



# Introduction to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassador Curriculum



DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION  
Ambassador Curriculum

# Welcome!

**Edward A. Thomas, Esq.**



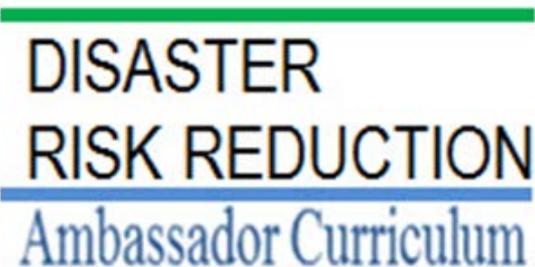
**Erin Capps, J.D.**



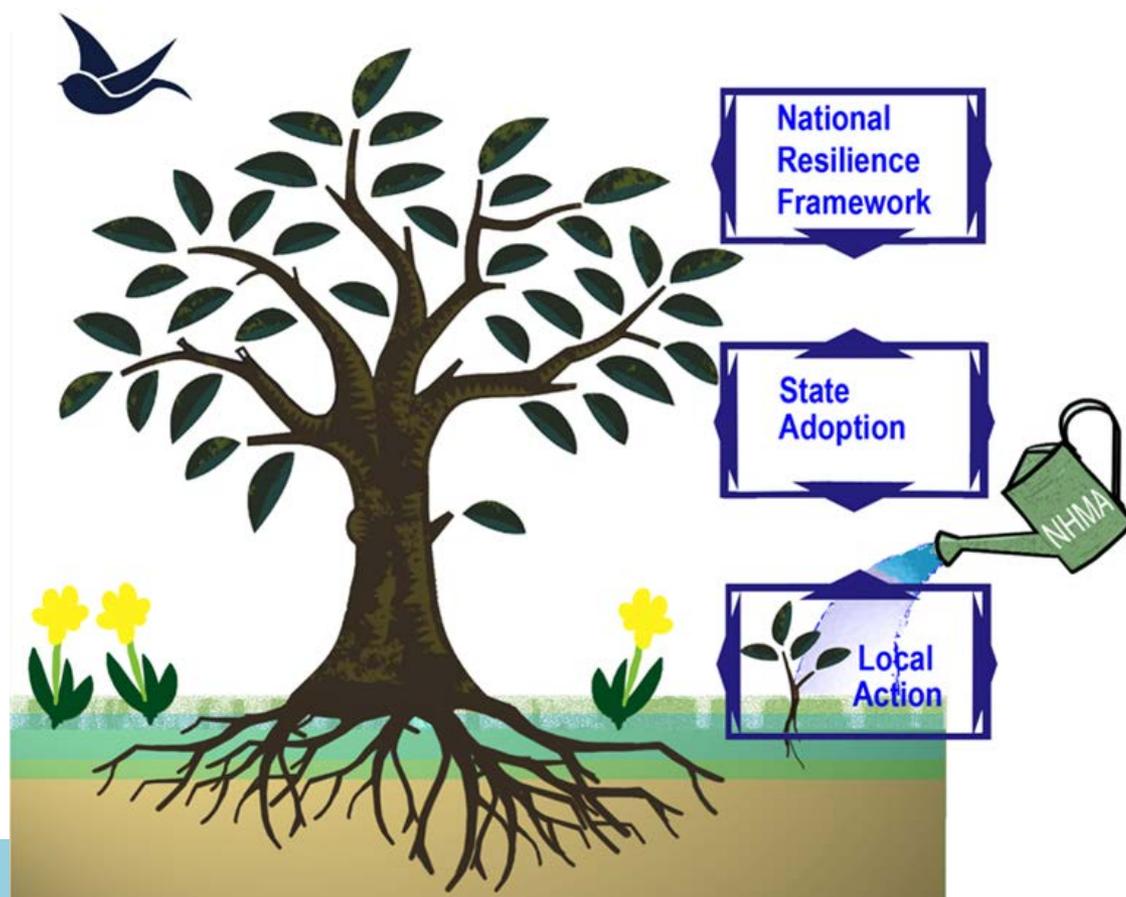
# Learning Objectives



- Name the local initiatives of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA)
- Describe the purpose of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassador Curriculum



