



**FEMA**



**2004-2005 Community Planning Fellowships**  
**New Closing date: February 17, 2004**  
**(Previously January 26, 2004)**

**Sponsored by the  
Federal Emergency Management Agency of the  
Department of Homeland Security with the  
Environmental Protection Agency**



Administered for DHS/FEMA by the  
Multihazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences

# **Community Planning Fellowships Summer 2004 through Summer 2005**

**Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
with contributing support from the  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**Administered by the Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC)  
of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)**

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## **PURPOSE and BACKGROUND**

FEMA's Mitigation Division sponsors Community Planning Fellowships designed to help graduate-level planning students learn to incorporate hazard mitigation into community planning practices. The fellowship program is managed for FEMA by the Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS).

The fellowships are intended to:

- Expand students' graduate education by providing opportunities to learn about and apply planning expertise to the fields of hazard mitigation and emergency management and, on a larger scale, to integrate hazard mitigation principles into the graduate-level curricula of urban, regional, and environmental planning schools;
- Assist communities, regional organizations, and states in developing and maintaining effective hazard mitigation planning programs by engaging planning students in working side-by-side with public officials;
- Encourage the continuing use and application of planning policies, tools, and techniques in reducing the impact of all types of hazards in the United States;
- Explore how FEMA can best integrate planning principles and approaches into its ongoing mitigation initiatives and post-disaster recovery efforts; and
- Assist communities, regional organizations, and states in effectively addressing watershed planning and floodplain management issues.

Many urban planners are relative newcomers to hazard mitigation. Approaches to the reduction of losses from all types of hazard historically have focused on application of knowledge from the physical sciences, construction sciences, and engineering. However, as the direct losses and disruptions caused by natural disasters continue to grow, communities have become increasingly aware that development decisions made in the past are at least partly responsible for the extent of devastation that results from each new disaster event.

Today's communities are discovering that there is more to disaster recovery than reconstructing pre-disaster buildings and infrastructure. In the wake of the destruction rendered by all types of disasters, community leaders are finding that they lack adequate strategies for dealing with the complex, politically and emotionally charged environment of recovery. This situation cannot continue to go unaddressed.

The passage of the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* (Public Law 106-390) and the issuance of new regulations have created new planning criteria for state and local governments and financial incentives for those that approach hazard mitigation through a planning process. It is therefore in planners' best interests to learn how to apply their skills and training in creating stronger, more resilient communities and to incorporate hazard mitigation into daily planning activities.

Both the academic community and national emergency management experts have concluded that the teaching of planning theory and practice should be expanded to incorporate hazard mitigation into traditional planning concepts and issues (e.g., historic preservation, economic development, transportation, land use planning, site planning and design, zoning, subdivision) so that planning students will understand how hazards and hazard mitigation fit into other planning concerns. As one mechanism for achieving this goal, the Federal Emergency Management Agency sponsors the Community Planning Fellowships.

### **Watershed Planning and Floodplain Management**

For 2004-05 academic year, the EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds has joined with FEMA to provide funding for one additional fellow to explore how floodplain management and watershed planning can better be integrated at the local level. Planning and managing on a watershed scale is an approach fast growing in popularity among local governments. Riparian corridor areas are becoming a focal point of action for many local governments in the face of increasing flooding and water quality problems and public demand for recreational access to streams. Information and interagency coordination critical to effective watershed management and planning is not often readily available to local planning agencies. This is particularly true in the area of floodplain management. Public and private partnerships that combine resources and share information related to wetland mapping and restoration can improve watershed planning and flood hazard mitigation. A watershed-based approach to floodplain management considers the whole system, including other resource management programs that address land, air, and water, to successfully manage problems for a given aquatic resource.

### **FELLOWSHIP DETAILS**

Graduate students selected to receive a fellowship will be provided with funding sufficient to support one year of field research focusing on local and state hazard mitigation and community planning issues. The fellowships will involve orientation work at FEMA and EPA Headquarters and at other federal agencies in Washington, D.C.; extensive fieldwork within communities to be selected jointly by the student and FEMA; and independent study follow-up work during the 2003-2004 academic year.

### **Summer 2004**

The students selected as fellows will be based at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for approximately eight weeks. During this period, the fellows will be expected to develop an understanding of FEMA's and EPA's missions and structure with emphasis on mitigation programs and to begin work with their study communities. Students also will visit and work with other federal agencies that provide

assistance to or have a role in hazard mitigation within the students' study communities. Fieldwork will involve travel to FEMA/EPA regional offices, the study communities, and state hazard mitigation offices.

## **2004 - 2005 Academic Year**

The fellows will be expected to continue work with their study communities for two semesters in an independent program under the direction of a sponsoring faculty member. Each student will be required to produce a paper that reflects the fellow's field experience. The paper will provide FEMA with information on how to best assist states and communities in developing and maintaining effective mitigation plans and on how to incorporate hazard mitigation into local government planning programs. The paper also shall include recommendations and observations for incorporating hazard mitigation into graduate planning programs.

