

# TSTAP Statement on Funding Cuts to the NTHMP



The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), a part of the National Weather Service’s Tsunami Program, is a coordinated U.S. federal, state, and territory effort to mitigate the impact of tsunamis through public education, community preparedness and mitigation activities, hazard assessment, and warning and response coordination.

Theme	Goals	Strategies
Hazard And Risk Assessment	Tsunami hazard assessments identify areas where risk-reduction planning is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and address gaps in tsunami source characterization and modeling</li> <li>Complete inundation and evacuation maps for all U.S. coastal communities</li> <li>Identify and address product requirements that support the maritime industry</li> </ul>
	Methods to characterize and communicate societal risks to tsunamis are developed and properly applied to support risk-reduction planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess population exposure, vulnerability, and evacuation potential to tsunami</li> <li>Support the development and appropriate use of tsunami loss-estimation methods and tools, such as Hazus and the National Risk Index</li> </ul>
Tsunami Education and Preparedness	At-risk populations are informed and prepared to respond appropriately to tsunamis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage public and private schools and institutions of higher learning</li> <li>Develop, update, and disseminate consistent outreach materials</li> <li>Conduct training and outreach events and campaigns</li> <li>Evaluate tsunami outreach and incorporate findings into future efforts</li> </ul>
	New TsunamiReady® sites are established and existing sites are maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize TsunamiReady® Communities</li> <li>Increase number of recognized TsunamiReady® Tier 2 Communities</li> <li>Increase number of designated TsunamiReady® Supporters</li> <li>Determine and promote best practices for tsunami risk-reduction</li> <li>Evaluate TsunamiReady® criteria and re-establish TsunamiReady® boards</li> </ul>
	Engage and support local efforts to improve tsunami preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct exercises that include tsunami scenarios to improve future response</li> <li>Promote effective planning for tsunami preparedness</li> </ul>

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Mitigation and Recovery	Mitigation and recovery strategies are developed for long-term community planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop guidelines and model practices for mitigation and recovery</li> <li>Develop resources and model practices for mitigation and recovery funding</li> <li>Support improvements to FEMA’s National Risk Index and RiskMAP</li> <li>Help building code developers incorporate best available science</li> <li>Incorporate non-seismic sources and long-term impacts of climate change on coastal communities into tsunami mitigation and recovery planning</li> </ul>
	Mitigation and recovery strategies are initiated and incorporated into long-term community planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement guidelines and model practices for mitigation and recovery</li> <li>Increase local stakeholder capacity for mitigation and recovery efforts</li> </ul>
Alert, Warning, and Response	Tsunami Warning Center products are understandable, effective, and actionable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide guidance to refine Tsunami Warning Center and state-level products</li> <li>Provide stakeholder requirements through the WCS</li> <li>Improve availability of products for underserved and vulnerable communities</li> <li>Support the National Weather Service Hazard Simplification Project</li> </ul>
	Warning forecast dissemination is effective and reliable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate periodic system-wide communication tests and encourage authorities to participate and provide feedback</li> <li>Dedicate outreach and exercise efforts for underrepresented communities</li> <li>Improve local warning reception capabilities</li> <li>Improve local warning dissemination capabilities</li> </ul>
	Tsunami response is effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and provide tools to enhance community-level response planning</li> <li>Align NTHMP partner alerting and response</li> <li>Collaborate with USGS on testing and consistent messaging of ShakeAlert earthquake messaging and tsunami alerting</li> </ul>
	Field data collection and communication efforts are coordinated after a tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and implement post-tsunami event protocols</li> <li>Exercise field data collection efforts locally, regionally, and nationally</li> </ul>

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- In April 2024 the TSTAP became aware that the NWS had informed NTHMP partners that one-third (\$2M of \$6M) of FY24 grant funding was being diverted to support the development of a common analytical system (CAS) for the two Tsunami Warning Centers (TWCs).
- The NWS indicated that this reduction in funding is set to continue into FY25 and possibly beyond.
- The NTHMP is vital to the end-to-end Tsunami Program.

## Areas of responsibility in NOAA/NWS's Tsunami Program

	Research	Detection	Forecasting	Warning	Mitigation	Resiliency	Preparation
NOAA-NWS	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	White
NTHMP State/Territory Programs	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
USGS	Blue	Blue	White	White	White	White	White
FEMA	White	White	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue

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- The 2021 TSTAP *Report and Recommendations Concerning Tsunami Science and Technology Issues for the United States* outlined eight overarching topical recommendations and 22 task-related sub-recommendations that addressed existing issues or gaps in NOAA's Tsunami Program.
- NOAA concurred in its response, that nearly half of the 22 recommendations should be addressed by or with the assistance of the NTHMP.



Tsunami devastation Sendai, Japan in 2011, LA Times. The U.S. faces similar large, local tsunami threats where state and local preparedness efforts, funded by NOAA-NTHMP grants, are most effective at protecting lives.

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The TSTAP believes that a reduction in NWS support to the NTHMP would:

- Reduce the capacity of the NTHMP to address the recommendations from the TSTAP's 2021 report.
- Reduce the capacity of NTHMP-funded partners to support NOAA's overall mission to protect people, property and critical infrastructure.
- Impact long-term continuity in life and safety measures, which are especially critical during catastrophic local-source tsunamis.
- Negatively impact NTHMP-led efforts in all aspects of NOAA's end-to-end tsunami program, including preparedness, education, and mitigation efforts.

# TSTAP Statement on Funding Cuts to the NTHMP

The TSTAP wishes to support the NTHMP and therefore has written a statement that recommends that the NOAA Administrator reconsider NOAA's decision to reduce support for the NTHMP and its partners in current and future fiscal years.