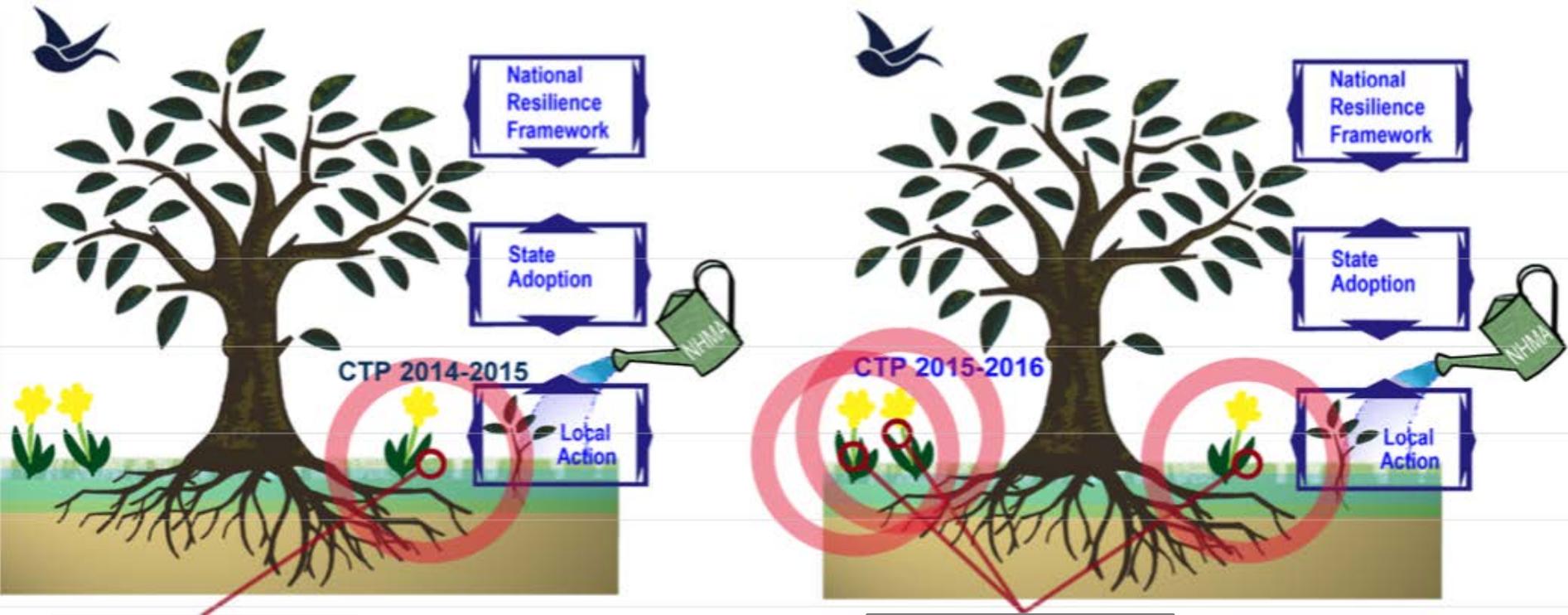
# Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA)



Created in 2008 to bring together individuals and organizations interested in

- **Hazard Mitigation**
- **Climate Adaptation**

# NHMA is a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) with FEMA



CTP 2014-2015

CTP 2015-2016

# NHMA Members



- Individuals and organizations
- Engineers, planners, practitioners
- Community officials

# NHMA



*"NHMA is a national organization of practitioners committed to natural hazard disaster risk reduction."*



**DEVELOP STRONG  
PARTNERSHIPS**

- Partner with public and private sectors in support of mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals
- Connect practitioners and leaders to facilitate effective cross-functional mitigation and adaptation practices

# NHMA



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duction



**PROMOTE EFFECTIVE  
PRACTICES**

- Identify, develop, and encourage best practices
- Provide user-friendly guidance to plan and implement long-term resilience strategies
- Promote awareness of social, economic, and environmental benefits of resilient development

# NHMA



*"NHMA is a national organization of practitioners committed to natural hazard disaster risk reduction."*



