



MOVING FORWARD

This chapter focuses on how communities can move forward by identifying immediate next steps for assessing risk, pursuing an appropriate set of tools and strategies, and building the case for adoption. This chapter concludes with a summary of available technical and financial resources for initiatives and strategies discussed throughout this guide.

PREPARING THE RISK ASSESSMENT

As described in detail in an earlier chapter, the first step in preparing for hazards is to conduct a local risk assessment. Most Colorado communities follow the guidelines issued by FEMA and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The four recommended steps for preparing a risk assessment are:

- **Describe hazards.** Identify hazards that may affect the community, and then describe the type, location, extent, previous occurrences, and probability of future events.
- **Identify community assets.** Identify the community's assets at risk to hazards. Assets may be categorized generally as people, economy, built environment, and natural environment.
- **Analyze risks.** Evaluate vulnerable assets, describing potential impacts and estimating losses for each hazard through exposure analysis, historical analysis, and/or scenario analysis.
- **Summarize vulnerability.** Document and summarize the community's most significant hazard risks and vulnerabilities in order to inform the mitigation strategy.

Start with What's Available – Don't Reinvent the Wheel

When resources are limited, don't try to reinvent the wheel. Planners and others involved in preparing the risk assessment should first locate relevant local sources that already address local hazards, such as Hazard Mitigation Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Floodplain Management Plans, and Emergency Operations Plans. Collect and review what is readily available prior to conducting new analysis and content.

CHOOSING APPROPRIATE PLANNING TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Once a community has identified hazards and prepared a risk assessment, planners and officials can begin evaluating their current lineup of planning tools and strategies for mitigating such hazards and risk. New or updated tools should be considered, in particular those discussed earlier in this guide in *Planning Tools and Strategies*. It is important to identify any gaps in mitigation solutions, develop a clear purpose for seeking new tools or strategies, and then consider the merits of proposed solutions. Communities should ask the following questions prior to moving forward with new planning tools and strategies:

- **What hazards are we trying to mitigate?** Does the tool or strategy under consideration adequately mitigate the potential hazard and/or reduce risk?

- **Do we have necessary policies in place to provide community direction?** Has the community provided clear direction that the problem being mitigated is a priority, or that a particular strategy should be pursued?
- **Do we have the required capacity to accomplish this task?** What will it take to complete the job? Do we have the technical, administrative, and financial resources required to make this tool or strategy effective?
- **Do we have buy-in?** Have we educated leadership and the public about the value of particular tools in order to build support? What is the likelihood of a particular tool or strategy getting through the adoption process? Are there other tools that could accomplish similar goals that are more desirable?
- **Could we accomplish multiple community goals with this tool or strategy?** Does this particular tool or strategy help advance the community in ways beyond hazard mitigation? Does the tool mitigate multiple hazards or risks? What are the environmental and economic benefits and costs? Are there any social equity concerns?

Additional considerations are discussed earlier in *Considering Community Context*.

IMPLEMENTING PLANNING TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

REQUIRED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Once the community has selected appropriate planning tools and strategies to mitigate hazards, they should begin to develop a strategy for implementation. Regardless of the specific tool, common steps for implementation include:

- **Identify who to talk to first.** Find the staff or agency most knowledgeable on the subject matter. Work with them to identify potential pitfalls, other stakeholders to include in the process, and necessary steps for the implementation program.
- **Consider whether or not to assemble a team.** Some of the planning tools may require formation of a technical advisory committee or steering committee. Consider whether or not to form such a team, who should serve on that team, and their objectives and scope of work.
- **Identify examples from other communities.** Most land use planning tools and strategies have been tried and tested elsewhere. Unless this particular tool is new, identify other communities (within a similar context where possible) that have either adopted, or tried to adopt a similar tool or strategy. And don't be afraid to call! Phone conversations foster more candid discussions about successes and lessons learned.
- **Identify funding sources.** If the tool or strategy requires financial resources not currently within the budget, it can be helpful to identify grants or other financial mechanisms to help offset those costs before making an "ask" from the

Best Practice: Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC

*Through extensive stakeholder engagement Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, became **one of the first communities in the nation to delineate floodplains and regulate new development according to future conditions.** Although a highly controversial strategy when first proposed, those who were initially opposed (including developers, realtors, and local businesses) ultimately endorsed the initiative following several years of discussion and information exchange.*

For more information see:

Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning, pages 80-81: [fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/19261](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/19261)

general fund. Several funding sources are discussed below in “Available Resources.”

