

Floodplain Management Services (FPMS)

Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1960, the Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program provides technical services and planning guidance needed to support effective floodplain management.

General Technical Services

This program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; floodwater velocities; and the extent, duration and frequency of flooding. It also provides information on natural and cultural floodplain resources before and after the use of floodplain management measures.

General Planning Guidance

On a larger scale, this program provides assistance and guidance in the form of "special studies" on all aspects of floodplain management planning, including the possible impacts of off-floodplain land use changes on the physical, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions of the floodplain. Study scopes range from helping a community identify present or future floodplain areas and related problems to a broad assessment of the various remedial measures that can be effectively used. Some of the most common types of special studies include:

- Floodplain Delineation / Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies
- Hurricane Evacuation Studies
- Flood Warning / Preparedness Studies
- Regulatory Floodway Studies
- Flood Proofing Studies

The program also provides guidance and assistance for meeting standards of the National Flood Insurance Program and helps conduct workshops on non-structural floodplain management measures, such as flood proofing.

Pamphlets and Supporting Studies

Pamphlets are available on flood proofing and various related aspects of floodplain management. Supporting studies are conducted under the program to improve the methods and procedures for mitigating flood damages. The study findings and pamphlets are provided free to federal agencies, Indian tribes, state, regional and local governments, and private citizens for their use in addressing the flood hazard.

Charges for Assistance

Program services are provided free to state, regional and local governments, Indian tribes, and other non-federal public agencies.

Program services also are offered to non-water resource federal agencies and to the private sector on a 100 percent cost-recovery basis. For most of these requests, payment is required before

services are provided. A schedule of charges is used to recover the cost of services that take up to one day to provide. Negotiated agreements are required for services that take longer. All requesters are encouraged to furnish available field survey data, maps, historical flood information and the like to help reduce the cost of services.

How to Request Assistance

Information that is readily available will be provided in response to a telephone request. A letter request is required for assistance that involves developing new data, making a map or preparing a report. For assistance, please contact the FPMS coordinator: