

Long-term Recovery Strategy

I. Overview

The priority for long-term recovery following major disasters in the state is to provide assistance to the affected local governments that will lead to restoring all essential services; repairing or replacing private and public property to pre-disaster condition; and, where possible, increase the community's potential for a sustainable future. All state, federal, private sector and non-governmental organizations with the ability to contribute to the long-term recovery effort will be invited and encouraged to participate on the Illinois Long-Term Recovery Team established for the specific disaster recovery operation.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) has the responsibility and capability to coordinate the overall effort of long-term recovery from disasters. All other state agencies may be involved in the long-term recovery effort depending on the nature and magnitude of the disaster and the scope of the recovery effort. Each long-term recovery effort will be customized to meet the particular needs of the community as a result of the disaster using available programs and resources or additional resources made available by executive and legislative action. The timeframe for completion of long-term recovery is totally dependent on the circumstances due to disaster type and magnitude. It is important that agencies involved in the long-term recovery effort be creative and innovative and eliminate all possible obstacles to project implementation.

State agencies have the ability to assist in the restoration of services, facilities, programs and infrastructure. In most cases, each state agency has a counterpart federal agency maintaining programs that can be implemented when the long-term recovery effort is beyond the capability of state and local governments. Federal agencies will be requested to participate in all long-term recovery efforts to maximize the success of the effort in the shortest timeframe possible. Restoration activities will be initially focused on essential services. Economic recovery and development will follow once all essential needs of individuals and families have been met

Certain agencies have expertise in various components of long-term recovery. As the recovery effort progresses, the lead state agency may change. IEMA will retain the overall coordination role throughout. This is comparable to the Incident Command concept implemented during the response and short-term recovery phases of the disaster operations as described in the Illinois Emergency Operation Plan (IEOP) - Basic Plan, Attachment 1, Illinois Disaster Management System.

Hazard mitigation is a vital function that begins during damage assessment and continues through long-term recovery and beyond. In many cases, the community that is the subject of the long-term recovery is a community that has experienced a similar disaster in the past. Flooding, historically, is the most common and costly

disaster in the state. Hazard mitigation projects are ongoing in many parts of the state and therefore, it is critical that the opportunity for long-term recovery include and be consistent with current hazard mitigation efforts. Local governments must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding.

The strategy of the state of Illinois is to fully recover from all disasters using all means possible. It is well understood that due to economic conditions, availability of programs and other environmental or social factors, that a single process or approach to long-term disaster recovery cannot be established and implemented without considerable flexibility. State agencies understand their roles and responsibilities in long-term disaster recovery (see Table 1) and have been called upon numerous times over the past 30 years to work together in disasters including blizzards, ice storms, floods, tornados, droughts, hazardous materials spills, heat waves, and fires. All long-term recovery efforts have been successful and lessons learned have been incorporated into subsequent operations and will continue to be a key factor in the recovery strategy.

II. Long-term Recovery Priorities

A. Restoring Critical Infrastructure

The focus on these activities flows from Short-term Recovery to Long-term Recovery. The same organizations are responsible for the activities in both recovery phases. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA), and Illinois municipal utilities and electrical cooperatives, all have regulatory authority or responsibility for critical infrastructure. In the event of a Public Assistance declaration, funding may be available to assist with restoration of critical infrastructure.

B. Providing Temporary/Interim Housing

An Individual Assistance declaration makes the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) available to provide temporary/interim housing (hotel/rental) assistance for those affected by the disaster. The state of Illinois may provide staff to the Joint Field Office (JFO) to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to administer IHP. IEMA will work with local governments to help identify housing resources. Process details can be found in the Individual Assistance Annex.

C. Repairing or Replacing Private Property

The state of Illinois partners with FEMA to coordinate long-term housing solutions for disaster victims. Federal grants are provided to repair homes that can be repaired or to replace homes that are destroyed, up to the maximum grant amount. IEMA Individual Assistance staff works with FEMA staff at the JFO to ensure that needs are met. Process details can be found in the Individual Assistance Annex.

D. Providing Human Services

The state of Illinois and federal agencies administer programs to provide human services to disaster victims. Process details can be found in the Individual Assistance Annex.

1. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) provides crisis counseling services. Federal grants may be available to assist with the costs of these services. IDHS is also responsible for administering the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP).
2. The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) administers the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.
3. The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) works to ensure that seniors are being assisted during and following a disaster.
4. The Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI) addresses problems that disaster victims experience with their insurance companies.

E. Repairing or Replacing Public Property

To facilitate the repair or replacement of public property, IEMA conducts applicant briefings for state and local governments following a Public Assistance declaration. IEMA monitors Public Assistance projects and makes payments to applicants who are repairing or replacing public property. The Capital Development Board is responsible for major repairs or replacing state facilities. The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) ensures that work is done in compliance with applicable laws. The IEPA coordinates, integrates, and manages the overall state technical effort to detect, identify, contain, clean up, dispose of or minimize releases of hazardous materials from public building sites.

F. Permanent Debris Removal/Management

These activities begin immediately following an event and may continue into the long-term recovery phase. Public Assistance funding may be available to cover

some of the costs of debris management. IEMA conducts applicant briefings for state and local governments following a Public Assistance declaration. IEMA monitors Public Assistance projects and makes payments to applicants who are repairing or replacing public property. The Illinois Departments of Transportation, Natural Resources and Corrections provide personnel and equipment for debris removal. The IEPA is responsible for oversight during the removal of hazardous materials. The IDOL ensures that work is done in compliance with applicable laws. Process details can be found in the Debris Removal Annex.

G. Economic Recovery

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is the lead agency for coordinating state agency involvement in economic recovery in disaster areas. DCEO staff works with community officials to identify funding opportunities by utilizing grants programs in communities affected by the disaster. Small Business Administration (SBA) loans may be made available to assist businesses in recovering from economic injury and actual physical damage to buildings and inventory. IEMA staff coordinates with the SBA to administer the loan programs. Process details for the Small Business Administration's program can be found in the Individual Assistance Annex.

H. Hazard Mitigation

It is important to begin hazard mitigation projects while the damage from the disaster is still fresh in the minds of officials and victims. IEMA provides information to the public and local governments on mitigation opportunities as the long-term recovery occurs. IEMA coordinates mitigation activities and administers grants to local governments. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, is responsible for managing the state's floodplains and monitors the enforcement of floodplain regulations designed to reduce damage in future floods. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency ensures that potential mitigation projects are in compliance with historic preservation regulations. The IEPA ensures that potential mitigation projects are in compliance with environmental regulations. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) provides information needed when a mitigation project impacts agricultural assets in the state. Opportunities for mitigation include removing homes from areas that flood repeatedly, constructing safe rooms and encouraging wind resistant construction. Process details can be found in the Mitigation Assistance Annex.