



CDEM Resilience Fund project application form

This form provides the minimum of information for the application; a detailed project plan should be developed to inform this application and may be attached.

Project title	Community Engagement Network
Date of application	20 February 2018
Details on application	
Applicant	Emergency Management Southland
CDEM Group/s affected	All CDEM Groups involved in community engagement
Other local authorities, Groups or organisations supporting this proposal	WREMO (Dan Neely), Hawkes Bay Emergency Management Group (Jae Sutherland), Christchurch Civil Defence Emergency Management (Emma Hunt),

Project description

Executive summary *[200 words maximum description]*

In order to help communities, prepare for adverse events, those working in Civil Defence need to engage effectively with individuals and groups within their region. The work undertaken by CDEM Groups in community engagement activities is essential in understanding the needs, resources, capabilities and vulnerabilities in our communities, pre, post and during an emergency. This work ensures that communities will be better prepared and more confident to respond when needed.

We are seeking funds to allow a working group to develop a community engagement network within CDEM Groups. Many CDEM Groups undertake community engagement work, and often do so in isolation and with varying results. While communities vary throughout the country, there are many similarities between our communities which are often overlooked. By working collaboratively, CDEM Groups will be able to increase their understanding of best practice, be exposed to new models, share the latest national and international research, discover new engagement tools and develop an understanding of how our local and national identity can be affected by emergencies and how that may affect recovery.

This fund will allow for a meeting of the core working group and two national workshops for those working in community engagement in CDEM. Not only will this lead to inter regional support and understanding, it will also allow a forum for subject matter experts to be brought in to ensure those in sector are using the latest engagement tools available.

Community engagement is valuable in reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities, and allows CDEM to work with and become a part of the communities they work and live in. This project will enable a community engagement network to be established to mentor, support and develop community engagement activities throughout all CDEM groups in New Zealand.

Challenge/opportunity *[200 words maximum description.]*

Central to everything we do in preparing for an emergency should be the well-being of people in our communities. Effective community engagement offers us the opportunity to work closely with our communities and understand what they need to stay safe during adverse events.

There are many approaches to community engagement being taken around the country. Many of the variances are due to differing levels of resourcing, experience, group/TA structure and understanding. This project will help encourage the use of best practice and enable practitioners to understand the lessons learnt from various regions including the work undertaken in many regions on CRP's, WREMO's hubs, Christchurch's work with CALD communities and Hawkes Bays centralisation of engagement through community champions.

To ensure existing community capability is supported, it is vital we understand our communities and that in turn they know who they can contact should they require additional support or information. Having

positive working relationships with a community will help ensure that when they are under times of additional stress, they trust information that is being shared with them and understand that authorities are working towards the best outcomes for their community. This will increase the opportunities to have open, frank constructive conversations.

Alignment with identified goals and objectives identified in the CDEM sector *[200 words maximum description.]*

The establishment of the Community Engagement network will support the Public Education Programme Strategy 2016-2019:

Encourage ownership:	By supporting communities and encouraging them to be part of the planning process
Make preparedness easy, relevant and real:	Engaging with communities to truly understand their strengths, assets, vulnerabilities and how they can help support their community
Reframe the question:	Encourage transparent conversations about potential impacts from hazards. Individuals and groups will understand and be empowered to take the necessary steps to protect their community.

Increased community engagement also aligns with the National CDEM Strategy including but not limited to:

1A: Increasing the level of community awareness and understanding of the risks from hazards:	Unlike public education, true community engagement develops the ability to undertake two way open conversations and provides an environment for fully transparent conversations.
1B: Improving individual, community and business preparedness:	By understanding the benefits of taking a whole of community approach to planning and engaging with individuals, groups and businesses which may be able to support a community during an adverse event.
3B: Enhancing the ability of CDEM Groups to prepare for and manage civil defence emergencies:	To coordinate an effective response, CDEM groups need to gain situational awareness, by having relationships with groups and individuals in communities, we will know who to contact and how. Groups will also know the capability and capacity in different communities in their region as these conversations will have occurred pre-event.

Dissemination of benefits to sector *[200 words maximum description.]*

Community engagement is undertaken in different ways throughout the country and many groups have effective engagement strategies in place. By establishing a Community Engagement working group of keen, experienced engagement practitioners we will be able to host workshops and forums to encourage the establishment of a wider network and share expertise with the sector. This will encourage increased community planning activities throughout the country and therefore a more prepared New Zealand.

Benefits include;

- understanding best practice, locally and internationally
- a more professional approach to working with communities
- the development of relationships between CDEM and the public
- improved communication channels, pre, during and post response
- increased understanding into recovery
- a network able to feedback to national planning around community concerns or needs
- collegial support for those new to community engagement

While some of this networking can be done through other methods such as teleconferences, it is often the work undertaken in a group session when real advances are made. Other networks which meet such as the Welfare Managers forums and NPERG are testament to this.

A report including a Best Practice Guide for Community Engagement will provide an effect tool for future reference for those undertaking community engagement in the sector.

The network will also be able to feed expert knowledge through to the National Disaster Resilience Strategy.

Project design

Project manager	Delia Riley
Other project members	Jae Sutherland, Emma Hunt, Dan Neely
External providers/contractors	

Deliverables

	Date for completion	Cost
Core group planning meeting	September 2018	\$900 travel costs
National two day workshop/forum - Wellington	November 2018	\$4500 travel costs \$3800 accommodation \$1250 Venue/catering/speaker costs
Second national two day workshop/forum - Wellington	April 2019	\$4500 travel costs \$3800 accommodation \$1250 venue/catering/speaker costs
Report including a "Best practice guide for Community Engagement in CDEM"	June 2019	Wages for time for writing and graphic design provided by EMS
Administration		Provided by EMS

Identified risks

Risks	Suggested management
Identification of success of the network	All members of wider network to be surveyed throughout the project to understand if the network is delivering valuable outcomes
Network ends at the end of the establishment project	Network continues in way which is manageable for members, and each group. To be developed through the initial year.

Funding request and use

CDEM resilience fund contribution	\$20,000
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Local authority/organisation contribution	Project management and administration provided by EMS. Report and best practice guide developed by EMS in conjunction with core membership group.		
Other sources of funding or support	Additional funding if needed by individual groups to cover costs of meals.		
Budget <i>[Please supply spreadsheet]</i>	See above		
Applies if application exceeds \$100,000 over the life of the project	Do you wish to attend a hearing in support of this application?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Application confirmation			
Approval of Chief Executive	<i>Angus G McKay</i>		
CDEM Group comment			
Fully support Community Engagement and the importance of identifying and promoting best practice.			