

Creating Value ...



... Delivering Solutions

Rapid Development of a Flood Acquisition Project

Decisions and Opportunities



Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
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Baker

What makes a “good” project?



- **Review of risk and/or previous damage caused by hazards, matched with an activity that produces a reasonable level of protection for the cost involved**

Benefits of Project Scoping

- **Helps establish that you're on the right track**
- **Develops alternatives that ensures the selected action is eligible and competitive**



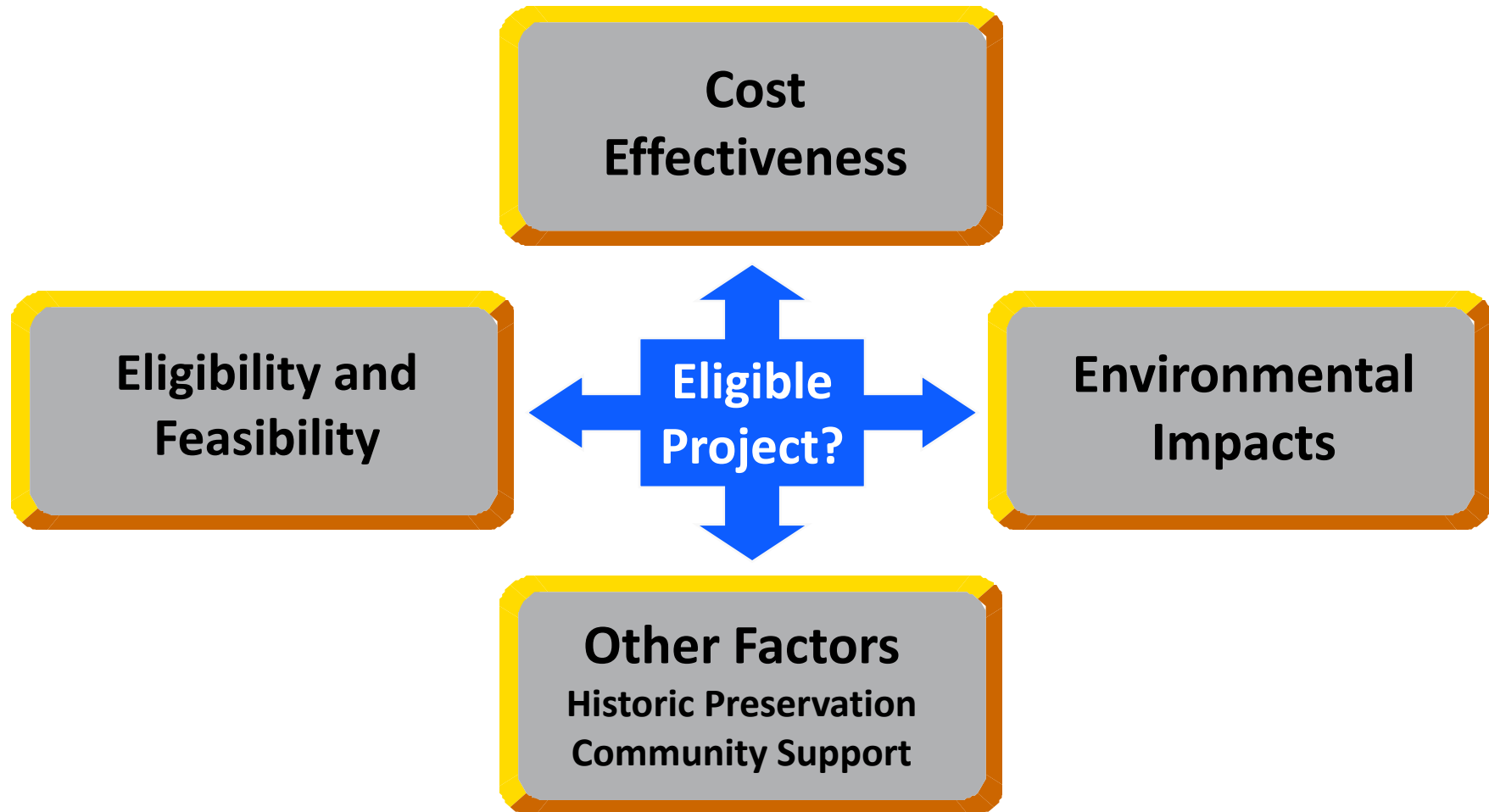
- **Allows you to “sync” your mitigation idea with the appropriate funding mechanism**

Initial Project Scoping

- **Use the best information available to identify:**
 - Vulnerable areas
 - Mitigation solutions and alternatives

