Break-out Group #1: Top-Down Strategies for Integrated Recovery

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1. Who should be responsible for integrating disaster recovery?
2. What are the barriers to the integration of disaster recovery?
3. What are the next steps?
Who should be responsible for integrating disaster recovery?

Federal government agency(s) with a mandate to support the short- and long-term recovery efforts of local and regional government.
What are the barriers to the integration of disaster recovery?

• Multiple federal agencies have the responsibility for providing recovery support after a major disaster; however, these efforts coordinated to take advantage of obvious overlaps, and are we sure that the integration meets the highest needs of a community

• Balancing short- and long-term term recovery strategies

• Inadequate funding after catastrophic events affecting the US, and before

• Recovery is a multi-dimensional process

• Recovery is often viewed as a natural hazard issue; should also include manmade threats

• Current emphasis of federal agencies is on response and not recovery

• Notion of distrust of “top- down” approaches by those below
What are the next steps?

- Change the mindset of recovery, i.e., support the notion of pre-event planning in order to mitigate post-event effects
- Create capacity at a local level to engage pre-event and post-event activities that will support more effective recovery planning; enhance the current infrastructure – Federal government is a key partner
- Create a more effective institutional base for establishing post-event funding strategies that are based on intelligent, risk-based pre-event planning, e.g., block grants
- Tie in with other effective federal agency programs, e.g., block grants
- Legislation that encourages an innovative use of reinsurance to provide a back-stop for local and state governments
- Modify Stafford act or enact other appropriate legislature (allow/mandate) to allow for recovery planning activities and funding that are not currently allowed.