

WSSPC Awards in Excellence 1998

Awarded Category: Mitigation Efforts

Program Name: California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan

Administering Agency: California Seismic Safety Commission

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How long has this program been operational?

Eleven years - Revised Plan - one year in May 1998.

What are the major purposes of this program? What problem(s) or issue(s) was it designed to address?

Sets Earthquake Loss Reduction Goals and Priorities for the State of California. Serves as the State's hazard mitigation plan, required for federal mitigation funding after an earthquake.

Describe the specific activities and operations of the program.

Meets requirements of the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act by implementing 120 specific initiatives, presented in eleven broad-based elements.

Does this program take a new and creative approach or method? If yes, please describe.

This dynamic document is a "living plan", to be continually updated with new information. In addition, the document emphasizes the use of multilevel partnerships, including government, industry, locals, and academia. It sets specific goals and ways to implement them.

What were the program's start-up costs and source(s) of funding?

Budget: \$150,000 **Source:** State Funds/ FEMA Funds

What are the program's annual operational costs and source(s) of funding?

Budget: \$778,000 **Source:** State General Fund

How many employees (full-time equivalent) work(ed) with this program? 10 FTE

To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? Yes

Are you aware of similar programs in other states? Yes

Has the program been fully implemented? Yes

Is there evidence that the program has been effective in achieving its stated purpose(s)? Briefly summarize evaluations (pro and con) of how well the program has addressed the defined problem(s) or issue(s).

The program has spurred actions to save lives, prevent damage, and reduce disruption associated with earthquakes (see section on "successes" in the Plan).

How has the program changed since its inception? What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

Priorities and strategies have changed over the last 11 years. Each damaging earthquake brings lessons, which are then incorporated into a revised and updated plan. Obstacles for other states: Mitigation activities require substantial funding.

Additional comments:

This plan has been "considered" by FEMA as a national model for earthquake loss reduction mitigation efforts.