**FACILITATE EDUCATION  
& TRAINING**

- Create and disseminate technical information on natural hazard mitigation and climate adaptation
- Host webinars, training courses, and annual symposiums
- Reach out to and engage the community on hazard risk reduction

# NHMA



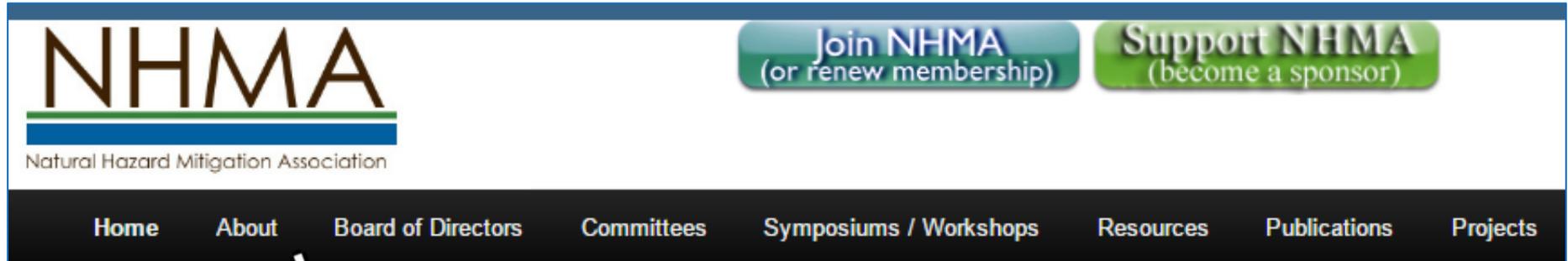
*"NHMA is a national organization of practitioners committed to natural hazard disaster risk reduction."*



**ADVOCATE FOR  
SOUND POLICY**

- Provide expertise to guide decision makers
- Identify techniques and tools to empower decision makers
- Support community, regional, state, and federal initiatives
- Work with insurance, code, energy associations for community resiliency

# NHMA Website



[click to visit website]

- Symposiums/Workshops
- Resources – Best Practices, Job Posting, Web Links
- Publications available for download
- Projects

# Four NHMA Local Initiatives



**A Patchwork Quilt Approach & The Living Mosaic**



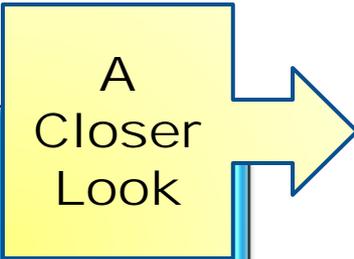
**Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN)**



