



## SECTION 6. MITIGATION STRATEGIES

This section presents mitigation strategies for Chenango County to reduce potential exposure and losses identified as concerns in the Risk Assessment portion of this plan. The Steering Committee reviewed the Risk Assessment to identify and develop these mitigation actions, which are presented herein.

This section includes:

1. Background and Past Mitigation Accomplishments
2. General Mitigation Planning Approach
3. Review and Update of Mitigation Goals and Objectives
4. Capability Assessment
5. Mitigation Strategy Development and Update

*Hazard mitigation* reduces the potential impacts of, and costs associated with, emergency and disaster-related events. Mitigation actions address a range of impacts, including impacts on the population, property, the economy, and the environment.

*Mitigation actions* can include activities such as: revisions to land-use planning, training and education, and structural and nonstructural safety measures.

### 6.1 BACKGROUND AND PAST MITIGATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, detailed on Page 1-1 in Section 1 (Introduction), a discussion regarding past mitigation activities and an overview of past efforts is provided as a foundation for understanding the mitigation goals, objectives, and activities outlined in this plan update. Chenango County, through previous and ongoing hazard mitigation activities, has demonstrated that it is proactive in protecting its physical assets and citizens against losses from natural hazards. Examples of previous and ongoing actions and projects include the following:

- The County facilitated the development of the original 2008 “Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan”. The current planning process represents the regulatory five-year plan update process, which includes participation of all municipal governments in the County, along with key county and regional stakeholders. In 2018, the County received a \$112,500 grant from the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- All municipalities participating in this Plan participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which requires the adoption of FEMA floodplain mapping and certain minimum construction standards for building within the floodplain. Further, Chenango County Code Enforcement Division of Public Health provides NFIP floodplain administration support for many of the municipalities in Chenango County under Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).
- In 2019, the County undertook a community health and health needs assessment. The assessment addressed the prevalence of obesity and substance abuse in the County as well as a number of health disparities. These disparities are aggravated by lack of transportation, senior citizen isolation and housing issues, lack of access to rehabilitation and specialty care facilities, and an imbalance in the number of health care providers.
- The County and municipalities have implemented mitigation actions to protect critical facilities and infrastructure throughout the planning area. As an example, the Highway Department maintains a multi-year, rotating program of roadway and culvert (drainage) maintenance and improvements to help mitigate stormwater damage to county roads.
- Numerous studies have been conducted by Federal, State, County and local agencies/entities to examine natural hazards affecting Chenango County, and have been reviewed and incorporated into this plan update as appropriate (see Section 3 and References).
- Chenango County was awarded a Clean Energy Communities Grant for \$150,000 from NYSERDA to perform energy updates to the County’s office building and reduce the carbon footprint. The County



has recently started working on another grant application for Clean Smart Communities and is working towards the Climate Smart Communities program.

- Municipalities in Chenango County have adopted regulatory standards regarding land-use and zoning that exceed minimum requirements and provide the communities with greater capability to manage development without increasing hazard risk and vulnerability. Examples of these standards are presented in the Capability Assessment subsection later in this chapter.
- The County has been incorporating flood risk reduction through stormwater management into its infrastructure and building improvement projects. All projects, especially in areas adjacent to waterways, are oversized to accommodate the potential of future flooding.

## 6.2 GENERAL MITIGATION PLANNING APPROACH

The overall approach used to update the County and local hazard mitigation strategies are based on FEMA and NYS regulations and guidance regarding local mitigation plan development, including the following:

- DMA 2000 regulations, specifically 44 CFR 201.6 (local mitigation planning).
- FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook*, March 2013.
- FEMA *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*, October 1, 2011.
- FEMA *Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning*, March 1, 2013.
- FEMA *Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts*, July 2015.
- FEMA *Mitigation Planning How-To Guide #3, Identifying Mitigation Actions and Implementing Strategies* (FEMA 386-3), DATE.
- FEMA *Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards*, January 2013.
- NYS DHSES *New York State Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards*, 2017.
- NYS DHSES *New York State Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards Guide*, 2017.

The mitigation strategy update approach includes the following steps that are further detailed in later subsections:

- 6.3 Review and update mitigation goals and objectives.
- 6.4 Identify mitigation capabilities and evaluate their capacity and effectiveness to mitigate and manage hazard risk.
- 6.5 Prepare an implementation strategy, including:
  - Identify progress on previous county and local mitigation strategies.
  - Develop updated county and local mitigation strategies.
  - Prioritize projects and initiatives in the updated mitigation strategy.