## **Financial Assistance**

Each fellow will receive financial assistance to cover: a stipend for eight weeks in Washington, D.C., at FEMA headquarters; a stipend and tuition/fees to cover the credit hours (not to exceed six credit hours for the entire academic year) earned for fellowship independent study over two semesters; reimbursement for travel costs and other expenses incurred for fieldwork; and housing for the eight weeks spent at FEMA Headquarters (to be arranged by FEMA and the MMC). The tuition benefits are available to the extent that they are not duplicated by any other assistance.

## **Work Program**

The fellows will work under the supervision of the FEMA Chief of the Mitigation Division, Risk Reduction Branch, with assistance from branch and EPA staff. This branch is responsible for the integration of planning approaches into FEMA programs. It initiates and develops guidance for and provides technical assistance to FEMA regional staff, states, and local governments to promote and facilitate mitigation planning. It also works with other federal agencies and national organizations to stimulate them to include hazard mitigation in their agendas.

During summer 2004, the fellows will initiate one-year field projects that focus on hazard mitigation and community planning issues within their study communities. Such issues include but are not limited to the following:

- Integration of mitigation into ongoing community planning and development processes;
- Economic development and mitigation issues;
- Sustainable development practices in general and/or sustainable post-disaster recovery practices;
- Planning for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;
- Hazard identification and risk assessment as the basis for planning;
- Planning implementation tools for hazard mitigation; and
- Integration of floodplain management and environmental planning in terms of prioritization and restoration of wetlands and floodplains for hazard mitigation, integration of floodplain management plans into multi-objective watershed plans, and community watershed projects and hazard mitigation.

## APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

All applicants for the Community Planning Fellowships must:

- Have completed one year of graduate study (before summer 2004) at an accredited university and most core courses required for a Masters degree in urban, regional, or environmental planning. **Please note that Ph.D. candidates are not eligible for these fellowships.**
- Demonstrate an understanding of and interest in the federal government's role in hazard mitigation; the physical nature of natural and/or man-made hazards and how these hazards and the disasters they cause affect communities; and the importance of planners and the field of urban planning in hazard mitigation.
- Have the support of a faculty advisor who has an equal interest in the role of planning in hazard mitigation as well as an interest in the development of elements of planning curricula that focus on hazard mitigation.
- Be articulate and comfortable speaking with diverse groups of individuals including federal, state, and local government decision makers as well as private citizens and be capable of clear written communications.
- Be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants for the 2004-2005 FEMA Community Planning Fellowships must submit the following for receipt on or before **January 26, 2004**:

- Completed application form (attached).
- Academic transcripts covering the applicant's junior and senior years of undergraduate work and all of the applicant's graduate work.
- A statement (not to exceed three typed pages) of educational and career goals including the following:
  - ✓ Discussion of the applicant's reason for pursuing this fellowship;
  - ✓ The applicant's particular planning interest with respect to hazard mitigation;
  - ✓ Issues or activities the applicant wishes to pursue on a community-wide basis as part of his/her field study;
  - ✓ Why he/she would make a good fellow; and
  - ✓ How his/her involvement in this fellowship will contribute to the practice of planning;

- A letter of nomination by the faculty sponsor named on the application. This letter must:
  - ✓ Certify that the applicant is (or will be during the 2004-2005 academic year) a full-time graduate student;
  - ✓ Address the applicant's strengths and how his/her background and future goals will advance the field of planning; and
  - ✓ Describe the nature of the faculty sponsor's interest in hazard mitigation and in the integration of mitigation into the education and practice of urban planners.

Completed applications and supporting material should be sent electronically or via mail to:

Claret M. Heider  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
Multihazard Mitigation Council  
1090 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005-4905

E-mail: [cheider@nibs.org](mailto:cheider@nibs.org)  
Phone: (202) 289-7800, Extension 131  
Fax: (202) 289-1092

An MMC Selection Committee will evaluate and rank completed applications and recommend finalists to FEMA/EPA.

During the first week of March 2004 FEMA/EPA staff will conduct telephone interviews with applicants who become finalists.

# APPLICATION

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## Community Planning Fellowship for 2004-2005

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ MALE FEMALE (circle one)

NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT WITHIN INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH ENROLLED \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY SPONSOR SUBMITTING WITH THIS APPLICATION Name, daytime phone number, e-mail and regular mail addresses

By my signature below, I hereby certify that I am a United States citizen or have Permanent Resident status and that the information I have provided on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

***Deadline for Submission: January 26, 2004 (no exceptions)***

***Announcement of Award will be made by March 22, 2004***

Send applications and supporting material (via e-mail or surface mail) to:

Claret M. Heider  
Multihazard Mitigation Council  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
Email: [cheider@nibs.org](mailto:cheider@nibs.org)  
1090 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005