- **Develop a timeline for completion.** Knowing how long the implementation process will take is critical to managing human resources, juggling multiple projects, and prioritizing competing interests within the community. Preparing an estimated timeline for completion can also help maintain momentum when key tasks, milestones, and deliverables are noted with assigned responsibilities.

BUILDING THE CASE

Once an appropriate planning tool or strategy has been selected, it will quickly become important to build the case for any required approvals and its subsequent implementation. In some cases the need for the tool or strategy may be quite apparent, the benefits clearly understood, and general support more easily obtained. However it is more likely that there will be some critical questions, concerns, or outright opposition raised on the path to implementation by key stakeholders, elected officials, and the general citizenry.

Similar to the pursuit of any new planning tool or strategy, success relies heavily on adequate public **engagement** and proper **messaging**. Some tips and examples for each are provided below.

- **Engagement** – The community as a whole and especially the specific stakeholders who may be affected by the implementation of the tool or strategy should be provided the opportunity to be engaged early and often. Building a successful case starts with thoughtful, well-organized activities to build awareness, solicit feedback, and align actions with community values prior to a formal public hearing or decision on the proposed planning tool or strategy. Complete transparency and two-way communication with all, including those who may oppose and/or perceive adverse impacts of the proposed measure is essential.
- **Messaging** – Although the methods and mediums for engaging and communicating with people may vary over time, it’s important to stick with a consistent, unified message throughout the process of adopting and implementing the tool or strategy. While there may be different aspects to emphasize with different groups, the overall message should be developed with multiple audiences in mind. Research and practice in the hazards planning field suggest that the key points of that message must be kept clear, concise, and repeated time and time again from multiple sources. Start with the “talking points” provided in the tool descriptions in this guide.
- In talking with **elected officials** the message should be tailored to focus on the problems or opportunities to be addressed through the proposed planning tool or strategy, and should include data that supports the message whenever possible. Other key tips include:
 - Consider what resonates with each local official and their constituents, and address how the proposed measure is specifically linked and can be

Best Practice: City of Longmont, Colorado

As the City of Longmont, Colorado continues to recover and rebuild from major flooding in 2013, it actively keeps the community informed and involved. This includes some creative branding and messaging on its flood information website which contains a section dedicated to “Resilient St. Vrain!” – the City’s collective effort to make the community more resilient to future floods. The website includes succinct language, visual aids, and a series of FAQs to provide clarity on all aspects of the initiative.

For more information see:

longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/public-information/flood-information

- supportive of their own unique interests or objectives.
- Demonstrate how the proposed measure is consistent with and can enhance other community goals. Be certain to link any co-benefits with the broader social, economic, and environmental drivers for the community.
- Be prepared to address any costs, including opportunity costs and especially the consequences of inaction. Explain how and defend why the proposed measure is the most practical and feasible alternative considered.

FORMING A NETWORK

Leveraging existing networks and forming new professional and community relationships to address a task or topic are useful ways to improve planning outcomes. By enhancing connections between organizations and individuals, networks help strengthen community capacity, improve communication, develop resources, and better inform and coordinate specific activities through appropriate expertise.

To successfully tap into existing networks or build a new one, first investigate whether any previous collaborative efforts within the community have been formed to address the topic at hand. There's no need to re-invent the wheel, but there may be opportunities to strengthen the spokes. For example, if your community decides to develop a new planning tool or update an existing plan, determine if there is a group already dedicated to this topic, such as a coalition, council, or emergency management working group. Some delicate digging will be required to discover how/if the group was successful, who was involved, and which areas of expertise were adequately represented or missing.