## 6.3 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section documents the County's efforts to develop hazard mitigation goals and objectives that are established to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.



### 6.3.1 Goals and Objectives

According to CFR 201.6(c)(3)(i): “The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.” The mitigation goals were developed based on the risk assessment results, discussions, research, and input from the committee, existing authorities, polices, programs, resources, stakeholders, and the public.

For the purposes of this plan, goals and objectives are defined as follows:

**Goals** are general guidelines that explain what is to be achieved. They are broad, long-term, policy-type statements that represent global visions. Goals help define the benefits that the plan is trying to achieve. The success of the plan, once implemented, should be measured by the degree to which its goals have been met (that is, by the actual benefits in terms of hazard mitigation).

**Objectives** are short-term aims, which when combined form a strategy or course of action to meet a goal. Unlike goals, objectives are a stand-alone measurement of the effectiveness of a mitigation action, rather than as a subset for a goal. The objectives also are used to help establish priorities.

During the 2021 plan update process, the Steering Committee reviewed the goals and objectives established in the 2015 HMP in consideration of the hazard events and losses since the 2015 plan, the updated hazard profiles and vulnerability assessment, the goals and objectives established in the New York State 2019 HMP, and county and local risk management plans. The update incorporates direct input for how the County and municipalities need to move forward to best manage their hazard risk. Amendments include additions and edits to goals and objectives to express the planning partnership’s interests in integrating this plan with other planning mechanisms/programs and to support mitigation through the protection and preservation of natural systems, including particular reference to certain goals and objectives in the New York State 2019 HMP update, as identified in the table below.

As a result of this review process, the Goals and Objectives for the 2021 update were amended, as presented in Table 6-1.

**Table 6-1. Chenango County Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals**

Goal Number	Goal Statement
G-1	Protect Life.
G-2	Protect Property.
G-3	Protect Economic Viability and Increase Resiliency of Residents and Businesses.
G-4	Protect the Environment and Promote Mitigation Actions that Emphasize Sustainable Construction and Design Measures.
G-5	Promote Hazard Mitigation Awareness and Education.
G-6	Develop and Implement Mitigation Strategies that use Public Funds in an Efficient and Cost-Effective Way.
G-7	Build Regional, County, and Local Collaborations across Mitigation Strategies to Develop Stronger Emergency Management Capabilities

FEMA defines **Goals** as general guidelines that explain what should be achieved. Goals are usually broad, long-term, policy statements, and represent a global vision.

FEMA defines **Objectives** as strategies or implementation steps to attain mitigation goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and measurable, where feasible.

FEMA defines **Mitigation Actions** as specific actions that help to achieve the mitigation goals and objectives.



**Table 6-2. Chenango County Hazard Mitigation Plan Objectives**

Objective Number	Objective Statement
O-1	Encourage hazard mitigation measures that result in the least adverse effect on the natural environment and that use natural processes. (Geared towards restoration – aimed more at existing construction)
O-2	Strengthen codes so that new construction can withstand the impacts of natural hazards and lessen the impact of that development on the environment’s ability to absorb the impact of natural hazards. (Focused on new construction and codes that can affect land use – addresses both protecting the environment and assuring construction is hazard resistant, something also addressed in the next objective)
O-3	Prevent (or discourage) new development in hazardous areas or ensure that if building occurs in high-risk areas that it is done in such a way as to minimize risk
O-4	Integrate the recommendations of this plan into existing County and local plans/programs (incl. comprehensive and emergency operations plans).
O-5	Incorporate hazard considerations into land-use planning and natural resource management.
O-6	Seek partnership opportunities with stakeholders in hazard mitigation that will leverage resources and enhance opportunities to implement mitigation activities within the planning area.
O-7	Seek mitigation actions that will assist in protecting lives and property by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, and critical facilities more resistant to hazards.
O-8	Better characterize flood/stormwater hazard events by conducting additional hazard studies and identify inadequate stormwater facilities and poorly drained areas.
O-9	Develop or improve early warning emergency response systems and evacuation procedures (this is directly life safety)
O-10	Develop and implement additional education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with hazards and to educate the public on specific, individual mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery activities.
O-11	Ensure continuity of government operations, emergency services, and essential facilities at the local level during and immediately after disaster and hazard events.
O-12	Strengthen inter-jurisdiction and inter-agency communication, coordination, and partnerships in all phases of emergency management.
O-13	Retrofit, purchase, or relocate structures in high hazard areas including those known to be repetitively damaged
O-14	Address long-term vulnerabilities from high hazard dams to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure dam infrastructure is routinely inspected and maintained.</li> <li>• Ensure Emergency Action Plans are developed and updated.</li> <li>• Support the identification and access to funding to repair/replace dams.</li> </ul>



