



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Corps Planning: Planning Assistance to States

BUILDING STRONG®

The Planning Assistance to States Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the Federal Government's largest water resources development and management agency. Through the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program, the Corps provides planning level assistance to eligible non-federal partners in managing their water resources. There are two types of planning assistance offered through the PAS program:

Comprehensive Plans and Technical Assistance. Non-federal interests eligible to partner with the Corps include any State, group of States, local government, regional coalition of governmental entities, Federally-recognized Tribes and U.S. Territories may partner with the Corps under the PAS program. Nonprofit organizations working with a State may also be eligible to partner. The program is cost-shared 50% federal/50% non-federal. A cost share waiver is available for eligible economically disadvantaged communities as defined in the [Implementation Guidance for Section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act \(WRDA\) of 2022](#), which includes but is not limited to Federally-recognized Tribes and U.S. Territories.



The PAS program is authorized by Section 22 of WRDA1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §1962d-16), and is sometimes referred to as the "Section 22" program. PAS studies cannot include detailed design for project construction, and implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the State, Tribe, or Territory.

Comprehensive Water Resources Planning

Comprehensive Plans include planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of the water and related resources of drainage basins, watersheds, or ecosystems located within the boundaries of that State, including plans to comprehensively address water resources challenges such as the state water plan. Comprehensive plans can extend across state boundaries provided both States agree.



Typical water resources problems and opportunities included in comprehensive state water resource planning efforts include: flood risk management, water supply, water conservation, environmental restoration, water quality, hydropower, erosion, navigation, fish and wildlife, cultural resources, and environmental resources.

No more than \$5M in Federal funds for PAS comprehensive planning efforts may be expended in a State, Tribe, or U.S. Territory per fiscal year.

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Comprehensive planning activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50%) with the study partner, and voluntarily contributed funds in excess of the cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The non-Federal cost share for preparation of a state comprehensive water resources plan may be provided by funds or through the provision of services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind services.

PAS Cost Share Waiver

Section 8119 of WRDA 2022 provides for a waiver of costs to eligible economically disadvantaged communities (EDC) as defined by Section 160 of WRDA 2020. An eligible EDC meets one or more of the following criteria:

- a. **Low per capita income:** The area has a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average;
- b. **Unemployment rate above national average:** The area has an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least 1 percent greater than the national average unemployment rate;
- c. **Indian country** as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1151 or in the proximity of an Alaska Native Village;
- d. **U.S. Territories;** or
- e. **Communities identified as disadvantaged by the [Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)**

Technical Assistance Supporting State Water Resources Management Plans

Technical Assistance provided through the PAS program includes support of planning efforts related to the management of state water resources, including the provision and integration of hydrologic, economic, or environmental data and analysis in support of the State's water resources management and related land resources development plans identified in the state water plan or other water resources management related state planning documents, such as state hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and plans associated with changing hydrologic conditions, climate change, long-term sustainability, and resilience.

Technical assistance activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50%) with the study partner, and voluntarily contributed funds in excess of cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The cost-share for technical assistance must be provided by funds; in-kind services are not permitted for technical assistance.

Other Corps Planning Technical Assistance Programs

The Corps Planning Program also provides technical assistance via the floodplain management services (FPMS) program. FPMS activities cover the full range of information, technical services, and planning guidance and

assistance on floods and floodplain issues within the broad umbrella of floodplain management. Technical services and planning guidance under the FPMS Program are provided to State, regional, and local governments without charge, within program funding limits. FPMS services for Federal agencies and private persons are on a cost-recovery or fee basis. The Corps may also accept voluntarily contributed funds to expand the scope of services requested.

Through the Interagency and International Services (IIS) program, the Corps can provide technical assistance to non-Department of Defense Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribal nations, private U.S. firms, international organizations, and foreign governments. Through the IIS program, the Corps may provide engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land-related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical services. Most IIS work is funded on a reimbursable basis.

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For more Information

For more information on Corps technical assistance programs, including PAS, please contact your local District's Planning Department: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx>

Template PAS agreements for both technical assistance and comprehensive planning are available on the Corps' Headquarters website: http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/templates_pas/

