Planning Assistant for Resilient Communities (PARC) Pilot Project

Enable communities to leverage AI to develop effective, compliant Hazard Mitigation Plans.

PARC Overview

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is **exploring the application of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) for hazard mitigation planning** through the PARC pilot project.
- In collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Headquarters, FEMA is at the forefront of leveraging GenAI to **enhance the creation of** Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs). As **one of the three pilots** in the DHS AI Roadmap, the PARC project underscores DHS's commitment to using **cutting-edge technologies** to improve mission effectiveness.
- Regions II and VI, selected for their **diverse community characteristics and varying planning stages**, will serve as the initial pilot groups for PARC's ability to demonstrate tailored, innovative applications of GenAI.

Why PARC?

Communities are recognizing the urgent need to prioritize resilience and implement effective mitigation projects, prompting FEMA to explore innovative solutions that reduce the **burden on communities, enhance risk mitigation, and improve resilience**.

The growing capability and availability of GenAI offers FEMA an opportunity to partner with communities to test the application and effectiveness of GenAI as a tool to **reduce the burden and complexity of hazard mitigation planning.**

Local governments are required to have an approved HMPs to be eligible for FEMA assistance programs, such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which allocated over $3 billion in fiscal year 2023.

A successful pilot will streamline portions of HMP development using GenAI. Communities will have more time to focus on increasing the quality and impact of the HMP through public engagement and mitigation strategy development.

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Benefits of PARC

GenAI Tool Demonstration: Pilot communities are collaborating with FEMA to enhance hazard mitigation planning using PARC and other approved GenAI tools, supported by publicly accessible FEMA documents and HMPs.

Customized Mitigation Planning: Pilot communities will be leveraging the latest GenAI technology to integrate relevant demographic and environmental data to customize plans so that they are precise, effective, and tailored to unique local community needs.

Training Opportunities: Pilot communities will complete virtual AI Training and use Job Aids to deepen their understanding of AI, GenAI applications, and effective prompting techniques, with a focus on clear explanations of tool functionalities and limitations.

Insight and Experience: Pilot communities are gaining hands-on experience and knowledge on GenAI capabilities and a better understanding of the benefits and challenges of GenAI use by the broader State and Local emergency management community.

Responsible Use of AI

FEMA is dedicated to ethical AI use, with the PARC pilot adhering to DHS's Responsible Use Framework that includes **regular audits, transparent interactions, and clear terms**. Rigorous **data checks** and **human-in-the-loop** processes maintain the accuracy of outputs, while sustained transparency and stakeholder feedback promote reliable, fair, and unbiased AI tools.

Data Privacy

FEMA is committed to protecting data privacy in the PARC pilot. Strict security measures and stringent privacy protocols are in place to safeguard community data. The PARC pilot promotes **transparency, compliance with privacy laws, and regular performance checks** to maintain data integrity, reinforcing FEMA's ethical standards in AI applications.

Contact Information

To learn more about the PARC Pilot program, planners should contact the FEMA mitigation planner in their Region but may also contact State Hazard Mitigation Officers.

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