Table 6-3. Chenango County Hazard Mitigation Plan Objectives

Obj. #	Objective Statement	Protect Life	Protect Property	Protect Economic Viability and Increase Resiliency	Protect the Environment/ Promote sustainable construction and design	Promote HM Education and Awareness	Develop & Implement Mitigation Strategies Using Public Funds Efficiently	Build Collaborations across Mitigation Strategies to Develop Stronger EM Capabilities
O-1	Encourage hazard mitigation measures that result in the least adverse effect on the natural environment and that use natural processes. (Geared towards restoration – aimed more at existing construction)		X		X		X	
O-2	Strengthen codes so that new construction can withstand the impacts of natural hazards and lessen the impact of that development on the environment’s ability to absorb the impact of natural hazards. (Focused on new construction and codes that can affect land use – addresses both protecting the environment and assuring construction is hazard resistant, something also addressed in the next objective)	X	X		X			X
O-3	Prevent (or discourage) new development in hazardous areas or ensure that if building occurs in high-risk areas that it is done in such a way as to minimize risk	X	X	X			X	
O-4	Integrate the recommendations of this plan into existing County and local plans/programs (incl. comprehensive and emergency operations plans).	X		X	X	X		X
O-5	Incorporate hazard considerations into land-use planning and natural resource management.	X		X	X		X	X
O-6	Seek partnership opportunities with stakeholders in hazard mitigation that will leverage resources and enhance opportunities to implement mitigation activities within the planning area.			X			X	X
O-7	Seek mitigation actions that will assist in protecting lives and property by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, and critical facilities more resistant to hazards.	X	X	X		X		
O-8	Better characterize flood/stormwater hazard events by conducting additional hazard studies and identify inadequate stormwater facilities and poorly drained areas.				X	X		
O-9	Develop or improve early warning emergency response systems and evacuation procedures.	X				X		X
O-10	Develop and implement additional education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with hazards and to educate the public on specific, individual mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery activities.	X	X			X	X	



Obj. #	Objective Statement	Protect Life	Protect Property	Protect Economic Viability and Increase Resiliency	Protect the Environment/ Promote sustainable construction and design	Promote HM Education and Awareness	Develop & Implement Mitigation Strategies Using Public Funds Efficiently	Build Collaborations across Mitigation Strategies to Develop Stronger EM Capabilities
O-11	Ensure continuity of government operations, emergency services, and essential facilities at the local level during and immediately after disaster and hazard events.	X		X				X
O-12	Strengthen inter-jurisdiction and inter-agency communication, coordination, and partnerships in all phases of emergency management.	X		X			X	X
O-13	Retrofit, purchase, or relocate structures in high hazard areas including those known to be repetitively damaged		X					
O-14	Address long-term vulnerabilities from high hazard dams to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure dam infrastructure is routinely inspected and maintained.</li> <li>• Ensure Emergency Action Plans are developed and updated.</li> <li>• Support the identification and access to funding to repair/replace dams.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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## 6.4 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

According to FEMA’s *Mitigation Planning How-To Guide #3*, a capability assessment is an inventory of a community’s missions, programs, and policies and an analysis of its capacity to carry them out. This assessment is an integral part of the planning process. The assessment process enables identification, review, and analysis of current local and state programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that could either facilitate or hinder mitigation (FEMA 2013).

During the original planning process, the County and participating municipalities identified and assessed their capabilities in the areas of existing programs, policies, and technical documents. By completing this assessment, each jurisdiction learned how or whether they would be able to implement certain mitigation actions by determining the following:

- Limitations that could exist on undertaking actions.
- The range of local and state administrative, programmatic, regulatory, financial, and technical resources available to assist in implementing their mitigation actions.
- Actions deemed infeasible, as they are currently outside the scope of capabilities.
- Types of mitigation actions that could be technically, legally (regulatory), administratively, politically, or fiscally challenging or infeasible.
- Opportunities to enhance local capabilities to support long term mitigation and risk reduction.

During the plan update process, all participating jurisdictions were tasked with developing or updating their capability assessment, paying particular attention to evaluating the effectiveness of these capabilities in supporting hazard mitigation, and identifying opportunities to enhance local capabilities.

County and municipal capabilities in the Planning and Regulatory, Administrative and Technical, and Fiscal arenas can be found in the Capability Assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes). Within each annex, participating jurisdictions identified integration of hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”) and intended integration promotion (*integration actions*). A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

A summary of the various federal, state, county, and local planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal programs available to promote and support mitigation and risk reduction in Broome County are presented below.

### 6.4.1 Planning and Regulatory Capabilities - County and Local

#### Municipal Land Use Planning and Regulatory Authority

The County and municipalities have various land use planning mechanisms that can be leveraged to mitigate flooding and support natural hazard risk reduction. Specific county and local planning and regulatory capabilities are identified in their jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes). The Chenango County Department of Planning and Development provides technical planning guidance and assistance to the County Board of Supervisors and implements projects and programs designed to improve the economy, environment, and physical infrastructure of the County.

Section 239 of New York State General Municipal Law requires the referral of certain local planning actions to the County planning agency or regional planning council. Certain actions include adoption or amendment of a



comprehensive plan, adoption or amendments of a zoning ordinance or local law, issuance of special use permits, approval of site plans, use or area variances, or other authorizations under provisions of a zoning ordinance or local law, so long as those actions are within 500 feet of certain parameters including but not limited to State or County roads or highways, municipal boundaries, county or state parks, or the boundary of any farm located in an agricultural district.

The Chenango County Department of Planning and Development coordinates the Section 239 review process by accepting applications from municipal boards, referring to outside agencies for feedback if necessary, creating aerial maps of the location, sending applications to County Planning Board members, providing professional input, and sending corresponding decisions by the County Planning Board back to the referring municipality (Chenango County Department of Planning and Development 2019).

### Land Use Planning

The County and municipalities have various land use planning mechanisms that can be leveraged to mitigate flooding and support natural hazard risk reduction. A summary of land use planning mechanisms currently in-place in each municipality is identified in the following table, in addition to within the Planning and Regulatory table in each municipal annex in Section 9.

**Table 6-4. Land Use Plans and Regulations in Effect in Chenango County**

	Building & Fire (County) (Local)	Floodplain Law	County Floodplain Administrator	Junkyard / Junk Storage	Mobile Home	Refuse	Sanitary	Telecommunications	Road Use Agreement or Law	Site Plan Review	Subdivision	Zoning	Local Right to Farm	Comprehensive Plan
<b>Towns</b>														
Afton	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Bainbridge	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			X
Columbus	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X
Coventry	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	**		X	
German	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			
Greene	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
Guilford	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X		X	X
Lincklaen	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X			
McDonough	X	X	X	X					X				X	
New Berlin	X X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
North Norwich	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Norwich	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			
Otselic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			
Oxford	X	X	X	Z	Z			Z	A	Z	X	X		X
Pharsalia	X	X	X	X		X	X		X					
Pitcher	X	X	X	X			X				X			
Plymouth	X	X	X	X X		X	X	X			X		X	
Preston	X	X	X	X X		X	X						X	
Sherburne	X	X	X	X X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Smithville	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Smyrna	X X	X	X	X			X				X		X	X
<b>Cities</b>														
Norwich	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
<b>Village</b>														



	Building & Fire (County) (Local)	Floodplain Law	County Floodplain Administrator	Junkyard / Junk Storage	Mobile Home	Refuse	Sanitary	Telecommunications	Road Use Agreement or Law	Site Plan Review	Subdivision	Zoning	Local Right to Farm	Comprehensive Plan
Afton	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Bainbridge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Earlville	X	X	X	X										X
Greene	X	X		Z	Z	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
New Berlin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Oxford	X	X	X	Z	Z	X	X			Z	X	X		X
Sherburne	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Smyrna	X	X	X	X	X		X			X			X	X

Source: Chenango County Directory 2021

\*\* Subdivision regulations addressed in site plan regulations

Z - Refer to Zoning Ordinances (For copies of these regulations, contact the Town/Village or City Clerk)

A - Refer to agreement

E - Town has laws or regulations regarding wind and solar installation.

### 6.4.2 Planning and Regulatory Capabilities - State and Federal

#### National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The U.S. Congress established the NFIP with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (FEMA’s 2002 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Program Description). The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for state and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages. Please refer to the Flood Hazard Profile in Section 5.4.2 (Flood) for information on recent legislation related to reforms to the NFIP.

There are three components to the NFIP: flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Communities participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in these communities. Community participation in the NFIP is voluntary. Flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage in the United States is reduced by nearly \$1 billion each year through communities implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance (FEMA 2008).

All 30 municipalities in Chenango County actively participate in the NFIP. As of July 2019, there were 517 NFIP policies in the County. This represents a decrease from April 2015, when there were 709 policies-in-force. There have been 649 claims made, totaling over \$11.2 million for damages to structures and contents. There are 215 NFIP Repetitive Loss (RL) properties in the County. Information in Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties was not included in the data set used for this HMP Update. Further details on the County’s flood vulnerability can be found in the flood hazard profile in Section 5.4.4 (Flood).

Municipal participation in and compliance with the NFIP is supported at the federal level by FEMA Region II and the Insurance Services Organization, at the state-level by the New York State Department of Environmental





Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Office of Emergency Management (NYS DHSES). Additional information on the NFIP program and its implementation throughout the County can be found in the flood hazard profile in Section 5.4.2 (Flood).

The state and municipalities within the NFIP could adopt higher regulatory standards when implementing the provisions of the NFIP. Specifically identified are the following:

**Freeboard:** By law, NYS requires Base Flood Elevation plus 2 feet (BFE+2) for all construction. When there is a base flood elevation available, the lowest floor including any basement, must be at or above the base flood elevation (plus two feet beginning in 2007). Elevation could be by means of properly compacted fill, a solid slab foundation, or a *crawl space* foundation, which contains permanent openings to let flood waters in and out. Non-residential structures might be flood proofed in lieu of elevation. Where a local floodplain administrator has information to estimate a base flood elevation, such as historic flood records or a hydraulic study, that elevation must be used. If the development consists of more than 5 acres or more than 50 lots, the permit applicant must develop a base flood elevation and build accordingly (NYSDEC 2018). Communities could go beyond this requirement, providing for additional freeboard. In most New York communities, new structures must have the lowest floor three feet or more above the highest adjacent grade.

**Cumulative Substantial Improvements/Damages:** The NFIP allows improvements valued at up to 50 percent of the building's pre-improvement value to be permitted without meeting the flood protection requirements. Over the years, a community could issue a succession of permits for different repairs or improvement to the same structures. This can greatly increase the overall flood damage potential for structures within a community. The community might wish to deem *substantial improvement* cumulatively so that once a threshold of improvement within a certain length of time is reached, the structure is considered to be substantially improved and must meet flood protection requirements.

### NFIP Community Rating System (CRS)

As an additional component of the NFIP, the Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses, (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating, and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance (FEMA 2012). Municipalities, and the County as a whole, could expect significant cost savings on premiums if enrolled in the CRS programs. As of January 2021, there are no communities in Chenango County actively participating in the CRS program.

### Southern Tier 8 Regional Board

The Southern Tier 8 is a regional planning agency that offers leadership support and technical assistance in project development, grant writing, program administration, and data analysis, with considerations for natural resources across the region. The Board operates under joint resolution of the legislative bodies of Chenango, Broome, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties. The Board works with each county's planning departments and economic developers to prioritize federal investments across the region by supporting sustainable community programs and projects to improve local economies for residents and businesses. In 2018, the region developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Five Year Plan (2018-2022) to encourage community development and private-sector economic growth across the 8 counties.

### New York State Floodplain Management

The following two departments have statutory authorities and programs that affect floodplain management at the local jurisdiction level in New York State: the NYSDEC and the Department of State's Division of Code



Enforcement and Administration (DCEA). DCEA is detailed in Section 6.4.4 (Administrative and Technical Capabilities - State and Federal).

The NYSDEC is charged with conserving, improving, and protecting the state's natural resources and environment, and preventing, abating, and controlling water, land, and air pollution. Programs that have bearing on floodplain management are managed by the Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety, which cooperates with federal, state, regional, and local partners to protect lives and property from floods, coastal erosion, and dam failures. These objectives are accomplished through floodplain management and both structural and nonstructural means.

The Dam Safety Section is responsible for “reviewing repairs and modifications to dams and assuring [sic] that dam owners operate and maintain dams in a safe condition through inspections, technical reviews, enforcement, and emergency planning.” The Flood Control Projects Section is responsible for reducing flood risk to life and property through construction, operation, and maintenance of flood control facilities.

The Floodplain Management Section is responsible for reducing flood risk to life and property through management of activities, such as development in flood hazard areas, and for reviewing and developing revised flood maps. The section serves as the NFIP State Coordinating Agency and in this capacity, is the liaison between FEMA and New York communities that elect to participate in the NFIP. The section provides a wide range of technical assistance.

### **Stormwater Management Planning**

When proper controls are not in place, research studies show a clear link between urbanization and increased flooding and pollutant export. The goal of stormwater management is to ensure that the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from a site that is undergoing construction or development should not be substantially altered from its pre-development conditions (NYSDEC 2015).

