



WASHINGTON DISASTER RESILIENCY WORKGROUP ASSIGNMENT #1

Statewide Resilience Activities

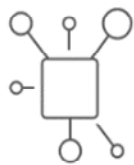
Agency Overview

The Washington State Department of Commerce's mission is to strengthen communities in Washington. The agency administers a diverse portfolio of [more than 100 programs](#) and several state boards and commissions, all focused on helping communities achieve positive growth. These programs touch every aspect of community and economic development through work with local governments, businesses, and civic leaders. Commerce has a very minimal regulatory role and most programs center on funding sustainable community growth and/or convening critical stakeholders, both public and private, to address many of the state's most pressing issues.

The agency's structure is comprised of 4 divisions responsible for program delivery and 1 administrative support division. The managers of each of these 5 divisions report to the director's office and form the organization's Executive Leadership Team. This team provides guidance and structure to the agency's enterprise programs and strategic vision. Commerce delivers programs in the following 8 areas:



HOUSING / HOMELESSNESS



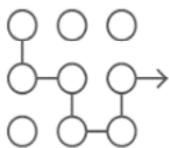
INFRASTRUCTURE



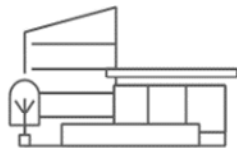
BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS / SAFETY



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Disaster Resilience Activities

Given the focus on strengthening communities, many of Commerce's programs inherently work towards increasing our communities' resilience to social, economic, and natural hazards. Given the scope of this assignment on **disaster resilience** activities, the following programs are noted:

Area	Action	Activity
Mitigation	Planning	Unreinforced Masonry Building Inventory: The Local Government Division hosts an online GIS database to collect and analyze information on unreinforced masonry buildings throughout the state. These structures are recognized to be a major life-safety threat during any seismic scenario. An ongoing project, greater investment is currently needed to ensure data quality and accuracy. The goal of this inventory is to provide policy makers a tool to guide seismic mitigation actions at the local, state and federal level.
		Local Hazard Mitigation Planning: Growth Management Services work with local governments throughout the state by providing technical assistance and guidance on community comprehensive planning. This assistance includes cross-walking local planning efforts with the state's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and overseeing the local designation and protection of geologically hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas.
	Funding	Community Hazard Mitigation: The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) provides financial assistance for hazard mitigation projects. One recent example: helping coastal communities move their buildings and infrastructure out of the tsunami inundation zone.
		Infrastructure and Community Facilities Funding Technical Assistance: The Local Government Division advises communities throughout the state on funding and technical assistance for developing infrastructure and essential services, including rural broadband – a key emergency communication resource for disaster response and recovery.
		Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP): Provides deferred loans to rural, low-income households that need repairs and improvements on their primary residence for health, safety, or durability. Funding for the loan program comes from the Washington State Capital Budget. Seismic mitigation projects are eligible under this program.
		Clean Energy Fund: Established in 2013, this fund supports development, demonstration and deployment of clean energy technology. It includes work on saving energy, reducing energy costs, reducing harmful air emissions, and increasing energy independence for the state. While the primary legislative intent of this fund is to advance and proliferate clean energy technologies throughout the state, it has an ancillary benefit to disaster resilience by modernizing infrastructure and promoting more sustainable energy systems.

Area	Action	Activity
Preparedness	Coordination/ Outreach	Resilient Outcomes Project: Commerce is exploring a framework that empowers program staff to understand the complexity of communities and the drivers that contribute to their resilience. Through this resilience framework, a work group is developing systems that help the agency look at these drivers with communities to assess the extent of their resilience, to identify critical areas of weakness, and to identify actions and programs within the department that improve community resilience in areas Commerce can influence.
	Planning	Small Business Crisis Planner and "Economic Gardening" Support: The Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness maintains tools for small businesses to assess their risk and create a business continuity plan, as well as grow their business to include business resilience goals.
Response	Coordination	State Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12 - Energy: The State Energy Office is the coordinating entity for ESF 12. This includes planning for and responding to all state disaster proclamations by advising the governor's office on energy emergencies, providing a framework for emergency fuel allocation, and coordinating energy infrastructure restoration during response and recovery operations.
Recovery	Coordination	Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF): The agency's Housing Assistance Unit leads statewide efforts to coordinate long-term housing issues following a major disaster. This includes: facilitating housing recovery discussions within the state Housing Task Force, performing a housing stock damage assessment, providing housing assistance/rent assistance by repurposing contracts, and granting waivers to remove income level restrictions for housing assistance.
		Emergency Public Works Loans: The Public Works Board makes available \$4 million for 20 year, low interest loans to political subdivisions that loses one or more essential services due to a natural disaster.
	Funding	Hazmat Disaster Cleanup Funding: The agency provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions, tribes, non-profits and businesses to leverage the Brownfields Revolving Loan Program to provide cleanup of contaminated "brownfield" sites.
		Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) - Disaster Recovery Assistance: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development administers the CDBG grant through Commerce in Washington state. When major disasters occur, Congress may appropriate additional funding for the CDBG program as Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and bring crucial seed money to stimulate the recovery process. Because CDBG funds a broad range of activities, CDBG Disaster Recovery assistance helps communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limits on other resources. Disaster Recovery grants supplement disaster programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
		Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Plan - Disaster Relief Plan: Provides, within the context of a presidential disaster declaration or gubernatorial emergency proclamation, a funding mechanism to address debris removal and reconstruction for qualified communities and individuals.