Leveraging Resources For Community Resilience Post Disaster

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181 Disasters in Oklahoma since 1953
| Federal Disaster Rebuilding Spending | ✓ FEMA is the primary federal agency for funding assistance after a disaster.  
| | ✓ Congress appropriates money annually into FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) |
For severe disasters or years with multiple disasters, Congress may decide that the funds available from annual appropriations to the DRF are insufficient and will pass supplemental legislation appropriating additional money.
2017-2018 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations by Department

Source: University of Pennsylvania
Considerations

• Most of the dollars are for long-term rebuilding
• It can be months, and even years before funds reach communities and their citizens
• A majority the funding is for repairing and rebuilding public facilities and infrastructure
• The primary post-disaster support for households is a loan from the Small Business Administration.
Supplemental appropriations are also often used to fund greater investments in risk reduction.

An analysis of federal spending found that over 90% of federal flood risk reduction funds are tied to specific presidential disaster declarations and appropriated in supplemental legislation.*

*https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/abs/10.1142/S2382624X17710011
Opportunities Mitigate Post Disaster

Sandy Recovery Improvement Act → Disaster Recovery Reform Act → 406 Hazard Mitigation and 404 Hazard Mitigation → CDBG-DR
Provisions of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013

Revised the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, to include a possible advancement of 25% of grant funds (Section 1104);

*Streamlined Procedures:* SRIA directed FEMA to streamline HMGP activities and to adopt measures to expedite implementation of the program.
Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018

• Authorizes the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation program (an additional 6 percent set-aside from disaster expenses)
• Reimbursement for base and overtime wages for extra hires to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of adopted building codes.
• Assistance to state and local governments for building codes and floodplain management ordinance administration and enforcement.
• Provides hazard mitigation grant funding in areas that received Fire Management Assistance Grants as a result of wildfire.
• Fourteen new mitigation project types associated with wildfires and windstorms.
404 and 406 Hazard Mitigation

404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Supports risk reduction activities
- Improves resiliency
- Eliminates the impact of future events
- Provides a long-term solution to problem
- Helps avoid repetitive damage from disasters

406 Public Assistance Mitigation Funding
- Measures to protect a damaged facility against future damage
- Restoration of facilities to local codes and standards
- Hazard-resistant design provisions of the consensus-based codes for buildings that have sustained significant damage
- Relocation of some facilities outside hazard-prone areas.
Community Development Block Grant-DR

- Different than regular CDBG.
- Not an authorized Federal program
- Appropriated by Congress and guided by Federal Registers
- Can be used to match HMGP but timing and eligibility become concerns.

As of June 2019, the CDBG-DR Portfolio includes 137 grants totaling $89.7 billion to 58 grantees, including 30 states and territories and 28 local governments.
Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019 (S.2301)

- Introduced July 26, 2019
- Would improve and permanently authorize the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.
- Establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilient Communities.
- Authorize the Creation a CDBG-DR Reserve Fund.
- Direct HUD to issue regulations for the CBDG-DR Program.
- Prioritize funds for low- and moderate-income disaster survivors.
- Create a significant set-aside for disaster mitigation activities.
- Ensure that investments result in infrastructure and communities resilient to future disasters.
Common Concerns Incorporating Mitigation into Recovery

- Too big and complex
- Not cost-effective
- Not enough Funding
Plan for recovery in advance of the disaster
Develop a post disaster hazard mitigation strategy
Use Advance Assistance to bring project from concept to design
Think holistically: Avoiding loss of function due to disaster related disruption can be a large benefit

Don’t rely on BCA defaults (do your research and justify!)

Consider community benefits. Just because you can’t quantify infrastructure, doesn’t mean it doesn’t have value

Be creative....
406 Mitigation limited by eligibility and cost effectiveness but NOT total cost

Leverage other funding sources by changing perspectives (ie Hazard Mitigation and Environmental Protection)
Looking at the 2019 Flood and answering the question.....

Can we mitigate more quickly after the next disaster?
Buyout Option Discussed at Public Meetings

“There’s a lot of people in here that have loans where they’re still paying that monthly payment,” David Renfrow told KJRH. “They could wait on a buyout, but they’re making those payments until the buyout comes.”
Major Hurdles:

Local Match
Do we have a disaster declaration? Is Public Assistance Declared yet? How far along are we with assessments?
How much mitigation funds are available?
Timing
The Benefit Cost Analysis
What might help accelerate the process?
Capitalize on Opportunity for Public Awareness and Involvement

✓ The disaster experience also raises **public awareness** of the risks and might also generate new knowledge.
✓ The shared awareness often brings about more agreement from various stakeholders on taking action to reduce the risk.
Take Advantage of Political Will

The desire to act (and to be seen acting) is stronger than usual, resulting in more proactive political leadership.
Conduct a Risk Assessment and Mitigate Pre-Disaster

Target specific areas for risk reduction prior to the disaster.
Summing it up and turning it over........

Paradigm is shifting....

More emphasis on mitigation pre-disaster

More opportunities for mitigation in the recovery process