

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
FEMA Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) Update
Stand Alone Hazard Mitigation Plan
March 7, 2025



Background

The ITKN applied for Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) through FEMA's BRIC program in 2021. Being successfully awarded in 2022, this program was originally aimed at the Tribe's micro-grid initiatives. The FEMA team was very helpful in assessing the Tribe's needs, the current situation on the reservation, creating a thorough Benefit Cost Analysis, and assisting in applying for DOE Grant Funding.

Around this same time, 2022, the FEMA team asked about the Tribe's plans for Hazard Mitigation. ITKN had the option to create a standalone plan, but decided to continue under the State of Kansas' Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Current Situation

Since this is a three-year long grant program ending in 2025, a team from FEMA spoke with the grants team on site on March 7, 2024 to see how they can be useful with the time remaining. Specifically, they recommended reviewing the The Tribe's Hazard Mitigation plan, which expires September of 2024, and gave several options including entering into a stand-alone HMP. A FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan is required in order for the Tribe to receive non disaster funding from FEMA.

Using the FEMA team provided by the BRIC grant program, the Executive Committee has appointed a HMP committee to assist in the creation of an Iowa Tribe Standalone HMP. The FEMA team will be responsible for the bulk of the work (writing, research, etc.), but the appointed HMP committee will be called upon to provide insight into the needs, regulations, and considerations of the Tribe.

Recent Updates - 3/7/25

The Draft HMP has been completed by the HMP Committee, FEMA Support Staff, and FEMA Contractors. It has been reviewed and approved by the EC to be released to the public.

The next step in the HMP process is a public comment period in which ITKN tribal members, reservation community members, organizational partners, and government counterparts will have a chance to review the plan and make recommendations on how to improve its contents.

Once the public comment period is over, the HMP committee will oversee final edits before sending the document on to the EC and finally FEMA for approval and adoption.