Knowing this information will help identify what type of additional expertise, political leadership, and community input is desired for your community's task. Specifically:

- **Identify subject matter experts.** Identify individuals or organizations that have recently published relevant and useful information. If the topic is broad and sifting through online search results is overwhelming, determine if there is a local, state, or national non-profit dedicated to this topic. Reach out to them to ask for suggestions on any local experts, resources, or other information.
- **Find examples from other communities.** Use the examples provided in this guide. Reach out to state offices and professional associations to learn from other communities. Colorado's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the Colorado chapter of the American Planning Association may be able to point you to communities who have undertaken similar efforts.
- **Identify best practices and additional resources.** Contact other state agencies, universities, and branches, for example the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Geological Survey, and Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers. Depending on your timeframe, attend a local conference where topics of

Tips on the Network

Be sure everyone in the network has a clear role for engaging in the task, such as a working group member, an expert reviewer, or an advocate/liaison to other groups. Involve those with access to multiple other networks who can serve as intermediaries to organizations such as the fire department, emergency management, government agency staff members, consultants, and others. Finally, keep project goals front and center – conflicts may arise, but having a good facilitator can help navigate these waters and ensure that others' agendas don't derail the primary task.

interest will be discussed. For more technical resources, refer to *Available Resources*.

- **Harness political leadership.** Determine who may be necessary to lead this effort at a community-wide level. Determine if a local city council member, county commissioner, or other elected official has demonstrated interest in the issue, or whether the Local Fire Chief, Emergency Services or Development Services Director buy into the effort and have recommendations to connect with others.
- **Recruit local champions.** Determine if there are other citizen’s advocacy groups, neighborhood groups, or other local champions who may be interested in engaging and supporting this cause. Think about people whom show up to meetings, whom are engaged in a previous plan update, or whom might be willing to rally around a new effort.

The Champion: Putting Local Advocates to Work

Decades of research and practice in hazards management suggest that one of the key factors to achieving successful and sustained community risk reduction is the presence of one or more “local champions.” Champions are those influential people who are committed and capable of driving meaningful change within an organization or community. They are often passionate individuals with the skills to understand, communicate, motivate, and engage others in support of achieving their vision or goals—even in the face of obstacles or resistance. For the purposes of advancing community hazard mitigation, there are essentially two types of champions: internal local government employees and external volunteer advocates.

Internal government champions may be elected or executive officials (such as a mayor, county commissioner or town manager) or local agency staff members who have the ability to lead projects, policies, and other initiatives through multiple departments. To be effective, the local government champion must have the knowledge and authority required to enlist the right partners who can provide the leverage needed to drive decisions and actions with the local governing body. For this reason, it is highly advantageous to have local champions at both the appointed and staff levels who are committed to working for hazard risk reduction. Whereas a department head or line staff member may be best positioned to lead the work, an elected or executive official can direct intergovernmental coordination from above, shepherding the involvement of support staff and other resources across various departments to ensure a more comprehensive and cross-sector effort. (Another option communities have pursued is the creation of an executive staff position within the chief executive’s office – for example, a “chief resilience officer” who reports directly to the mayor or county/city/town manager.)

External volunteer champions may be equally if not more important to the success of a community’s hazard mitigation efforts. In many cases it is those outside of local government who can serve as catalysts for change in local policies, programs, or activities relating to natural hazards. External champions may include representatives of outside groups such as private businesses, local media, non-profit or civic organizations such as environmental foundations or homeowner associations—or they may simply be individual citizens advocating on behalf of other constituents. These non-governmental advocates can be powerful drivers and partners of community risk reduction by enhancing public outreach and engagement in ways that can complement local government action. They can be especially important for smaller communities with minimal staff or limited capability to implement hazard mitigation efforts on their own.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

An important measure of success for any of the tools profiled in this report is how the tools are ultimately implemented and enforced. In many communities, good ideas are often ignored or forgotten by political leaders because they are not supported by an effective implementation strategy. *The Citizen’s Guide to Planning* identifies important concepts to help ensure that ideas are likely to be implemented:

- **Prioritized.** Make sure the steps for implementation are categorized by priority, making it clear to decision-makers and the community what needs to happen to move an idea forward, both in the short and long term.

- **Politically realistic.** Develop a strategy that is responsive to the local political climate. Consider your top priorities from the first step, and ask yourself how to communicate the value to your leaders.
- **Financially realistic.** A good planning tool will account for all costs of implementation, and increases confidence in the community that their local government is being transparent and a good steward of public funds.
- **Time realistic.** Understand that complex tools take time. Be realistic based on current capacity when estimating timelines for implementation.
- **Accountable.** Define responsible parties for implementing a strategy or planning mechanism. For more complex or longer-range projects, provide updates to community leaders on the status of those projects.
- **Understandable to citizens.** Avoid planning jargon, and keep it as short and simple as possible while providing adequate background on the issues and solutions (Duerksen, Dale, & Elliott, 2009).

Once a program, policy, or tool has been adopted, planners must regularly maintain and enforce it. Many communities struggle to balance regulations that are “good ideas” versus those they have the capacity to enforce. That concept should be considered for any planning tool or strategy mentioned in this document.

As John F. Kennedy once said, “There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction.” Similarly, as stated in the 2010 APA publication, *Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning*, “Postponing the confrontation with reality that hazard mitigation planning entails is simply unsound public policy. Tomorrow may be the day when an earthquake strikes, a flood inundates, or an unstable hillside tumbles and falls.”

Local governments do have a choice. Hazard mitigation involves taking sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from hazards. The costs of inaction may be disasters, from which taxpayer money is required to recover. Substantial post-disaster funding assistance may be available through federal or state disaster declarations; however, local governments will always share in the costs of disasters—both directly and indirectly.

An independent study by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that every dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars (*Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves*, 2005, p. 5). Therefore, it should be seen as a fiduciary responsibility of local government to take the time to thoughtfully consider projects or initiatives that reduce the potential impacts of hazards within their jurisdiction.

The question local governments need to ask is whether or not to embrace the concept of hazard mitigation to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of their community—or treat it as another federal mandate that needs to be satisfied.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

This section includes various resources related to the materials presented in this guide. The resources are divided into three main components:

- **Technical assistance.** Where should a community go to access technical assistance for basic planning and implementation tools?

- **Funding sources.** What types of funding are available to communities for implementing planning tools and strategies?
- **Other guides and resources.** What other sources of information exist, like this guide, that might offer additional insight?

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Colorado Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

The *Colorado Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* is the State's FEMA-approved plan that serves as a foundation for the State's program to reduce risks to people, property, and infrastructure from natural hazards. The Plan is administered and updated by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. dhsem.state.co.us/emergency-management/mitigation-recovery/mitigation/state-colorado-natural-hazards-mitigation-plan

Silver Jackets

Silver Jackets is a state-led interagency team that brings together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce the risk of flooding and other natural disasters, and to enhance response and recovery efforts when such events do occur. The Colorado Water Conservation Board is the lead state agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Omaha District) is the lead federal partner. The Silver Jackets Team Charter for Colorado became official in March 2013. silverjackets.nfrmp.us

The Nature Conservancy – Private Lands Conservation

The Nature Conservancy works with landowners, communities, cooperatives and businesses to establish local groups that can protect land. Some of the main tools applied include land trusts, conservation easements, private reserves, and incentives. nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/colorado/index.htm

Colorado State Forest Service

A comprehensive resource for communities, practitioners, and homeowners on topics related to wildfire mitigation and forest health. This website includes links to funding assistance, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP), and state-specific guidance on wildfire mitigation best practices. csfs.colostate.edu

