



# ADVANCING THE INTEGRATION OF CLEAN WATER ACT PROGRAMS WITH NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Historically, natural hazard programs have worked from a reactionary position – to act quickly in response to natural disasters instead of mitigating impacts before disaster strikes. Likewise, water quality and aquatic resource programs have relied on an aging infrastructure system to support water quality needs – a system that did not include considerations for climate change or the level of growth seen in certain regions of the country.

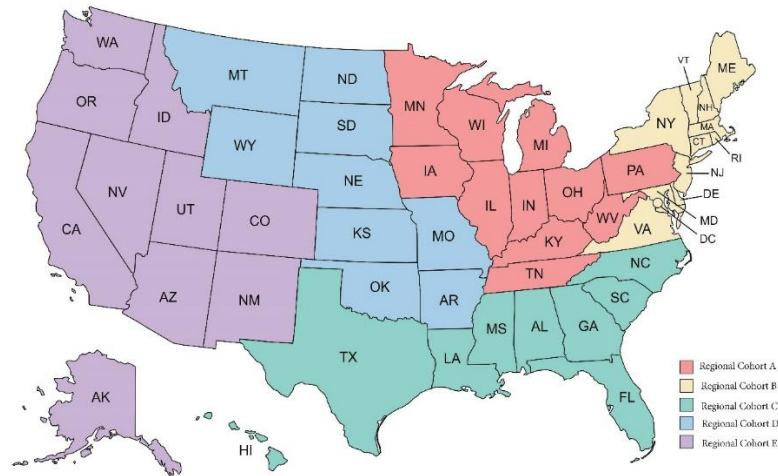
Our nation is now much better equipped to predict natural hazards due to advances in technology and modeling, and a much more holistic understanding of the inter-relationships between wetland and natural floodplain functions, watershed dynamics, and the level of resiliency that nature-based solutions can provide for protecting communities from natural hazards. **The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) and the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are launching a new training project designed to aid states, local communities, and tribes in integrating their Clean Water Act programs with their natural hazard mitigation programs.**

**Beginning in 2023, NAWM and ASFPM will host one in-person training workshop a year for five years.** Each year, the workshop will be delivered to a different regional cohort. The goal of the project is to build cross-governmental relationships and awareness of what is going on in different departments, agencies, and at various levels of government in terms of hazard mitigation and water resource protection planning and program development.

In addition to the five training workshops, there will be quarterly cohort calls and a ten-part webinar series on associated topics. A website will be developed that will be accessible to the public at large. The website will host the webinar recordings, materials and tools created for the training workshops, along with other information and resources on best practices, lessons learned and relevant case studies.

**Due to limited capacity, the training workshop cohorts will be invitation-only.** Each regional cohort will include representative pairs from 9 communities, 9 states, and 2 tribes. Although not pictured on the map (see page 2), U.S. territories are included in this project and can nominate communities located within their territorial boundaries. The state and territory pairs will be from the same state or territory in which the local community is located to facilitate relationship building. We anticipate that we will reach participants from 45 states and 10 tribes.

**To create the invitation list, we are asking for recommendations or nominations from States, Territories, communities, tribes, community organizations, EPA or FEMA regions, the National Tribal Water Council, regional and national entities associated with water resource management or hazard mitigation planning.**



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\*Territories will be included with Regional Cohort C in Green. Please note, NAWM and ASFPM may not approach each cohort in the order listed here; although, we will be starting with Regional Cohort A in Red.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED?

Any community or tribe interested in participating. Note, even if your regional cohort will not be engaged for a few years, you can nominate yourself at any time. We will keep a running list.

### ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATED COMMUNITIES OR TRIBES?

Yes, because the goal of this project is to build cross-sector, cross-government relationships, one water resources-related manager and one emergency manager from the community or tribe must be committed to attending the training workshop and participating in the cohort calls. Note, if a community is too small to have a water resources-related manager, they can pull in someone from a local or regional organization to fill that role.

### HOW CAN I NOMINATE A COMMUNITY?

Please email Ian Grosfelt, NAWM Environmental Analyst, at [ian@nawm.org](mailto:ian@nawm.org), with your community's information (community name, state, and, ideally, contact information for both your water resources-related manager and one emergency manager).

### WHEN ARE NOMINATIONS DUE?

We will close nominations January 31st of each year. However, due to the short turn around, nominations for the first cohort (see above) will have a soft deadline of February 7, 2023. NAWM and ASFPM will start to process nominations for community selection on February 8<sup>th</sup> but will still accept nominations on a rolling basis until the invitation list is complete.

## HOW WILL INVITEES BE SELECTED FROM THE LIST OF NOMINATED COMMUNITIES?

To narrow down the list of nominated communities, states, and tribes to those most in need of a training like this, we will compare our list against other notables lists, such as:

- FEMA's [list of communities with active hazard mitigation plans](#);
- GAO's [list of EPA superfund sites that are at risk of flooding, storm surge, wildfires or sea level rise](#);
- the White House's [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\) tool](#);
- EPA's [EJScreen Mapper](#).

## WHEN WILL TEAMS BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR SELECTION?

For the first cohort, NAWM will send out invitations to selected communities and tribes in mid-February.

## WHAT WILL COMMUNITIES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE RECEIVE?

Invited communities will:

- Attend one training workshop the year their regional cohort is the focus of the project.
- Participate in the project' cohort call series and to pair with future participants as part of the project's community of practice.
- Have an opportunity to attend and speak at a future NAWM or ASFPM national conference about their experience.

This is not a grant program; there is no financial award associated with participation beyond a need-based travel stipend (see details below).

## WILL THERE BE TRAVEL SUPPORT AVAILABLE?

Yes, NAWM has secured funding to partially offset travel costs. Individuals in need of travel support will be asked to complete a request form and will be awarded support based on need. If everyone were to submit a request, travel support is expected to amount to around \$500 per person. Costs will be reimbursed after the event upon submission of receipts.

## WILL SELECTED TEAMS HAVE TO PAY A REGISTRATION FEE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

No.

## WHAT COSTS SHOULD TEAMS ANTICIPATE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

Teams should expect to cover the cost of their travel, meal, and/or lodging in excess of the amounts covered by NAWM as outlined above.

# QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact Ian Grosfelt at [ian@nawm.org](mailto:ian@nawm.org) or 207-892-3399.