

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #6

WHY INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL PLANNER?

FEMA does not require that a professional planner actually prepare your community mitigation plan, but it is recommended that a professional planner be included in the process as one of the primary staff of your planning team.

A “professional planner” may be a community employee, a private consultant, or an advisor from a state agency or regional planning agency. A “professional planner may be degreed in urban planning and/or experienced in land use planning, community planning, or urban renewal. Although it is not required, it is recommended that your “professional planner” be a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) or the American Planning Association (APA).

Professional planners have experience in a number of areas that can be useful in assisting with your mitigation planning process:

- Organizing to prepare a plan
- Putting a planning team together
- Completing land use surveys of the community
- Facilitating public meetings
- Preparing a vision statement
- Land use planning, subdivision regulations and zoning
- Coordinating with other agencies
- Applying for grants
- Drafting an action plan
- Knowing procedures for adoption of your plan
- Implementing, evaluating and revising your plan
- Accessing maps that can be used in the hazard identification and risk assessment

Note: A community that is in the Community Rating System (CRS) can receive points toward their classification if a professional planner is involved in the preparation of the plan.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE DONE

- ❑ Adams County, Illinois, used a planning consultant in the preparation of their plan.
- ❑ The Licking County Planning Commission helped prepare the Hebron, Ohio, plan.
- ❑ The Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission participated in the preparation of the Darlington, Wisconsin plan.