The control of stormwater runoff is a national priority. A federal regulation, commonly known as Stormwater Phase II, requires permits for stormwater discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in urbanized areas and for construction activities disturbing one or more acres. To implement the law, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has issued two general permits: one for MS4s in urbanized areas and one for construction activities. The permits are part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES). Municipal officials are working hard at the local level to protect water resources through better stormwater management. Throughout Central New York, municipalities are making provisions to allow the use of permeable paving materials on public projects when conditions are appropriate. Developers are being asked to incorporate more green spaces in new developments and to avoid disturbing existing vegetation that naturally slows and infiltrates stormwater runoff. Municipal turf management programs no longer rely on the routine use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Roadway maintenance crews routinely remove trash and debris from storm drains and culverts. This reduces stormwater backups, road hazards, and the threat of flooding. These efforts are designed to improve water resources through the control of stormwater runoff.

## **6.4.3 Administrative and Technical Capabilities - County and Local**

### **Chenango County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD)**

The mission of the CCDPD is to improve the quality of life in Chenango County by providing professional services and programs that promote economic vitality, environmental integrity and strong communities.

The CCDPD coordinates the Section 239 review process by accepting applications from municipal boards, referring to outside agencies for feedback if necessary, creating aerial maps of the location, sending applications





to County Planning Board members, providing professional input, and sending corresponding decisions by the County Planning Board back to the referring municipality (Chenango County Department of Planning and Development 2019).

The Department is also responsible for providing training to local planning and zoning board members, who are required to have at least four hours of training each year to serve on their boards. The Department invoices local government trainers from the New York State Department of State to come to the County and provide training.

The Department provides flood information on their website (<https://www.co.chenango.ny.us/planning/flood-information/>) and maintains copies of county flood maps at their office.

The CCDPD led the update of the 2021 HMP and represented the department on the Steering Committee and identified as the point of contact for the Chenango County annex (Section 9.1).

### **Chenango County Bureau of Fire & Emergency Management and City of Norwich Emergency Management**

The mission of the Chenango County Bureau of Fire and all of its staff is to enhance and improve the overall Fire and EMS operations and safety in Chenango County by providing staff services such as training, fire investigation, supervision of Emergency Medical Services, fire protection programs, technical support (such as Hazardous Materials, Dive, High Angle and Search & Rescue teams), public relations and Communications guidance and support for all Fire and EMS agencies of Chenango County. For the purpose of this HMP, representatives from the County Bureau of Emergency Management and from City of Norwich Emergency Management participated on the Steering Committee and provided data and information about hazard risk and informing the mitigation strategy.

Chenango County Bureau of Fire and Emergency Management keeps Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams located in the County. Additionally, all NYSDEC Dam Safety inspection reports are sent to the Bureau as well.

The Bureau of Fire's role also serves as the Emergency Management agency for the County. The staff operates the EOC during planned and emergency incidents and fills various functions during the activation, response, recovery and mitigation phase of disasters by coordinating planning efforts, response, resource acquisition and tracking and mitigation planning for all the respective jurisdictions within the County boundaries.

To support public notification during emergency situations (including evacuation and sheltering instructions) County Emergency Management works closely with the City of Norwich, as together have developed a smart phone emergency management application (app), designed as a one-stop resource for emergency preparedness and response. The application allows for push notifications to reach people quickly during an emergency situation, and includes the following features:

- Notify Chenango alerts of road closures, emergency evacuations (both locations where evacuations are being ordered, as well as specified evacuation routes), shelter information and more.
- Live weather conditions direct from the weather station at the joint City/County Emergency Operations Center.
- Local National Weather Service forecasts, including hour-by-hour information.
- Weather camera of downtown Norwich, updated every several minutes.
- River and stream gauge information for all local rivers running through Chenango County, plus the Canasawacta Creek in Norwich and South Plymouth.
- Countywide school closings, as reported to The Evening Sun.



- A link to NYSEG power outages for Chenango County, broken down by town and road.
- Road work updates from the NY-511 system.
- Live NOAA Weather Radio feed from the Norwich transmitter.
- Emergency preparedness information.

The City of Norwich Emergency Management Office, working with the Binghamton Office of the National Weather Service, monitors regional and national weather information for its potential impact on the City. This is particularly true during flooding and severe storm seasons.

### **Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

The Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District is an agency committed to the conservation of the natural resources of our region. The Soil and Water District works primarily with the farming community to assist producers in installing management practices to ensure soil health and increase the water quality of our region. The Soil & Water District acts as both an administrator of government funds and as a technical service provider for management practices relating to grazing, livestock waste management, riparian buffers, comprehensive nutrient management plans, manure management, field & crop management, wetland construction, and livestock watering systems.

As a County agency, the District provides free technical advice on other water, soil and agricultural issues. The District has often been called to help mitigate storm water issues, drainage issues (both agricultural and non-agricultural) and other land management problems and inquires. For the purpose of this HMP, representatives from the County SWCD participated on the Steering Committee and provided data and information about hazard risk and mitigation initiatives. The SWCD also supported community specific mitigation projects and strategies.

### **Chenango County Department of Public Works – Highway Department (CCDPW)**

The Chenango County Department of Public Works is responsible for 308 centerline miles of roadways and 140 bridges within Chenango County.

The DPW is charged with designing, constructing, and maintaining an extensive infrastructure system for Chenango County. The department also provides oversight on many capital projects big and small. Whenever possible, the DPW is available to assist local city, town and village public works departments. For the purpose of this HMP, representatives from the County DPW participated on the Steering Committee and provided data and information about hazard risk and mitigation initiatives.

### **Chenango County Health Department**

The Chenango County Public Health Department houses the Code Enforcement Division, Environmental Health Division, and supports Emergency Preparedness, in addition to traditional health services. Chenango County Code Enforcement is responsible for code enforcement and NFIP FPA services in the majority of communities. Steve Fox, the County Code Enforcement Officer served on the Steering Committee for this HMP to provide data and information, as well as providing support to the mitigation strategy of the majority of the planning partners. The Director of Environmental Health served on the steering Committee for this HMP, providing data and information throughout the planning process.



### 6.4.4 Administrative and Technical Capabilities - State and Federal

#### New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES)

For more than 50 years, NYS DHSES (formerly New York State Office of Emergency Management) and its predecessor agencies have been responsible for coordinating the activities of all state agencies to protect New York's communities, the state's economic well-being, and the environment from natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. NYS DHSES routinely assists local governments, voluntary organizations, and private industry through a variety of emergency management programs, including hazard identification, loss prevention, planning, training, operational response to emergencies, technical support, and disaster recovery assistance.

NYS DHSES administers the FEMA mitigation grant programs in the state and supports local mitigation planning in addition to developing and routinely updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. NYS DHSES prepared the current State Hazard Mitigation Plan, working with input from other state agencies, authorities and organizations. The plan was approved by FEMA in 2019 and enables New York to remain eligible for recovery assistance in all Public Assistance Categories A through G and Hazard Mitigation assistance in each of the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program's five grant programs. For example, the 2008-2011 State Mitigation Plan allowed the state and its communities to access nearly \$57 million in mitigation grants to prepare plans and carry out projects. The 2019 New York State HMP was used as guidance in completing the Chenango County HMP Update. The state HMP can be found here: <https://mitigateny.availabs.org/>

For the purpose of this HMP, representatives from NY DHSES completed stakeholder surveys, provided technical assistance and data, and attended planning partnership meetings. NYS DHSES also presented about State Requirements for hazard mitigation plans at the January 13, 2021 Mitigation Action Workshop.

#### New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) – Division of Water - Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety

Within the NYSDEC – Division of Water, the Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/290.html#Bureaus>) cooperates with federal, state, regional, and local partners to protect lives and property from floods, coastal erosion and dam failures through floodplain management and both structural and non-structural means; and, provides support for information technology needs in the Division. The Bureau consists of three sections as described below.

##### Dam Safety

NYSDEC has the regulatory power over dams across the State. The functions of the Dam Safety Section include: safety inspection of dams; technical review of proposed dam construction or modification; monitoring of remedial work for compliance with dam safety criteria; and emergency preparedness.

To provide support and assistance to dam owners and operators, the NYSDEC website contains information that can help. This includes dam safety forms, Emergency Action Plan (EAP) instructions and guidance, documents for dam owners, and a complete inventory of dams for the State. This can all be found on their website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/311.html>

Figure 6-1. Dam Safety Forms





Dam Safety has a number of routine interactions and information sharing between New York State and the local governments. This includes:

- The State invites counties to participate in Emergency Action Plan exercises / orientations, during which communities work to identify particularly vulnerable locations that may not have previously been identified on the inundation maps.
- Dam owners are required to implement a dam safety program, which NYSDEC may review and require improvements to the program or program implementation.
- Dam owners also prepare Emergency Action Plans for Class B and Class C dams that are provided to the State Dam Safety Program. The owners also required to submit periodic engineering assessments of dams.
- Dam Safety inspection reports are sent to each municipality in which the dam is located and to the Emergency Manager for the County.

