

FEMA Seeks Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Increase Funding Access and Reduce Disaster Risk for Vulnerable Communities

FEMA has published a notice in the [Federal Register](#) seeking public comment on how to apply new legislation that will designate areas with communities most at risk and from natural hazards.

This notice is for the agency to gain better understanding in key areas that will support an effective implementation of the [Community Disaster Resilience Zone Act](#). FEMA posted the Request for Information to learn the best ways to obtain public feedback that will help shape and inform how the agency uses the act to increase resilience efforts.

This new law amends the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Recovery and Emergency Act](#) to use FEMA's [National Risk Index](#) to designate community disaster zones. These represent areas with the highest natural hazard risk and a relatively lower ability to withstand their impacts.

Vulnerable communities often face difficulties in accessing disaster resilience funding. These communities will receive targeted support to access federal funding to plan for resilience projects that will help them reduce impacts caused by climate change and natural hazards.

Targeted federal support includes increased federal cost-share for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, lessening the financial burden on communities to perform resilience-related activities. This includes a greater federal [cost share](#) adjustment and an increase in the community's ability to afford valuable pre-disaster mitigation projects.

The law will also enable communities to work across a range of federal and private sector partners to maximize funding and provide technical assistance, strengthening community resilience.

FEMA is requesting information from the public to gain understanding in key areas that will support an effective implementation of the act. This includes learning how communities identify, use and apply risk assessment tools to reduce natural hazard effects and how to achieve equity and geographic balance when designating zones.



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Comments can be submitted from 2023-11268 on the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#), Docket ID: FEMA-2023-0009 or by emailing FEMA-CDRZ-RFI@fema.dhs.gov. Please follow the instructions on the page for submitting comments and contact the [Regulations.gov Help Desk](#) if you have technical issues.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
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Also, follow Administrator Deanne Criswell on Twitter [@FEMA_Deanne](#).

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