Fire-Adapted Communities Learning Network

A national learning network of practitioners dedicated to community wildfire risk reduction and resilience, including related issues such as post-fire flooding. The program is administered by the Nature Conservancy and the Watershed Research and Training Center. The Fire-Adapted Communities website includes a blog oriented towards wildfire mitigation and outreach topics and other practitioner resources for fire-adapted communities, including a Fire-Adapted Community Self-Assessment Tool. facnetwork.org

National Disaster Preparedness Training Center

The National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) offers training and education programs at no cost to participating communities. The available courses cover a range of topics relevant to

disaster mitigation planning in Colorado. NDPTC is a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, a FEMA/DHS training partner. ndptc.hawaii.edu

SHELDUS™

Developed by the Hazards & Vulnerability and Research Institute at the University of South Carolina, SHELDUS™ provides a county-level hazard loss data and map set for the U.S. for 18 different natural hazard events types and has been used by some Colorado communities in completing the risk assessments for their local or regional hazard mitigation plans. hvri.geog.sc.edu/SHELDUS

Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire Program

Led by Headwaters Economics and Wildfire Planning International, this new program provides communities with increased capacity to address technical planning efforts. As part of this program, community examples provide additional examples of land use planning and regulatory strategies being implemented across the country. headwaterseconomics.org/topic/wildfire

FUNDING SOURCES

Many of the land use planning tools and strategies detailed in this guide can be achieved with existing planning staff. However, some funding opportunities are available to support specific efforts. They are briefly described below. Please see the program website for details on grant amounts, scope, funding eligibility, and timeline.

General Land Use Planning

Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund

This fund administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs assists political subdivisions (municipalities, counties, school districts, special districts and other political subdivisions, and state agencies) that are socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, local government planning, as well as capital projects such as water and sewer improvements, road improvements, construction/improvements to recreation centers, senior centers and other public facilities, and fire protection buildings and equipment. colorado.gov/pacific/dola/energymineral-impact-assistance-fund-eiaf

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Federal grant funds are provided following presidentially declared disasters to address unmet recovery needs for housing, infrastructure, planning, and economic development. Funds are provided by HUD and are subject to supplemental appropriations by Congress. Eligible activities include a broad range of planning and project activities. The program for the 2012-2013 declared disasters is administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. colorado.gov/pacific/dola/disaster-recovery

Economic Development Administration Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has established natural disaster mitigation and resiliency as a national strategic priority for investment. This particular program provides funds to assist with creating regional economic development plans and to strengthen the capacity of local

organizations to undertake and promote effective economic development programs, including disaster resiliency plans. eda.gov/funding-opportunities

Natural Resources Grants and Assistance Database

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Natural Resources Grants and Assistance Database provides a comprehensive list of natural resource grants and assistance programs that promote the health and welfare of Colorado's natural resources. This includes grant opportunities and programs for Colorado residents to implement fuels mitigation and education efforts with the goal of reducing their wildfire risk. The database is free to use. The database offers information on CSFS programs, as well as grant and assistance opportunities sponsored by federal, state, and private organizations for Colorado residents. nrdb.csfs.colostate.edu.

Hazard Mitigation Planning and Projects

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM), Mitigation and Recovery Section (MARS), administers all Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. Eligible applicants must have a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for HMA grant funds. The following is a brief description of eligible projects under the following programs.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

This program provides funding on a nationally competitive basis for plans and for natural hazards mitigation projects. Eligible activities include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, property acquisition and demolition, elevation or relocation, minor localized flood reduction projects (i.e., detention ponds, improved culverts, channel stabilization), structural retrofitting of existing buildings, infrastructure retrofits, construction of tornado safe rooms, and wildfire defensible space or fuels reduction projects.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program provides funding for flood risk reduction activities. Communities eligible for FMA funding must be participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Eligible activities include property acquisition and demolition, elevation or relocation, and minor localized flood reduction projects.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides Post-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funding in the event of a presidential disaster declaration. Potential activities funded through HMGP include all eligible PDM activities, in addition to post-disaster code enforcement activities. Contact a DHSEM Mitigation Specialist for more information:

dhsem.state.co.us/emergency-management/mitigation-recovery

dhsem.state.co.us/emergency-management/grant-programs

Public Assistance, Section 406

This is a federal discretionary grant program that provides funds to incorporate hazard mitigation measures into the repair, restoration, and replacement of facilities damaged by presidentially declared disasters. The program, administered by the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, awards funds from FEMA on a cost reimbursement basis. Eligible hazard mitigation measures must be identified

and approved with an eligible Public Assistance (PA) project. dhsem.state.co.us/emergency-management/grant-programs/public-assistance-grant

