

SECTION 4 - CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES

Performing a Capability Assessment is one step of a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan update. A mitigation planning Capability Assessment consists of taking an in-depth look at community mechanisms (such as plans, codes, ordinances, staffing, etc.) that can affect hazard mitigation activities. Performing the Capability Assessment helps communities identify the regulatory, administrative, technical, and fiscal capacities and capabilities of their jurisdiction and consider ways that these tools can be used to further hazard mitigation and disaster resiliency goals.

Capability Assessments were undertaken by each participating jurisdiction as part of the development of the initial Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2010, and its first update in 2016. In both cases, the consultant (URS/AECOM) distributed worksheets¹ to the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Core Planning Group members in order to document local assessments of capabilities. The worksheets requested information pertaining to existing plans, policies, and regulations that contribute to or conflict with the community's ability to implement hazard mitigation actions. They also requested information pertaining to the legal and regulatory capability, technical and administrative capacity, and fiscal capability of each jurisdiction. During the 2016 Plan Update, each JAT also provided an assessment of their overall legal and regulatory, technical and administrative, and fiscal capabilities; and then identified opportunities for bridging recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals. All locally provided assessments were incorporated by the consultant into this section of the plan, and copies of local worksheets were provided in previous plan annexes.

This same process was used for the 2021 Plan Update Capability Assessment. Each JAT was asked to review their prior feedback from the 2016 Plan, and identify any changes that have occurred since that time. Each JAT either: (a) reviewed their prior feedback and certified that all information previously provided was still current and relevant, or (b) reviewed their prior feedback and provided markups to the consultant noting any changes in capabilities that have occurred during the most recent plan maintenance window since the prior update (2016 to 2021). Each jurisdiction documented the reassessment of their respective capabilities on Worksheet 4 – Capability Assessment Update. The consultant used worksheet responses to update this plan section to reflect each jurisdiction's assessment of their current capabilities. Capability assessment updates for each jurisdiction are included in **Section 9 – Jurisdictional Annexes**.

This section describes the activities currently reported to be underway which contribute to, or can be utilized for, hazard mitigation. This assessment of local jurisdictional capabilities also emphasizes various technical and financial resources available at the State and Federal levels, which can be accessed by plan participants in order to effectively implement their respective jurisdictional hazard mitigation programs.

¹ During the initial plan development process, URS distributed FEMA's Capability Assessment Worksheet to each jurisdiction ("Worksheet Job Aid #2: Local Hazard Mitigation Capabilities", as included in the FEMA How-To #3 *Developing the Mitigation Plan*, online at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1521-20490-5373/howto3.pdf>).

Capabilities and Resources – Atlantic County and Participating Jurisdictions

Legal and Regulatory Capabilities

Atlantic County and its incorporated jurisdictions have several policies, programs, and capabilities, which help to prevent and minimize future damages resulting from hazards (**Table 4.1**)². These tools are valuable instruments in pre- and post-disaster mitigation as they facilitate the implementation of mitigation activities through the current legal and regulatory framework. The checkbox (☑) indicates that the local government reported to have that particular code, ordinance, or plan in place as of 2021. In New Jersey, each community is required to enforce a building code and have a master plan and capital improvements plan.

Table 4.1 - Jurisdictional Legal and Regulatory Capabilities															
Jurisdiction	Building Code	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision Ordinance	Special Purposes Ordinance	Growth Management Ordinance	Site Plan Review Requirements	Comprehensive/Master Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Development Plan	Emergency Response Plan	Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	Real Estate Disclosure Ordinance	Evacuation Plan	Overall legal and regulatory capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies*
Atlantic County			☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	L
Absecon City of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	H
Atlantic City, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	H
Brigantine, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		M
Buena Vista, Township of	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑		☑				☑	M
Buena, Borough of	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	L
Corbin City, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		L
Egg Harbor City, City of	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	M
Egg Harbor, Township of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	H
Estell Manor, City of	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑			☑				☑	M
Folsom, Borough of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑				☑	L
Galloway, Township of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑					H
Hamilton, Township of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	H
Hammonton, Town of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	M
Linwood, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	H
Longport, Borough of	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	H
Margate City, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	H
Mullica, Township of	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	M
Northfield, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	H
Pleasantville, City of	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	H

² A description of each legal and regulatory capability that was considered can be found in **Appendix 4.1**.

Table 4.1 - Jurisdictional Legal and Regulatory Capabilities

Jurisdiction	Building Code	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision Ordinance	Special Purposes Ordinance	Growth Management Ordinance	Site Plan Review Requirements	Comprehensive/Master Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Development Plan	Emergency Response Plan	Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	Real Estate Disclosure Ordinance	Evacuation Plan	Overall legal and regulatory capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies*
Port Republic, City of	■	■	■			■	■	■		■	■			■	M
Somers Point, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					M
Ventnor City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	H
Weymouth, Township of	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■				■	M

* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The ability of a local government to develop and implement mitigation projects, policies, and programs is contingent upon its staff and resources. Administrative capability is determined by evaluating whether there are an adequate number of personnel to complete mitigation activities. Similarly, technical capability can be evaluated by assessing the level of knowledge and technical expertise of local government employees, such as personnel skilled in surveying and Geographic Information Systems.

Table 4.2 provides a summary of the administrative and technical capabilities currently in place in each participating jurisdiction as of 2021. The checkbox (■) indicates that the local government reported that they maintain a staff member with responsibility for the listed function.

Note: The following municipalities did not report having a Floodplain Manager in Worksheet 4, but did record the name of the Floodplain Manager for their municipality in Worksheet 2 (NFIP):

- Estell Manor
- Northfield
- Pleasantville

Table 4.2 - Administrative and Technical Capability Inventory

Jurisdiction	Planner(s) with knowledge of land development and management practices	Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and management practices	Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and management practices	Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Planner(s) or engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human caused hazards	Floodplain manager	Surveyors	Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	Personnel skilled in GIS and/or HAZUS	Scientists familiar with the hazards of the community	Emergency Manager	Code Enforcement Official	Public Works or Highway Superintendent	Emergency Management Coordinator	Overall technical capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies*	Overall administrative capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies*
Atlantic, County of	■	■	■	■	■	■***	■	■	■	■***	■			■	H	M
Absecon**, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	H
Atlantic City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■		■	H	H
Brigantine, City of			■	■	■	■	■	■			■				M	M
Buena Vista, Township of			■	■	■	■					■				L	L
Buena, Borough of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	L	L
Corbin City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	L	L
Egg Harbor City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	M	M
Egg Harbor, Township of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	H
Estell Manor, City of		■	■	■	■		■				■	■	■	■	M	M
Folsom, Borough of	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	L	L
Galloway, Township of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	H	H
Hamilton, Township of	■	■	■	■	■	■		■			■	■	■	■	H	H
Hammonton, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	H	M
Linwood, City of		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	H
Longport, Borough of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	M/H	H
Margate City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	H
Mullica, Township of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	M	M
Northfield, City of	■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■	M	L
Pleasantville, City of	■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■	■	■	■	H	H
Port Republic, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	M	M
Somers Point, City of			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M	M
Ventnor City, City of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	H	H
Weymouth, Township of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■	■	■	M	M

* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

*** The County Department of Regional Planning has depth of staff in biologic and hydrologic sciences that perform a significant amount of work in conjunction with Engineering/Planning.

Fiscal Capabilities

The ability of a local government to implement mitigation activities is also associated with the funding available for policies and projects. Funding for such initiatives is often locally based revenue and financing, as well as outside grants. Costs associated with mitigation activities range from staffing and administrative costs to the actual cost of the mitigation project. **Table 4.3** provides a summary of the fiscal capabilities currently in place in each participating jurisdiction as of 2021. The checkbox (☐) indicates that the financial resource was reported to be available in the local jurisdiction for mitigation purposes.

Table 4.3 - Jurisdictional Fiscal Capabilities											
Jurisdiction	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Capital Improvements Project Funding	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas, or Electric Service	Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers for New Developments/Homes	In cur Debt through General Obligation Funds	In cur Debt through Special Tax and Revenue Bonds	In cur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	Withhold Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas	Other (i.e. coastal, sustainability, or climate change initiatives; or Brownfield funds)	Overall fiscal capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies*
Atlantic County	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐		☐		M
Absecon, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐	H
Atlantic City, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	M
Brigantine, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐		M
Buena Vista, Township of	☐	☐	☐			☐	☐				L
Buena, Borough of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					L
Corbin City, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	L
Egg Harbor City, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐			☐		L
Egg Harbor, Township of	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐			☐	M
Estell Manor, City of	☐	☐									L
Folsom, Borough of	☐	☐	☐			☐					L
Galloway, Township of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				☐	H
Hamilton, Township of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐		H
Hammonton, Town of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			☐		M
Linwood, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				H
Longport, Borough of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				H
Margate City, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐				☐	H
Mullica, Township of	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐				☐	M
Northfield, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐							M
Pleasantville, City of			☐	☐		☐					L
Port Republic, City of	☐	☐	☐			☐	☐				M
Somers Point, City of	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		M
Ventnor City, City of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	M
Weymouth, Township of	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐				M

* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

Conclusion

This capability assessment finds that Atlantic County and its participating jurisdictions which submitted completed capability assessment worksheets collectively have a significant level of legal, technical, and fiscal tools and resources necessary to implement hazard mitigation strategies. As shown in the preceding tables, legal and regulatory capabilities to implement hazard mitigation strategies were considered to be moderate to high in 20 of 24 jurisdictions. Similarly, technical capabilities were also considered to be moderate to high in 20 jurisdictions; and administrative capabilities were considered to be moderate to high in 19 jurisdictions. Fiscal capabilities to implement hazard mitigation strategies were considered to be moderate to high by fewer respondents (17 of 24 jurisdictions). Finally, 23 of 24 jurisdictions considered their political leadership’s willingness to enact policies and programs that reduce hazard vulnerabilities as moderate or high - even if met with opposition. Each jurisdiction also considered ways of improving their capabilities to ensure that they are in-line with their mitigation actions and goals. Local responses are provided in **Table 4.4**. This table also shows that municipalities have identified opportunities to bridge recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals.

Table 4.4 - Opportunities for Improving Local Capabilities

Jurisdiction	Overall Legal & Regulatory Capability	Overall Technical Capability	Overall Fiscal Capability	Overall Admin Capability	Overall Level of Political Willingness	Locally identified opportunities to bridge recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in-line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals
Atlantic County	L	H	M	M	H	State regulatory structure (home rule), requires revision to empower counties to enact regional mitigation planning.
Absecon, City of	H	H	H	H	H	The City of Absecon aggressively pursues every avenue relevant to the safety of the citizenry and property especially in terms of potential flooding from either tidal or fresh water. In conversation with the NJ State Office of Emergency management, who met with our Mayor, it was deemed appropriate that our classification that was marked as "moderate" for the above categories should have been rated "high" through the efforts of our scrutiny of the potential flooding the outreach efforts not only in our own community but statewide.
Atlantic City, City of	H	H	M	H	H	The City of Atlantic City continues to pursue grant funding at the State and Federal level to implement hazard mitigation projects. Our ongoing partnerships with FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, NJDEP and the County of Atlantic are vital to obtaining the funding and resources needed to implement our mitigation projects. The City of Atlantic City intends on bridging the gaps in our local capabilities by educating all the departments involved with pre and post disaster mitigation to ensure the goals and objectives of the hazard mitigation plan are met. This will include establishing points of contacts and liaisons that can coordinate between the different departments to ensure pre and post disaster mitigation procedures are completed properly and not duplicated.
Brigantine, City of	M	M	M	M	M	We have a good working relationship with all members of council, department heads and other NGO entities. As items arise (such as the need to raise the normal 1 st floor elevation, all parties are brought into the discussion to forge the solution. If additional people (i.e.; divisions within the city), employees are given the task or a consultant is brought on board. PPI committee has enabled city officials as well as hired consultants to get real time information from the public. The learned information can then be applied to any ongoing projects
Buena Vista, Township of	M	L	L	L	H	Buena Vista Township is a small municipality with limited resources and limited development and economic growth due to Pineland Commission regulations. The Township has both volunteers and staff to complete tasks in order to follow the NFIP standards. On a regulatory basis, the Township is not active in floodplain management with ordinances exceeding minimum requirements. We rely heavily on financial assistance from outside agencies to implement hazard mitigation strategies and related capital improvement projects. The tax base suffers significantly when the Township is hit by a natural disaster.
Buena, Borough of	L	L	L	L	H	A collaborative approach when developing the updated hazard mitigation plan will be the primary method of identifying goals and bridging gaps within the town. Bringing all stakeholders together will allow for mutual conversation to occur.
Corbin City, City of	L	L	L	L	L	Will continue to monitor and work on beach stabilization.
Egg Harbor City, City of	M	M	L	M	M	Council is not usually afraid to enact policies they feel are in the best interest of the City even if residents voice opposition. City actively pursues grant funding for needed

Table 4.4 - Opportunities for Improving Local Capabilities						
Jurisdiction	Overall Legal & Regulatory Capability	Overall Technical Capability	Overall Fiscal Capability	Overall Admin Capability	Overall Level of Political Willingness	Locally identified opportunities to bridge recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in-line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals
						improvements since have limited budget.
Egg Harbor, Township of	H	H	M	H	H	Employing a Community Rating System for discount to flood insurance policies.
Estell Manor, City of	M	M	L	M	M	Specifically regarding the City of Estell Manor’s ability to implement Hazard Mitigation, from the perspective of our fiscal capability, the city is a community with very limited ability to take in revenue. We rely on residential properties limited to develop ratables. Properties: our 54 SQ miles is 65% state-owned and we receive limited grant monies from this. We also are host to the county (Atlantic). This is a significant constraint from our fiscal ability to dedicate toward Hazard Mitigation impact areas identified above as moderate as well as many other areas of concern identified throughout all areas of the work sheets regarding Hazard Mitigation.
Folsom, Borough of	L	L	L	L	H	By including public works as well as ongoing public discussions we will be able to know of any existing and emerging hazards. Through ordinance and resolution and to bring in outside resources for technical capabilities.
Galloway, Township of	H	H	H	H	H	All capabilities deemed to be currently in-line with our mitigation actions and goals.
Hamilton, Township of	H	H	H	H	H	All capabilities deemed to be currently in-line with our mitigation actions and goals.
Hammonton, Town of	M	H	M	M	H	Inform M&C of identified possible gaps in capabilities; provide time for training in areas identified; inform staff of the County GIS assistance and capabilities; and work with professionals regarding areas of hazard.
Linwood, City of	H	H	H	H	H	Linwood is committed to complying with all FEMA flood requirements.
Longport, Borough of	H	M/H	M	H	H	Our flood hazard mitigation plan consists of seven priorities with 68 site-specific objectives. To date, 65% have been completed. We have done an outstanding job getting homes elevated and/or built higher and out of harm’s way. We have completed some kind of initial projects incorporated. Beach side storm water outfall pipe extensions, rock revetment 22-17 th or Atlantic Ave. Stormwater pump 33 rd and Atlantic replacement bulkheads. Where we are currently lacking is protection and/or elevation of critical facilities – fire department and borough hall. Currently working on initial plans to elevate heating/mechanical equipment above 500 year level. Current goal to do a feasibility study for public works for their building/equipment/wells and pumping stations. But no money allocated to date for study. Any grants available? As noted above the majority of our previous “Hazard Mitigation Plan have been met. Over the past 5 years the utilities within Borough Hall and the Fire Department have been elevated to a 500 year level. We are currently looking at/planning for mitigating flood concerns at our other critical facilities, like the Public Works Complex. The Borough Engineer is working on short term-long term capital improvement projects for those facilities as well as nuisance flooding and hardening our infrastructure. THE PROBLEM – in order to accomplish our mitigation goals it will take millions of dollars

Table 4.4 - Opportunities for Improving Local Capabilities						
Jurisdiction	Overall Legal & Regulatory Capability	Overall Technical Capability	Overall Fiscal Capability	Overall Admin Capability	Overall Level of Political Willingness	Locally identified opportunities to bridge recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in-line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals
						that I do not think can be locally supported! We need to stay on top of and continue to apply for Federal Funding. <i>(See also the Longport Jurisdictional Annex for additional information provided on Worksheet 4)</i>
Margate City, City of	H	H	H	H	H	Leadership will act accordingly to prohibit negligent construction. Media such as websites, newspaper, tax bills, or water bill inserts. Community outreach lectures on flood warnings and proper flood construction methods.
Mullica, Township of	M	M	M	M	M	Additional public awareness education. Continue our outreach to members of town committee as well as members of the community. Their input will help guide us moving forward. Speak with public works Foreman as well as fire chiefs to ensure we are prepared for future events. I will also speak with my local township council in reference to allocating funds to continuing the funding of any of our mitigation plans.
Northfield, City of	H	M	M	L	H	None noted.
Pleasantville, City of	H	H	L	H	M	Have better communications with neighboring towns' floodplain teams and engineers. On state side, working to fix both sides of the street instead of just one side, for example accessibility easier to DEP and EPA, with FEMA being on same page.
Port Republic, City of	M	M	M	M	M	Opportunities that could bridge recognized gaps in capabilities to ensure that they are in-line with jurisdictional mitigation actions and goals include assessment of actions and goals on an ongoing basis in order to keep the hazard mitigation plan updated. This includes updating ordinances and plans as well as seeking grant funding.
Somers Point, City of	M	M	M	M	M	The City of Somers Point continues to evaluate mitigation actions for public facilities, fleets and equipment deemed necessary to build local resilience and recovery into the Municipal Budget on an annual basis. The City will continue to evaluate and update the City Code to ensure compliance with the latest FEMA flood requirements and best practices. The City will coordinate with neighboring communities and additional governmental entities in order assist with equipment sharing and mutual aid assistance to identify beneficial synergies that may exist.
Ventnor City, City of	H	H	M	H	H	Reaching out to County and State officials to remedy some community issues. Looking for grant money. Use tax money for hazard mitigation. Increase staffing to assist with outreach and mitigation.
Weymouth, Township of	M	M	M	M	H	Weymouth Township, although small, has a competent staff of professional Engineers, Planners and persons working in the Land Use area. As a Pinelands "No Growth" zone, in the major portion of the municipality, we have very little development and what development there is, is highly controlled by development ordinances and Pinelands restrictions

Capabilities and Resources – State of New Jersey

The 2019 State Plan includes an updated evaluation of the State’s overall pre- and post-hazard mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities; the policies related to development in hazard prone areas; and the State’s funding capabilities. The Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan incorporates many of the resources identified in the State Plan to demonstrate the capabilities present for local jurisdictions to consider in the development of local hazard mitigation. It provides an overview of these funding sources, potential availability, applicability of pre- or post- disaster requirements, and the type of funding that is available.

2019 State Plan Capability Assessment. New Jersey’s state-level capabilities are summarized in the 2019 State Plan in Section 6.2 from page 6-5 to page 6-60. http://ready.nj.gov/mitigation/pdf/2019/mit2019_section6_Mitigation_Strategy.pdf Please refer directly to the State Plan for more information, as the volume of even the summary table of these capabilities is too extensive to reproduce here.

This capability assessment finds that the State of New Jersey’s various departments collectively have a significant level of legal, technical, and fiscal tools and resources necessary for implementation of State hazard mitigation strategies, and to support local municipalities in their mitigation endeavors as well.

Capabilities and Resources - Federal

At the Federal level, resources and capabilities to support hazard mitigation and mitigation planning are also quite extensive.

FEMA has developed a large number of documents that address implementing hazard mitigation at the local level. Key resource documents are briefly described here.

Local Mitigation Planning Handbook. This handbook is the official guide for local governments to develop, update and implement local mitigation plans. While federal requirements have not changed, the Handbook provides revised and expanded guidance, offering practical approaches, tools, worksheets and local mitigation planning examples for how communities can engage in effective planning to reduce long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters. The Handbook can be found on the FEMA web site at: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-local-mitigation-planning-handbook_03-2013.pdf

Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards, January 2013. The purpose of this document is to provide a resource that communities can use to identify and evaluate a range of potential mitigation actions for reducing risk to natural hazards and disasters. The focus of this document is mitigation, which is action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to hazards. Ideas for mitigation actions are presented for the following natural hazards: drought, earthquake, erosion, extreme temperatures, flood, hail,

landslide, lightning, sea level rise, severe wind, severe winter weather, storm surge, subsidence, tornado, tsunami, and wildfire. This resource can be found on the FEMA web site at:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-mitigation-ideas_02-13-2013.pdf

Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials. The purpose of this document is to provide succinct and practical information to local government officials on how to best integrate hazard mitigation into the full range of community planning activities. It is intended for those who are engaged in any type of local planning, but primarily community planners and emergency managers that bear responsibility for hazard mitigation planning. This resource can be found on the FEMA web site at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/integrating-hazard-mitigation-local-planning-case-studies-and-tools-community>

How-to Guides. FEMA has developed a series of nine “how-to guides” to assist States, communities, and tribes in enhancing their hazard mitigation planning capabilities. The first four guides mirror the four major phases of hazard mitigation planning used in the development of the Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The last five how-to guides address special topics that arise in hazard mitigation planning such as using benefit-cost analysis and integrating man-made hazards. The use of worksheets, checklists, and tables make these guides a practical source of guidance to address all stages of the hazard mitigation planning process. They also include special tips on meeting DMA 2000 requirements.

Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance for State and Local Governments. FEMA, DAP-12, September 1990. This handbook explains the basic concepts of hazard mitigation and shows State and local governments how they can develop and achieve mitigation goals within the context of FEMA’s post-disaster hazard mitigation planning requirements. The handbook focuses on approaches to mitigation, with an emphasis on multi-objective planning.

Mitigation Resources for Success CD. FEMA 372, September 2001. This CD contains a wealth of information about mitigation and is useful for State and local government planners and other stakeholders in the mitigation process. It provides mitigation case studies, success stories, information about Federal mitigation programs, suggestions for mitigation measures to homes and businesses, appropriate relevant mitigation publications, and contact information.

A Guide to Federal Aid in Disasters. FEMA 262, April 1995. When disasters exceed the capabilities of State and local governments, the President’s disaster assistance program (administered by FEMA) is the primary source of Federal assistance. This handbook discusses the procedures and process for obtaining this assistance and provides a brief overview of each program.

The Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry. FEMA 141, October 1993. This guide provides a step-by-step approach to emergency management planning, response, and recovery. It also details a planning process that companies can follow to better prepare for a wide range of hazards and emergency events. This effort can enhance a company’s

ability to recover from financial losses, loss of market share, damages to equipment, and product or business interruptions. This guide could be of great assistance to Atlantic County industries and businesses located in hazard prone areas.

[Important Websites](#)

The following are important websites that provide focused access to valuable planning resources for communities interested in sustainable development initiatives.

- <http://www.fema.gov> - Web site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency includes links to information, resources, and grants that communities can use in planning and implementation of sustainable measures. Most notably:
 - <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation> To learn more about mitigation and how to make it work for you.
 - https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-mitigation-ideas_02-13-2013.pdf For mitigation project ideas.
 - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/hazard-mitigation-planning> For information about multi-hazard mitigation planning.
 - <http://www.region2coastal.com/> - For the latest information about flood risk in coastal New York and New Jersey.
- <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance> The official site of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- <http://mitigationguide.org/> - "Beyond the Basics: Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning", a website developed as part of a multi-year research study funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and led by the Center for Sustainable Community Design within the Institute for the Environment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- <http://www.planning.org> – Web site of the American Planning Association, a non-profit professional association that serves as a resource for planners, elected officials, and citizens concerned with planning and growth initiatives.
 - <https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/> Includes information about hazard mitigation planning prepared by the association's Hazards Planning Research Center.
- <http://www.ibhs.org> – Web site of the Institute for Business and Home Safety, an initiative of the insurance industry to reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, economic losses, and human suffering caused by natural disasters. Online resources provide information on natural hazards, community land use, and ways you can protect your property from damage.

[Federal Technical Assistance and Funding](#)

The Federal government offers a wide range of funding and technical assistance programs that communities can access to assist in their long-term recovery. Some of these programs are geared to disaster preparedness and mitigation planning, while the focus of others is the

long-term vitality of the communities. **Table 4.5** presents a summary of Federal funding sources available for mitigation activities. Further information on these and other Federal programs can be found in the 2019 State Plan at <http://ready.nj.gov/mitigation/2019-mitigation-plan.shtml> and in the Assistance Listings online at <https://sam.gov/content/assistance-listings> (legacy CFDA.gov).

Table 4.5 - Federal Funds Available for Mitigation Activities	
Funding Source	Description
<i>Funding that Requires an Approved Hazard Mitigation Plan:</i>	
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster, annually <i>Description:</i> FMA provides funds for planning and projects to reduce or eliminate long-term risk of flood damage to repetitive loss (RL) properties and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties, including residential and non-residential structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	<i>Availability:</i> Post-Disaster; After FEMA disaster and emergency declarations <i>Description:</i> Following a Presidential major disaster declaration, the state receives 15% of the total federal share of the declared disaster damage amount to fund hazard mitigation plans and projects under the HMGP. HMGP funds projects in accordance with priorities identified in State, Tribal or local hazard mitigation plans, and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster. The Federal government may fund up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs, with a 25 percent non-Federal match.
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster; annually <i>Description:</i> To provide funds to states, territories, Indian Tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster; annually <i>Description:</i> BRIC is a new (FY 2020) FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. BRIC will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience.
Public Assistance Program (PA) Mitigation	<i>Availability:</i> Post-Disaster; After FEMA disaster and emergency declarations <i>Description:</i> Section 406 of the Stafford Act, provides funding for mitigation measures in conjunction with the repair of disaster-damaged public facilities. This allows the opportunity to maximize recovery dollars by building back stronger and more resilient, thus reducing potential damage in the future.
<i>Other Available Federal Funds for Mitigation Planning and Implementation:</i>	
RiskMAP	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster <i>Description:</i> FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (RiskMAP) program provides high quality flood maps and information, tools to better assess the risk from flooding and planning and outreach support to communities to help them take action to reduce (or mitigate) flood risk. Each Risk MAP flood risk project is tailored to the needs of each community and may involve different products and services.

Table 4.5 - Federal Funds Available for Mitigation Activities

Funding Source	Description
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	<p><i>Availability:</i> Pre- or post-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> New York State Department of Environmental Conservation administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within the State of New York. The office of the State NFIP Coordinator facilitates municipal participation in the NFIP; provides technical assistance, training and support to local Floodplain Administrators on the minimum NFIP design standards; and encourages participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program.</p>
FEMA Cooperating Federal Partners (CTP)	<p><i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) Program was created to partner with communities, state or regional agencies, universities or Tribal nations to enhance hazard data in the creation of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Digital FIRMs. DHSSES intends to pursue this partnership in the future and enhance our awareness of and involvement in the RiskMAP process.</p>
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	<p><i>Availability:</i> Post-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Assistance for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.</p>
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	<p><i>Availability:</i> Pre- or post-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Federal grant provided to CDBG "entitlement communities" (typically, municipalities with populations over 50,000 and urban counties with populations over 200,000) and to all states. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are some of the limited number of federal grant funds that lose federal identity when it is allocated to the state and therefore can be used to assist with meeting the non-federal match for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.</p>
Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	<p><i>Availability:</i> Post-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Provides reimbursement only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs</p>
National Dam Safety Program	<p><i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> The NDSP was formally established by the Water Resources and Development Act of 1996. Led by FEMA, the NDSP is a partnership of the states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to encourage individual and community responsibility for dam safety. Provides vital support for the improvement of the state dam safety programs that regulate most of the 79,500 dams in the United States.</p>
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	<p><i>Availability:</i> To States, local and conservation organizations</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Funding for outdoor recreational development, renovation, land acquisition, and planning. The program is divided into two distinct funding pots: State grants, and Federal acquisition funds.</p>

Table 4.5 - Federal Funds Available for Mitigation Activities

Funding Source	Description
The Forest Legacy Program (FLP)	<p><i>Availability:</i> Participation in Forest Legacy is limited to private forest landowners.</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Federal program in partnership with States, supports State efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. Designed to encourage the protection of privately-owned forest lands, FLP is an entirely voluntary program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands. FLP helps the States develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values. To qualify, landowners are required to prepare a multiple resource management plan as part of the conservation easement acquisition. The federal government may fund up to 75 percent of project costs, with at least 25 percent coming from private, State or local sources. In addition to gains associated with the sale or donation of property rights, many landowners also benefit from reduced taxes associated with limits placed on land use. In 2008, NJ has one project funded: Sparta Mountain South at \$2,474,000.</p>
Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)	<p><i>Availability:</i> Pre- and post-disaster</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Grants are funded by the TTF through a competitive application-based process administered by the Local Aid District Offices. The County Aid Program is funded through the TTF and provides funding for eligible costs of projects included in the County's approved Annual Transportation Program. The program is intended for road and bridge infrastructure improvements under county jurisdiction. Each County receives an annual formula-based allotment that takes into consideration county road lane mileage and population.</p>