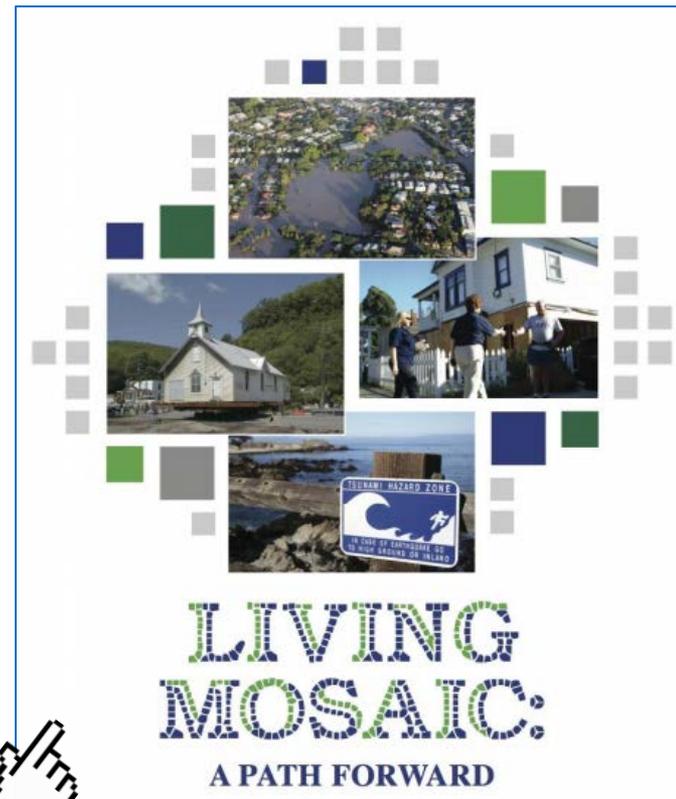
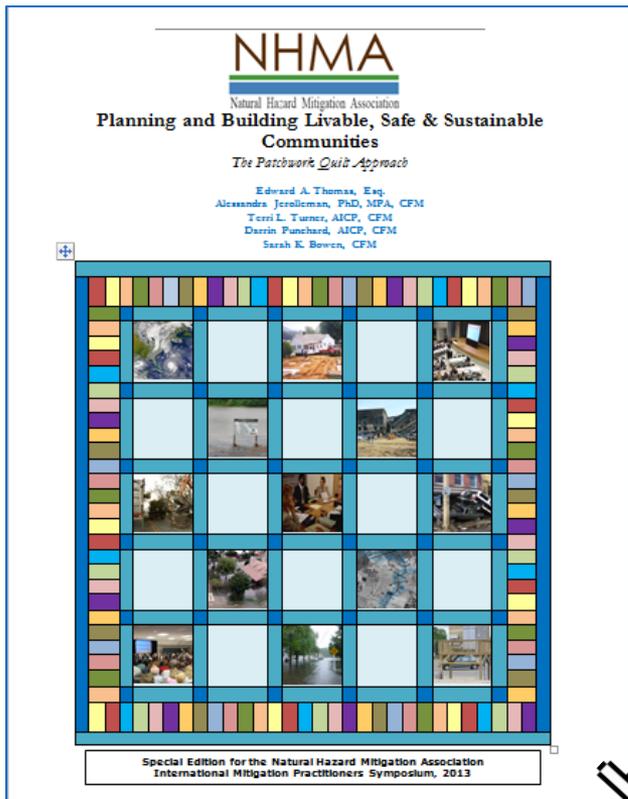
**Outreach to Traditional and Non-traditional Partners**



**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassador Curriculum**



# NHMA Local Initiatives: *The Patchwork Quilt Approach* and *The Living Mosaic*



[click to view documents]

# Next Generation of *The Patchwork Quilt Approach*



# NHMA Local Initiative: Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN)

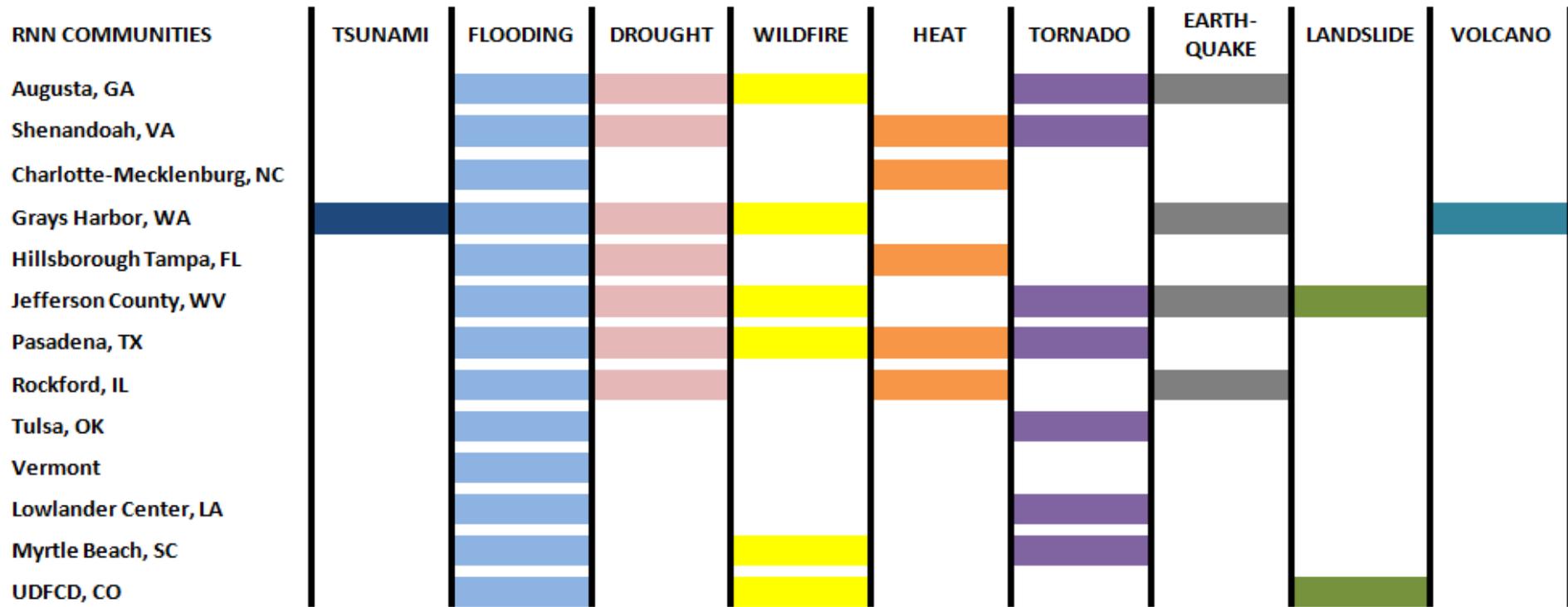
- Cornerstone of the NHMA
- Encourages peer-to-peer networking
- RNN website: [www.resilientneighbors.com](http://www.resilientneighbors.com)



[click to view website]

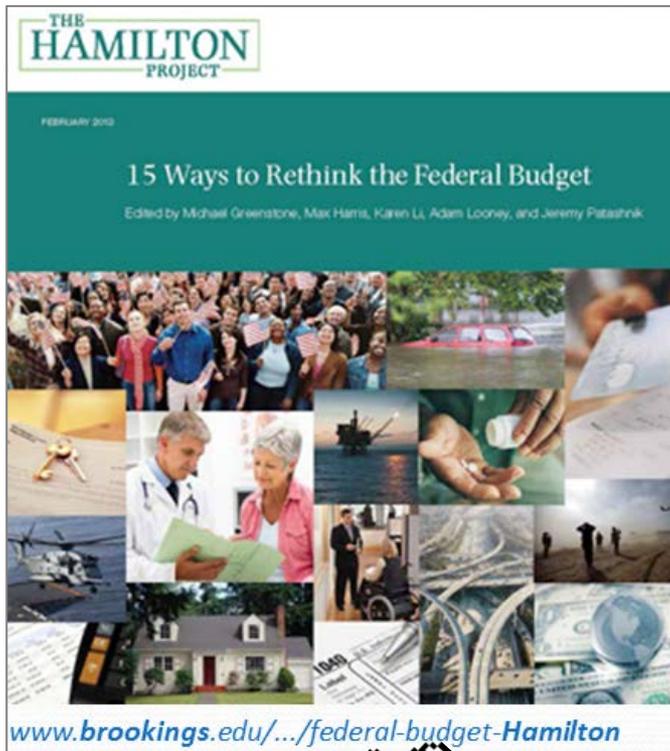
# Natural Hazard Risks Addressed by RNN Communities

Natural hazard risks that communities are expressly addressing in NHMPs and capital budgets



UDFCD = Urban Drainage and Flood Control District

# NHMA Local Initiative: Outreach to Traditional and Non-traditional Partners



[click to view report]

- The Brookings Institute
- National Institute of Building Sciences
- Reinsurance Companies
- Climate Change Community
- American Bar Association
- American Planning Association
- Universities: Clemson, Vanderbilt, Colorado-Natural Hazards Center, Columbia
- Kresge Foundation & Island Press
- National Institute of Standards and Technology

# How Do You Define Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)?



# Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- A **systematic approach** to identifying, assessing, and reducing the risks of disaster
- Aims to **reduce vulnerabilities** to disaster, utilizing knowledge and experience developed by the natural hazard community of professionals and practitioners
- DRR initiatives are **in every sector** of emergency management, planning and development, and humanitarian work

# NHMA Local Initiative: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassador Curriculum

- Focuses on supporting community leaders from the private and public sector to engage and lead community-level DRR dialogue by providing:



