



DC-DE-MD-PA-VA-WV

Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)



18 Regional Projects - 6 States - 243 Counties - 128,024 Square Miles - 29,836,427 People

Planning has long been one of the most critical, yet challenging aspects of homeland security, with the National Academy for Public Administration describing emergency preparedness planning as the "Achilles Heel of homeland security." While planning continues to improve, the regional interdependencies of effective prevention, protection, response, and recovery activities requires a more cohesive regional approach to catastrophic planning. Homeland security is highly distributed, depending on state and local governments, non-profits, and the private sector to all work collectively.

RCPGP, a DHS - FEMA grant program, addresses this challenge. The purpose is to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in selected high-risk, high-consequence urban areas and their surrounding regions. RCPGP is intended to support coordination of regional all-hazard planning for catastrophic events, including the development of integrated planning communities, plans, protocols and procedures.

As a result of the grant program, RCPGP will have developed new regionally-coordinated plans, prepared for the implementation of those plans and conducted regional exercises of the new plans.

Our RCPGP addresses preparedness issues across the District of Columbia, the states of Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and the commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia. In order to manage a catastrophic incident that could occur in the region, the region must invest in critical preparedness efforts that support catastrophic planning. The program consists of multiple regional planning efforts that are designed to integrate and coordinate the disparate planning related efforts occurring throughout the region into a more harmonized region-based planning framework. The common components for the framework include; plans, policies, templates, checklists, technologies, SOP's and regional tools. The end state will be a regional catastrophic planning framework that is interoperable, flexible and all-hazards. The projects serve a fourfold purpose:

- Increase regional coordination between states regarding catastrophic event preparedness
- Identify additional regional gaps in catastrophic event preparedness
- Engender significant resource savings across the region
- Coordination of private sector

Mission Statement: "This will be an inclusive multi-state project encompassing federal, state, local governments, the private sector, universities, and non-government stakeholders working in partnership to improve catastrophic event planning."

Projects

FY 2008

- Behavioral Analysis
- Public Preparedness
- Transportation
- Mass Care
- Resource Management - Partners
- Resource Management - Resources
- Modeling & Simulation

FY 2009

- Disaster Communications Planning
- Regional Broadband Planning
- Modeling & Simulation - Phase II
- Regional Catastrophic Anticipation Teams
- NOVA Transportation Plan
- Transportation - Extend Plan
- Transportation - Coordination

FY 2010

- Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- Regional Workshops
- Regional Exercises
- Shelter in Place Training

Statistics

- Jurisdictions: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia
- Total Award: \$ 18,765,250
- Total In-Kind Match: \$ 6,255,083

Governance

Each project is led by one of the states, with the support of the others. The following groups provide centralized oversight and coordination:

- Project Management Office
- Regional Executive Committee
- Regional Working Group
- Project Teams

Definition of Catastrophe

A catastrophe can be defined as an incident whose occurrence interrupts the continuity of the *status quo* (steady state) on such a grand scale that no amount of effort, nor application of resources, will ever restore it. Recovery from a catastrophe results in a "new normal" rather than a return to the *status quo*. A catastrophe causes significant irrecoverable loss in terms of impacts upon people, culture, language, the economy, the environment, health and physical welfare and the human psyche. A catastrophe creates loss of faith and hope among survivors in their traditional support systems such as the government, or the economy or belief systems.

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FY 2008

Behavioral Analysis: Conduct behavioral analysis study that allows the region to determine preparedness levels and predict behavior of citizens in a catastrophic event to include protective actions (shelter in place and/or evacuation).

Public Preparedness: Creation of common regional based catastrophic event and protective action messaging utilizing volunteer organizations for delivery of messaging including recommendations for preparation.

Transportation: Enhance collaboration between transportation, GIS and emergency management resources across the region. Identify current gaps in evacuation plans, where either the plans and or GIS route information do not exist, and develop plans to close some of the identified gaps. Develop a regional evacuation route map, utilizing existing evacuation routes from each state.

Mass Care: Develop systems and methods to support survivors of a catastrophic event, both evacuees and those sheltering in place, with access to water, food, shelter, clothing, and essential medical care in the aftermath of a catastrophic event with special emphasis on interim housing and supply chain resilience. An additional project under Mass Care focuses on Behavioral Mental Health and the development of an operational behavioral mental health response and training plan.

Resource Management - Partners: Develop critical core partnerships for regional resource management and assess how they work together. Analyze resource management capabilities, identify resource gaps that agencies note as mission-critical, and develop solutions to fill those gaps through the creation of partnerships with the private sector and NGOs in each state.

Resource Management - Resources: Assess resource management systems to establish interoperability and interfacing requirements and determine steps to create a regional network. Develop recommendations for standardizing resource definitions for the region and map some of the resources. Build robust partnership activity to include federal participation.

Modeling & Simulation: Develop a prototype M&S consequence management tool to allow decision makers to plan and run simulations in preparation for a large-scale catastrophic event, enabling decision makers to better understand what's coming towards my state, what does my state have on hand to respond, and what are consequences of my state's decisions.

FY 2009

Disaster Communications Planning: The Regional Disaster Communications project involves the development and implementation of a regional governance structure for planning and procurement of a mobile broadband public safety network to meet the needs of response organizations and to respond and assist the public in a catastrophe and the development of a regional network engineering plan for planning, procurement, deployment and operation of the network.

Regional Broadband Planning: A companion project to the Disaster Communications Project, this project will further focus on existing regional efforts, formation of a working group and providing a framework for each participating state to reach its goals.

Modeling & Simulation - Phase II: Grow the breadth of variables incorporated in the tool developed in the 2008 project by enhancing training materials and efforts to solicit regional stakeholder feedback to generate additional requirements and enhancements for future development iterations.

Regional Catastrophic Anticipation Teams (RCAT) - The R-CAT is a network of relationships that will serve as a private sector complement to jurisdiction-specific and company-specific Emergency Operations Centers, as well as any Business Operations Centers that may be developed. Members of the R-CAT will be recruited to represent the critical infrastructures and supply chains.

NOVA Transportation Plan: Develop VDOT's overall Evacuation Transportation Plan for the NCR portion in Virginia that meets the requirements of the ESF-1 as required by VDEM.

Transportation - Extend Plan: Continue closing the planning gaps within the region by extending and developing plans in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Western Maryland to help the states within the RCPGP region reach the ultimate vision of an integrated regional transportation evacuation plan.

Transportation - Coordination: Develop a regional multi-state transportation coordination framework to enable regional planning to be coordinated and sustained in the event of catastrophic occurrence. Develop the regional transportation working group and concept of operations.

FY 2010

Comprehensive Strategic Plan: Develop strategic plan, leveraging and integrating existing efforts between the six entities of the RCPGP team, the NCR and FEMA Region III, with a focus on the key areas of governance, post grant sustainability, planning gaps/remedies, training & exercises, and coordination of existing plans.

Regional Workshops: Series of training and education workshops to educate local governments, private sector entities, NGO's and military entities on the plans and tools that were developed in the 2008 and 2009 projects.

Regional Exercises: Develop a regional exercise(s) to apply RCPGP tool-sets to realistic catastrophic scenarios. Focus will be twofold: 1) exercising the state Emergency Operations Centers in the region to test plans and reveal opportunities for improvement; 2) discussion-based exercise(s) involving a cross-section of public and private decision-makers and operators.

Shelter in Place Training: Educate and train the public and private sector on effective shelter-in-place preparation, including public preparedness and messaging, as well as the formulation of a shelter in place training plan for the region.



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