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

This program, administered by the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS), provides federal funds to relieve imminent hazards caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. Eligibility is not limited to presidentially declared disasters and includes projects such as stream restoration, correcting damaged drainage facilities, establishing cover on critically eroding lands, repairing flood control structures, and the purchase of floodplain easements. nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp

Watershed Rehabilitation Program

This program, administered by the US Department of Agriculture, NRCS, provides funds to help rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives to address critical public health and safety concerns. Eligible activities include the planning, design, and construction of entire projects. NRCS selects projects based on recent rehabilitation investments and the risks to lives and property if a dam failure would occur.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wr

Wildland-Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance

This program, administered by the US Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management), implements the National Fire Plan and assists communities at risk from catastrophic wildfire by providing assistance to develop local capacity and other activities related to assessment and mitigation planning, community and homeowner education, hazardous fuel reduction, local employment, and fire protection. These funds are available to states and local governments at risk as published in the Federal Register, Indian Tribes, public and private education institutions, nonprofit organizations, and rural fire departments serving a community with a population of 10,000 or less in the wildland-urban interface. federalgrantswire.com/wildland-urban-interface-community-and-rural-fire-assistance.html#.VkoEjWSrRhE

Parks and Open Space Planning

Great Outdoors Colorado Planning Grants

This Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant is designed to help eligible entities develop strategic master plans for outdoor parks and recreation projects, trails, or site-specific plans. Local governments are eligible to apply for Planning Grants. goco.org/grants/apply/planning

Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program

This Colorado Parks and Wildlife Program funds projects for large recreational trail grants, small recreational trail grants, trail planning, and trail support grants.

cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsGrantsNM.aspx

Colorado Conservation Trust Fund

Forty percent of the net proceeds of the Colorado Lottery are distributed by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs through the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to municipalities and counties and other eligible entities for parks, recreation, and open space purposes. CTF funds are distributed quarterly on a per capita basis. Funding can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new

conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site. colorado.gov/pacific/dola/conservation-trust-fund-ctf

Land Acquisition

The Conservation Fund: Conservation Acquisition

The Conservation Fund's Conservation Acquisition Revolving Fund provides ready capital for acquisition of lands and waters of high conservation value. conservationfund.org/what-we-do/conservation-acquisition/our-revolving-fund

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program features two funding components: 1) a federal program that funds the purchase of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes through four federal land management agencies; and 2) a state-managed matching grant program provides funds for planning, developing and acquiring land and water areas for state and local parks, and recreation facilities. The current policy of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is to allocate the annual Colorado state-side LWCF apportionment to trail projects that come before the State Recreational Trails Committee as trail grant applications from eligible local government entities and projects sponsored by Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsLWCF.aspx

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

This program, administered by the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands. Enrollment options for wetland reserve easements include the purchase of permanent easements, 30-year easements, and other term easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable state laws.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1242695

Conservation Trust Fund

Administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, these state funds are distributed to Colorado municipalities, counties, and other eligible entities for parks, recreation, and open space purposes. colorado.gov/pacific/dola/conservation-trust-fund-ctf

Drought Planning

Water Efficiency Grant Program & Drought Mitigation Planning Grants

This Colorado Water Conservation Board Program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers, and eligible agencies for water conservation-related activities and projects. Eligible entities as well as state and local governments and agencies can receive funding to develop water conservation and drought plans, implement water conservation goals outlined in a water conservation plan, and educate the public about water conservation.