- **Best information may include documents such as:**
 - Local hazard mitigation plan
 - Special studies and reports
 - Flood Insurance Rate Maps
 - Preliminary Damage Assessment Data

Scoping Components



Scoping “Project Eligibility”

- **Confirm that the project:**
 - Community has an approved local mitigation plan
 - Conforms with state and local mitigation plans
 - Meets all program-specific eligibility requirements
 - Independently solves a problem caused by hazards
 - Directly reduces damages

Scoping “Feasibility”

- **Project Effectiveness**
 - how well will the project reduce losses?
 - defined by the level of protection provided by the project

- **Since project effectiveness is generally linked to the level of design, some amount of conceptual engineering review will be required**

Scoping “Feasibility”

- **How will it mitigate the losses?**
- **What is the proposed and possible level of protection of mitigating the hazard?**
- **What will be the residual risk after mitigation?**
- **Can the project be constructed?**
- **What are the anticipated impacts of construction?**

Scoping “Cost Effectiveness”

- **Calculation of risk is based on frequency and severity of the hazard(s)**
- **Higher the frequency and severity, the higher the risk**
- **Projects that effectively mitigate high risk situations are usually cost-effective**
- **Cost effectiveness represents how often the investment of mitigation will produce a return**
- **Addresses expected and historical damages**

Scoping “Cost Effectiveness”

- **Accurate preparation of a BCA is a critical element of a project application**
- **Project subapplication BCR must be 1.0 or greater**
- **All data entries (other than FEMA standard or default values) MUST be documented in the application**
- **Data MUST be from a credible source**
- **Contact your SHMO about BCA technical assistance and training opportunities**

Scoping “Environmental Impacts”

- **What are environmental concerns of the project?**
 - Minor or negligible
 - Major (e.g. moving flooding problem downstream)
- **Can the project be permitted?**
- **Will environmental issues impact project design?**
 - Adjust cost estimate accordingly
- **Does environmental remediation need to be included in the project design?**
 - Adjust cost estimate accordingly

Scoping “Historic Preservation”

- **Structures over 50 years old require a historic preservation review**
- **Coordinate with the SHMO and SHPO**
- **May require actions such as recordation before demolition**
 - Adjust cost estimate accordingly
- **Scope the proper mitigation action for the structure**
 - Consider elevation or relocation vs. demolition

Scoping “Community Support”

- **Is the project acceptable to the community?**
- **Is the project acceptable to the jurisdiction’s legislative body?**
- **Are property owners interested in participating?**
- **Can the community, State or property owner supply the local match?**
- **Can the community manage the project?**
- **Does the community have the necessary technical resources to develop and implement the project?**
- **Is the community willing and able to maintain the implemented measure?**

Scoping Summary

- **By using a scoping and selection process, you can confirm that you have a good project, or eliminate a poor project early in the process**
- **Next step is to clearly and completely articulate how you have established a good project through application development**
- **The comparison of alternatives should be documented and you should have a complete decision making process outlined**

Available Funding Sources

- **Federal programs such as HMGP, PDM, FMA, RFC, SRL**
 - Consult with your SHMO on the best funding source for your project

- **Local programs**
 - General or capital funds
 - Revolving loan funds
 - CDBG Funds Pass Through
 - Utility taxes (e.g. stormwater)
 - Property owner responsibility
 - In-Kind
 - Project management
 - Labor, equipment, materials

Important Considerations for Project Application Development

- **Coordinate with your SHMO early in the process**
- **Assume the reviewer does not know anything about your area/region and may never be able to visit the project site**
- **Most of the information used to evaluate alternative projects will be needed in the application**
- **Fully describe the results of the project's decision making process**
- **Read the program guidance carefully and provide information accordingly**
- **Begin preparing the environmental work early in the process**

Typical Application Shortcomings

- **Project is not eligible under the respective program**
- **Scope-of-work is inadequate, too little detail, descriptions unclear, key data missing, poor quality photographs, no supporting maps/diagrams**
- **Not a well-developed, well-screened project**
 - Addressed a “nuisance” issue rather than a real property threat
 - Risk was not high enough
 - Mitigation measure did not provide adequate protection
 - Cost of measure was too high for level of protection provided
- **Supporting documentation/detail was incomplete, inaccurate, and/or not credible**

Summary

- **Well-prepared applications do not always mean you have an eligible and competitive project**
 - The best prepared application will not be successful if the project is not feasible and effective in mitigating the hazard(s) identified
- **Effective project identification, scoping, and screening is essential**
- **Start early!**
- **Not all mitigation activities are eligible for FEMA funding. A project may be a high community priority but just not the right fit under FEMA HMA programs**