

APPENDIX 4.3 – FEDERAL RESOURCES

Federal Resources

The Federal government offers a wide range of funding and technical assistance programs that can be accessed by municipalities to foster local hazard mitigation initiatives and support community resiliency. 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 4.1-1 presents a summary of Federal funding sources available for mitigation activities.

It should be emphasized that the capabilities and resources summarized in Table 4.1-1 present a high-level overview of some key resources that are most relevant to hazard mitigation and mitigation planning; it is not a comprehensive list. Further information on these and other Federal programs can be found in the Assistance Listings online at www.beta.sam.gov. This site allows users to browse federal assistance listings across all government agencies, and download a copy of the latest Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

This capability assessment finds that the various Federal agencies collectively have a significant level of resources that support local implementation of hazard mitigation strategies and that can be accessed to support the activities of local municipalities.

Table 4.1-1 - 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.
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.

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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster, annually <i>Description:</i> Support for states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.
Other Available Federal Funds for Mitigation Planning and Implementation:	
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.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre- or post-disaster <i>Description:</i> The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) , within the State of New Jersey. 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.
FEMA Cooperating Federal Partners (CTP)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre-disaster <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. DHSES intends to pursue this partnership in the future and enhance our awareness of and involvement in the RiskMAP process.
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	<i>Availability:</i> Post-disaster <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.
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	<i>Availability:</i> Pre- or post-disaster <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. The 2019 NYSHMP notes that the State is using Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR to assist with meeting non-federal match for several disasters, including Hurricane Sandy (DR-4085) HMGP projects.
Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	<i>Availability:</i> Post-disaster <i>Description:</i> Provides reimbursement only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs

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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>
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>

Reference Documents

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. 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/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema_integrating-hazard-mitigation_case-studies_tools-community-officials.pdf.

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 Rensselaer 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 (administrated 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 Rensselaer County industries and businesses located in hazard prone areas.

Other Resources - 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:
- <http://www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning> - For information about multi-hazard mitigation planning.
- <http://www.region2coastal.com/> - For the latest information about flood risk in coastal New Jersey.
- <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/> - 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/mitigationplanning.htm> 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.