cwb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-efficiency-grants/Pages/main.aspx

Awarded through the program, Drought Mitigation Planning Grants are provided specifically to assist water providers or state and local governmental entities in developing drought mitigation and response plans. cwb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-efficiency-grants/Pages/DroughtMitigationPlanningGrants.aspx

WaterSMART Drought Response Program

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It provides assistance to water users for drought contingency planning, including consideration of climate change information and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Water users may include individual citizens, industry, and governments. Program areas include: contingency planning, resiliency projects, and emergency response actions. To be eligible, entities must be within a state or tribe that has a current declaration of drought or that has a drought plan on file with Congress. usbr.gov/drought

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program

This program provides funds to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purpose of watershed protection, flood mitigation, soil erosion reduction, and sediment control among other activities. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS. nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo

OTHER GUIDES AND RESOURCES

The American Planning Association Hazards Planning Center

The American Planning Association (APA) Hazards Planning Center offers written guides and webinars on hazard mitigation and recovery planning. Notable resources include written guides on integrating hazard mitigation into local planning, planning for wildfires, drought mitigation, and planning for disaster recovery. The Center also offers a quarterly webinar series on hazard mitigation planning. planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards

- Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards
- Planning for Wildfires: planning.org/research/wildfires
- Drought Mitigation: planning.org/research/drought
- Planning for Disaster Recovery: planning.org/research/postdisaster
- Quarterly webinar series: planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange

Beyond the Basics: Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning

Beyond the Basics is based on FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (2013) (fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31598) and includes additional resources on hazard mitigation best practices. *Beyond the Basics* helps local communities to prepare or update their hazard mitigation plan. It was developed by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. mitigationguide.org

Planning for Community Resilience

The Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University developed this handbook on the community resilience planning process, including methods for conducting local risk analysis, engaging with communities around risk reduction, and planning tools for nonstructural hazard mitigation and adaptation. It is available at a cost, here: islandpress.org/book/planning-for-community-resilience

The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

The *Climate Resilience Toolkit* outlines a 5-step process for building resilience, tools for analyzing climate risk, and resources for taking action in local communities. [toolkit.climate.gov](https://www.toolkit.climate.gov). Developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Climate Explorer toolkit is an interactive site within the Toolkit that allows users to visualize current and historical data for risk analysis. [toolkit.climate.gov/tools/climate-explorer](https://www.toolkit.climate.gov/tools/climate-explorer)

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Resources

FEMA provides a variety of general resources for those engaged in hazard mitigation planning, including a series focused on integrating mitigation with related planning objectives. [fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning-resources](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning-resources). One such resource is *Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials* which provides practical guidance on how to incorporate risk reduction strategies into existing local plans, policies, codes, and programs. [fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31372](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31372)

Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) developed this guide to provide a practical and flexible approach to help communities integrate resilience plans into their economic development, zoning, mitigation, and other local planning activities that impact buildings, public utilities and other infrastructure systems. The first version of the Guide was released in October 2015 and may be updated periodically as new best practices and research results become available. [nist.gov/el/resilience/guide.cfm](https://www.nist.gov/el/resilience/guide.cfm)

No Adverse Impact Toolkit How-To Guides

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) developed this series of how-to guides that identify tools for incorporating higher standards for floodplain management into local regulations, policies and programs. The guides are broken down by subject matter into compact, usable information communities can apply. [floods.org/index.asp?menuID=460](https://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=460)

Community Wildfire Safety Through Regulation – A best practices guide for planners and regulators

Developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), this resource offers planners and public officials technical and legal justifications for adopting wildfire regulations. It also provides communities with tips on choosing the right planning tools and includes best practices used around the country. [nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/reports-case-studies-and-guides](https://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/reports-case-studies-and-guides)

General Plan Technical Advice Series: Fire Hazard Planning

A technical advisory published in 2015 by the State of California offers land use guidance on wildfire hazard planning requirements and planning mitigation tools. Much of this guidance could be considered best practice for others. This effort was completed by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf