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[Docket \(/docket/FEMA-2025-0012\)](#) / [Document \(FEMA-2025-0012-0001\) \(/document/FEMA-2025-0012-0001\)](#) / [Comment](#)

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Hazard Mitigation data collection is necessary for the proper functioning of the Agency because it allows for informed decision-making and the subsequent allocation of funds. Analyzing data relevant to the needs of each community allows them to receive the appropriate and targeted assistance that will allow them to protect themselves from the natural hazards to which they are exposed. After a disaster, these same communities will request financial and technical assistance to recover from the damage suffered. The practical utility of this measure lies in the fact that a prepared community is expected to suffer less damage, requiring less allocation of technical and financial resources, and making better use of public funds.

The process of updating a current plan aims to validate existing, previously collected data in relation to the current reality of the community. To minimize the burden of collecting this information, a good practice would be to require the community to retain professional experts in the field responsible for collecting, analyzing, and keeping this information up to date. Furthermore, it would be advisable to reconsider the timing of these updates. Just as weather patterns have changed, with more frequent events occurring, it may be worthwhile to make these updates more frequently to keep pace with the natural hazards they aim to address. This would allow for a Plan that is in step with the constant changes in today's climate, responds to the current needs of the communities it serves, and therefore makes better use of the money and resources allocated for this purpose.

Requiring the hiring of a professional expert in the field should improve the quality and clarity of the information collected. However, the input of a subject matter expert should not replace the input of community members. They will provide information based on experience. Both parties must complement each other to achieve the most accurate information possible. The Plan allows all stakeholders to sit at the same table to outline the action strategy to address the needs identified in each community in an integrated manner. For this information to be useful, it is important that the project prioritization process be aligned with the damage identified in each Plan. This is an aspect that deserves greater attention from the Agency.

Finally, the electronic collection of information, as well as the delivery of the final product, i.e., the Plans, streamlines the process for all parties.

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