



# Corps Planning: Planning Assistance to States

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## The Planning Assistance to States Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Federal Government's largest water resources development and management agency. Two types of planning assistance are offered through the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program, Comprehensive Plans and Technical Assistance. Any State, or group of States, may partner with the Corps under the PAS program. Federally-recognized Tribes and U.S. Territories are also eligible partners in the PAS program. Local cost sharing requirements, up to \$484,000 (2019, adjusted annually for inflation), have been waived for Federally-recognized Tribes and U.S. Territories.

The PAS program is authorized by Section 22 of WRDA 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §1962d-16), and is sometimes referred to as the "Section 22" program.

## 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.

PAS studies cannot include detailed design for project construction, and implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the State, Tribe, or Territory.

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.

Comprehensive planning activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50 per cent) with the study partner, and voluntarily contributed funds in excess of 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.

## Expanding Partnerships

Recent changes to the Planning Assistance to States program allow greater flexibility in partnering with the Corps and States, Tribes, and U.S. Territories under the Planning Assistance to States program.

Non-Federal interests, including non-profit organizations or Tribal organizations, working with a State, Tribe, or U.S. Territory may partner with the Corps when preparing a Comprehensive Plan or supporting planning efforts through Planning Assistance to States technical assistance.

In addition, regional coalitions of governmental entities may partner in the development of water resources comprehensive plans.

## U.S. Territories

For the Planning Assistance to States program, the following U.S. Territories are recognized:

- The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Guam
- American Samoa
- The Virgin Islands
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
- The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

## 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.

This technical assistance may not include the preparation of site-specific designs or construction.

The Corps of Engineers may provide technical assistance to eligible State, Tribal, or U.S. Territory partners, including governmental

agencies and non-federal interests, in managing water resources. Technical assistance activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50 per cent) 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 (not in-kind).

## 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.

## 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>

Model partnership and cost-sharing agreements for PAS 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/](http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/templates_pas/)

# USACE Locations

