

Recommending Social Science Projects

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Proposed Project

A key project that would involve social scientists working with engineers and seismologists would be developing strategies for encouraging property owners to invest in cost-effective loss reduction measures and the role insurance can play in the process.

Data Needs and Questions:

- Regions/communities for focused case study (e.g. CA community; New Madrid fault community—e.g. Memphis)
- Cost data on alternative mitigation measures for specific structures
- Expected benefits from these measures for earthquakes of different magnitudes (including the likelihood of their occurrence)
- Role of Building Rating System for providing guidelines and seals of approval
- Designing building codes and standards that are well-enforced
- Tax incentives for encouraging adoption of mitigation measures
- Role insurance can play in providing economic incentives for mitigation
- Designing long term contracts (e.g. 10 year earthquake insurance policies; long term loans for mitigation)
- Role that CAPS can play?