- Educational resources
- Self-study curricula
- Training workshops (First Pilot 2015)
- Webinars

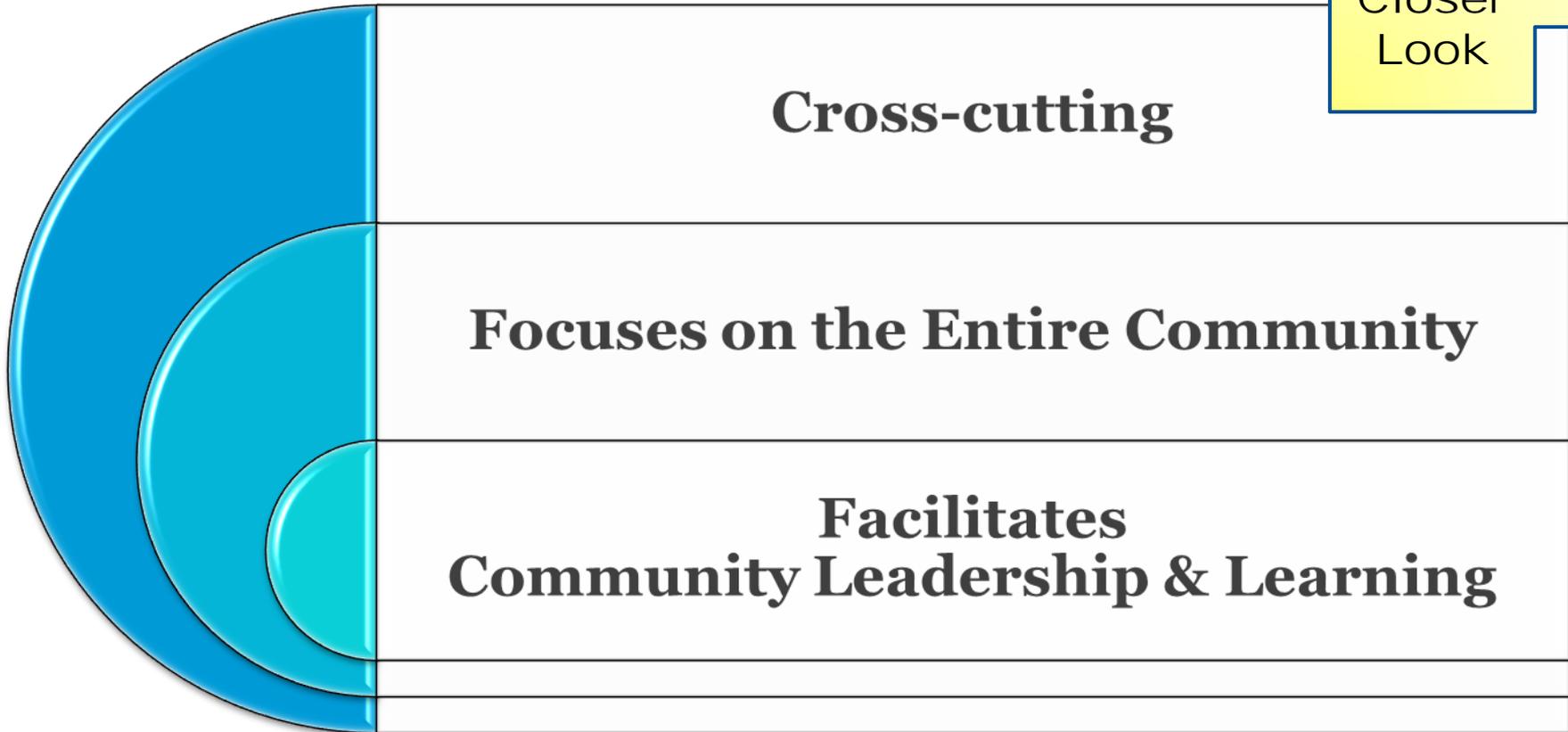
# What is an NHMA DRR *Ambassador*?

