

Partnering with FEMA in Flood Hazard Mapping



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has embarked on Map Modernization to transform the Nation's flood maps into more reliable, easier-to-use, and readily available products. FEMA is seeking qualified partners to collaborate in producing up-to-date flood maps and other flood hazard information. Such collaborations provide numerous benefits for the partners (communities and regional agencies), citizens, and FEMA.

What is the Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Program?



The Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program was developed by FEMA for communities and regional and State agencies that have the interest, capabilities, and resources to be active partners in FEMA's flood hazard mapping program. By becoming a CTP, a partner formalizes its commitment and contribution to help ensure better overall floodplain management and flood risk identification through reliable, up-to-date flood maps.

What are the Objectives and FEMA's Goals for the CTP Program?

With over 20,000 communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), it is a significant challenge to keep flood maps up to date. The overall objective of the CTP Program is to update the Nation's flood maps by:

- Giving recognition to communities that are actively working to identify and map their flood risk and are incorporating this information into official FEMA flood hazard data; and
- Maximizing limited funding by combining resources and aligning local and regional goals with FEMA's national objectives.

What are the Benefits of Partnering with FEMA?

- The data used for local permitting and planning will also be the basis for the NFIP map, facilitating more efficient floodplain management;
- Opportunity to develop more detailed maps by having local contributions and/or making local geospatial data a part of FEMA flood maps;
- Mentoring support, shared "best practices," online resources, and free training for more efficient and effective floodplain management;
- The CTP Program provides the opportunity to interject a tailored, local focus into a national program; thus, where unique conditions may exist, the special approaches to flood hazard identification that may be necessary can be taken; and
- For participating in the CTP Program, community partners will receive Community Rating System credits, which may lead to discounted flood insurance premiums for property owners. (Additional information on the Community Rating System is available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm>.)

How are CTP Activities Administered?

Initially, FEMA and the prospective CTP sign a **Partnership Agreement**, which is a broad statement of principle, emphasizing the value of the NFIP's three components of insurance, floodplain management, and mapping, and the partner's commitment to the fundamental importance of flood hazard identification in the successful reduction of future flood losses. FEMA and its partners administer activities under the CTP Program through close and frequent coordination. Two types of subsequent agreements can be pursued:

- **Mapping Activity Statement**—developed collaboratively to define the scope of a project and the roles and responsibilities of all partners involved in a particular flood map project. FEMA's MAS template may be viewed or downloaded from the FEMA website at http://www.fema.gov/fhm/dl_atemp.shtm.
- **Cooperative Agreement**— provides for the disbursement of Federal funds and defines the legal responsibilities associated with a project that meets eligibility requirements. A cooperative agreement is not required for locally funded mapping activities.

What Mapping Activities Can a CTP Pursue?

The following table shows mapping activities typically performed by mapping partners.

Activity	Description
Digital Base Map Data Sharing	The partner supplies base map data for use in producing a DFIRM. The base map must comply with FEMA requirements and be distributable to the public in hardcopy and electronic formats.
Outreach	The partner performs outreach to stakeholders to improve the acceptance of the maps into the community.
Digital Topographic Data Development	The partner develops and/or supplies digital topographic data for flood hazard identification purposes.
Hydrologic & Hydraulic Analyses and Floodplain Mapping	The partner develops digital engineering data and floodplain mapping using Geographic Information System (GIS)-based or traditional hydrologic and hydraulic modeling.
Refinement or Creation of Approximate Zone A Boundaries	The partner works with FEMA to perform analyses to refine Zone A boundaries shown on the effective FIRM or create new Zone A areas to be included on the FIRM.

One of the main objectives and benefits of the CTP Program is leveraging available funding and local data to get more detailed flood hazard maps out of limited resources. National mapping needs and partnering opportunities determine FEMA funding priorities. The cooperative agreements awarded for mapping activities under the CTP Program are intended to supplement, not supplant, ongoing mapping efforts by a partner. As part of Map Modernization, partnering with FEMA will result in more up-to-date and detailed maps that are more closely aligned with actual risk, encourage wise floodplain management, and increase the public's flood hazard awareness. For more information on the CTP Program, please visit http://www.fema.gov/fhm/ctp_guid.shtm.

This fact sheet was produced by MAP IX-Mainland, a joint venture of:



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