:
  - Objective 1:** Assess, evaluate and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
  - Objective 2:** Increase cohesion across interagency partners in the post-disaster environment to facilitate the ability of impacted communities to access federal mitigation resources.
  - Objective 3:** Evaluate and build capacity for use of tools and processes for effective and efficient mitigation program delivery in the post-disaster environment.

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# Identifying Communities

- The MAST program required a way to assess, evaluate, and prioritize individual community needs.
- Two ideas identified:
  - [Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#)
  - [National Risk Index \(NRI\)](#)

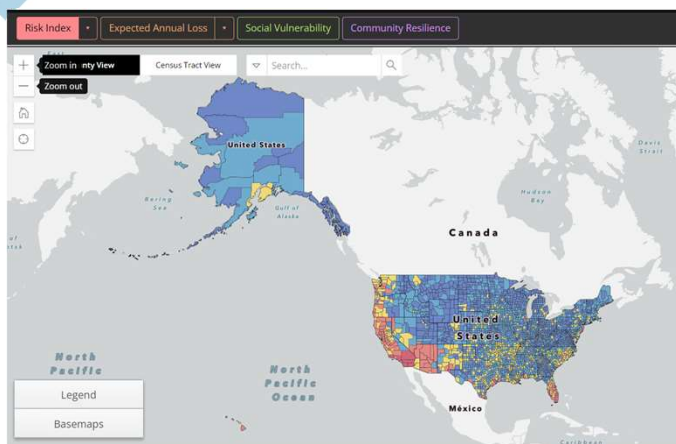
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## National Risk Index

- An online mapping application that visualizes natural hazard risk metrics based on natural hazards, and three components of risk:
- Expected annual losses from natural hazards.
- Social Vulnerability.
- Community Resilience.



## National Risk Index



### Expected Annual Loss

is a *natural hazards component* that represents the average economic loss in dollars resulting from natural hazards each year.



### Social Vulnerability

is a *consequence enhancing risk component and community risk factor* that represents the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.



### Community Resilience

is a *consequence reduction risk component and community risk factor* that represents the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.



### Risk Index

represents the potential for negative impacts resulting from natural hazards.

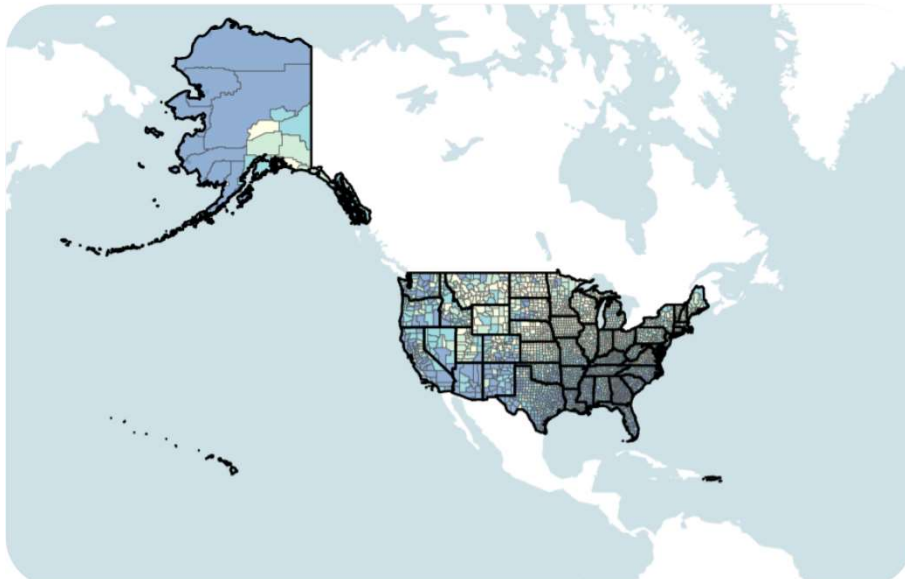


## Social Vulnerability Index

- A set of databases to identify and map communities that will need support before, during and after a disaster.
- Four related themes: socio-economic status, household characteristic, racial and ethnic minority status, housing type.

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## Social Vulnerability Index Map



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## MAST Approach

- Partner with State for implementation and delivery.
- Start with engagement at the highest community level.
- Provide individualized community engagement and education.
- Connect the appropriate program expert to engage further, as requested.
- Track requests and support as tangible outcomes.



## Tailoring MAST Content

- Worked with mitigation experts to evaluate the tools and processes.
- Presentation is tailored to the needs of the specific community.
- Emphasis on hazard mitigation programs and tools for resilience.

## MAST Presentation Example:

- History of FEMA.
- FEMA Strategic Plan Overview.
- Overview of Hazard Mitigation functions.
- Include examples of mitigation for communities and individuals.
- Provide contacts for subject matter experts at FEMA.
- Online resources for additional information.

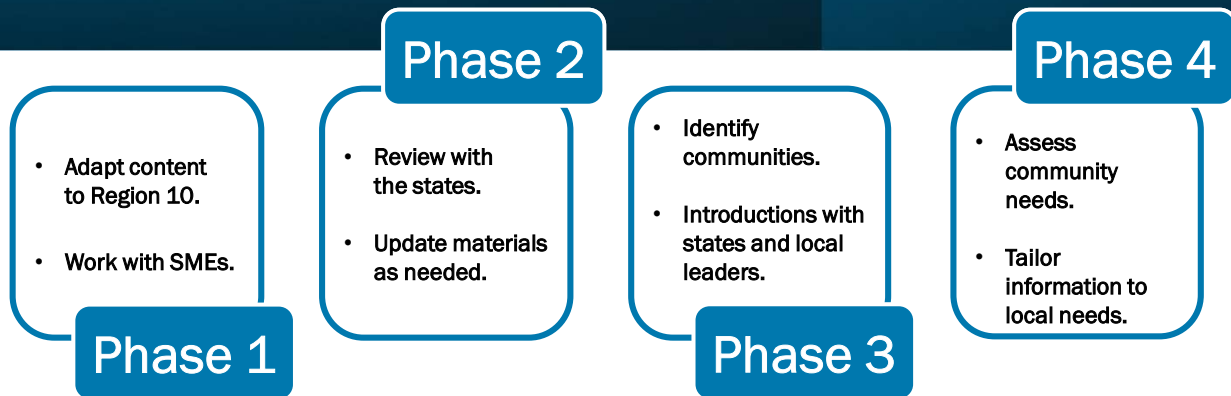


## Next Steps for MAST in R10

- Adapting materials for FEMA Region 10.
- Working with Subject Matter Experts on content and help deliver information.
- Identifying needs with state and local partners.
- Customize content to community needs.



## Phases for Implementation



## Long-Term Goal for MAST

*The goal of the Mitigation in Action Strike Team is to build new relationships with communities that are underserved and underrepresented, as well as to build up existing partnerships and to provide local entities with an option to reach back to FEMA to have their questions answered by subject matter experts who can speak with them in plain language about our programs and help them engage our programs successfully.*



“FEMA created this initiative as part of an overall effort to increase community understanding of FEMA programs but specifically to more equitably provide access to that knowledge to some of our most underserved and vulnerable communities. FEMA used CDC SVI data to prioritize parishes within Louisiana to be the first to receive this outreach. And interest in the program has grown from there, it’s been extremely successful. With other communities asking for it. The team has already provided 8 communities with the presentation through their mitigation equity program.”

**Sandra Dugas, GOSHEP Executive Officer for Hazard Mitigation Assistance**



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"The one thing I appreciate about this effort is, first of all, it’s not something that’s just delivered disaster-wide. They really look at those areas that need special attention, those underserved communities that could really use that intimate, one on one connectivity to get a good understanding of all the different resources and opportunities that mitigation can provide. In order to, not only obtain these resources, but to be able to build their communities back stronger and be able to meet all the requirements that these programs have. MAST has definitely spent time looking at how they present the information to make sure that it communicates well to all different types of survivors. So that the customer, the applicant, the survivor can optimize on those opportunities. MAST has been a phenomenal best practice with many accolades from local leaders, local elected officials, community advocates.”

**Jose Gil Montanez, FCO (Federal Coordinating Officer) For FEMA Region Six**



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Thank You For Your Attention!

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Thank You!