Individual in the private or public sector who:

- Completes the NHMA DRR Ambassador Curriculum, and
- Engages in a DRR initiative that is:
  - Recognized by their local community
  - Supported by collaboration with RNN communities, local partners, and national experts
  - Part of shared learning and action in disaster risk reduction/climate adaptation/hazard mitigation



# Aspects of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum



# Aspects of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)



- Multi-hazards
- Multi-disciplinary
- Part of the larger national and international efforts to support community resilience

# Aspects of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)



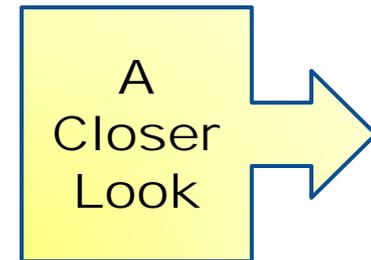
- Building local capacities and resources
- Guided by economic prosperity, social equity, and community safety and health

# Aspects of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)



- Measurable outcomes
- Adaptive to rapidly changing needs and opportunities

# DRR Ambassador Curriculum Categories



# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum

I DRR for a Safe and Prosperous Future	
1	Introduction to the NHMA and DRR Ambassador Curriculum
2	Introduction to DRR as a Foundation of Community Resilience
3	Leadership for DRR
4	Community DRR and Adaptation
5	Approaching the Challenge of DRR: NIST Community Resilience Guide

# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)

## II Forming a Community's Vision for DRR

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 6 | Risk Assessment through Storytelling: An Asset-Based Approach |
| 7 | Achieving Community Buy-in for DRR: Win-Win Approaches        |
| 8 | Leveraging Resources to Improve DRR                           |

# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)

III	<b>Realizable, Practical, and Affordable Approaches for Moving from a Vision for DRR to a Strategy</b>
9	Selecting and Implementing a Strategy for Addressing Community Disaster Risk Problems
10	Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning
11	Beyond Codes and Low-Impact Development
12	Creating the Plan: A Sustainable Floodplain Management Process Model

# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)

IV	Resources and Tools for Implementing a Community's DRR Strategy
13	Climate and Weather Tools and Trends
14	Risk Assessment Basics
15	Legal and Policy Opportunities for DRR
16	Linking Catastrophe Insurance to DRR

# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)

V	Resources for Hazard-Specific DRR
17	Living with Water: Inland and Coastal Flooding
18	Design for Flood Resilience, Part I: Floodplain Management and Flood Resistant Design
19	Design for Flood Resilience, Part II: Green Infrastructure / Low Impact Development
20	Overcoming Impediments to Flood Resilience: Paths Forward

# Modules of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum (cont.)

# Important Considerations as We Move Forward Together



Community development decision makers need to know where to start and how to proceed

- Provide **clear, consistent information** from multiple, various sources, distributed by diverse media sources frequently and over time
- Provide **specific, action-oriented information** on what to do before, during, and after a disaster
- Support and encourage **information sharing**

*Hide from the Wind: Tornado Safe Rooms in Central Oklahoma* (NHMA Report) and Dr. Dennis Mileti

# Important Considerations as We Move Forward Together



Assessing needs, accessing help, and identifying funding sources require creativity, vision, leadership, and time

Citizens can be:

- The leaders to create a **community leadership** in disaster risk reduction
- Crucial **support for elected, appointed leaders** that address disaster risk reduction

# Important Considerations as We Move Forward Together



**Any time** is the best time to **change development practices** from developing in a manner which will cause harm to individuals, businesses, the economy, and the environment

- To implementing a “**Do No Harm**” or “**No Adverse Impact**” approach, which emphasizes the need for **development** and a **sustainable future**

# Important Considerations as We Move Forward Together



- The best time to develop safely and properly is **before natural processes** cause devastation, which could have been **avoided with proper planning**
- As a community picks up the pieces after a disaster and begins to rebuild, there is a **window of opportunity**

# Join NHMA and Become a Disaster Risk Reduction Ambassador!

**Join NHMA**  
(or renew membership)

**Support NHMA**  
(become a sponsor)



Anyone interested in leveraging and advancing natural hazard mitigation at a professional level should consider joining and/or supporting the NHMA

# Thank You!



DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION  
Ambassador Curriculum

- **Questions and/or comments**
- **Contact information**

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