### Coastal Erosion and Flooding

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The Coastal Erosion branch of this section works to reduce coastal erosion and storm damage to protect lives, natural resources, and properties through structural and non-structural means. The Floodplain Management branch is responsible for reducing flood risk to life and property through proper management of activities including development in flood hazard areas, and review and development of revised flood maps.

### Flood Protection and Floodplain Management

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This section is responsible for reducing flood risk to life and property through construction, operation and maintenance of flood control facilities. NYSDEC works with communities throughout the State to find ways to reduce or protect against physical and property damage caused by flooding. The Department works on: structural flood damage reduction projects to prevent flood water from damaging communities; helps communities establish sustainable floodplain management programs to mitigate flooding; and works with communities participating in the NFIP to administer local regulations and building standards for flood damage prevention (NYSDEC Division of Water 2020).

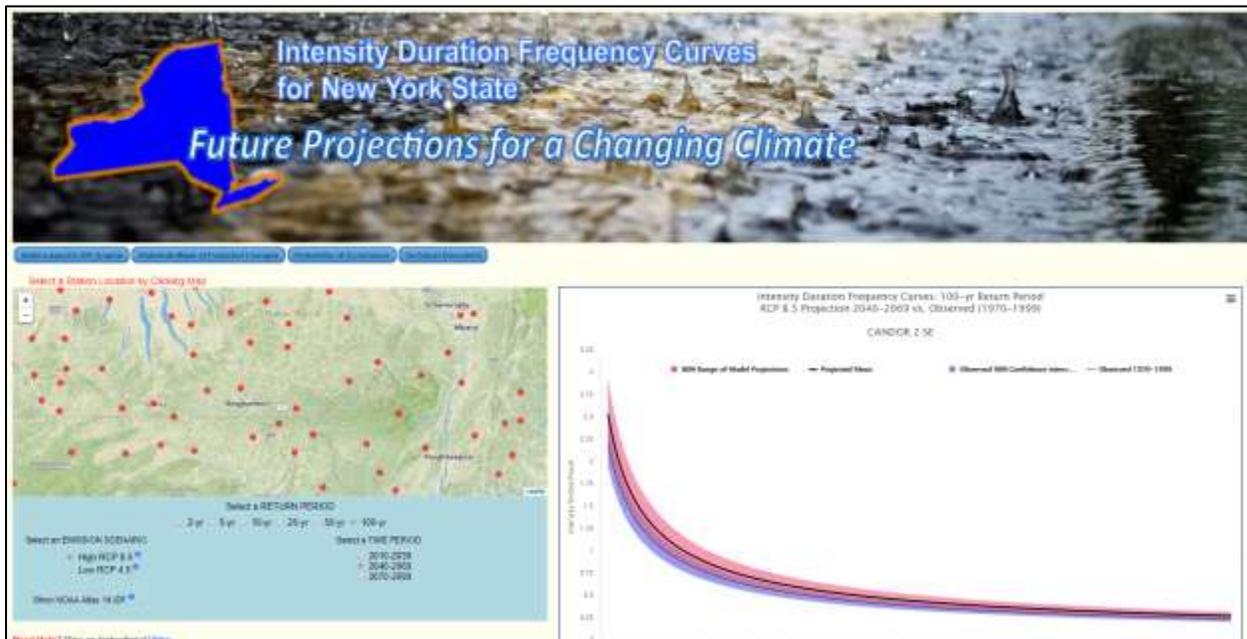
### Northeast Regional Climate Center

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The Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) partnered with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to compare various methods of downscaling global climate model (GCM) output and create extreme precipitation projections for New York State. These projections will ultimately be incorporated into climate change adaptation planning. In 2009 alone, 175 total flooding events in New York State led to \$32.82 million in property damage. The state is also still recovering from the \$42 billion toll of Superstorm Sandy. Climate change is resulting in an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall events. To help New York State communities plan for effects of climate change, new graphics are now available showing the increased likelihood of heavy precipitation events. These graphs, called Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) curves, show anticipated increases of storm events from 2- to 100-year intervals and are projected into the future as far as 2099. These products are designed for use by municipal officials, researchers, planners, highway departments, and other decision-makers who need to take storm events into account. These IDF curves display how precipitation events are being affected by New York State's rapidly changing climate (NRCC 2015). Figure 6-2 displays the screenshot of the website.



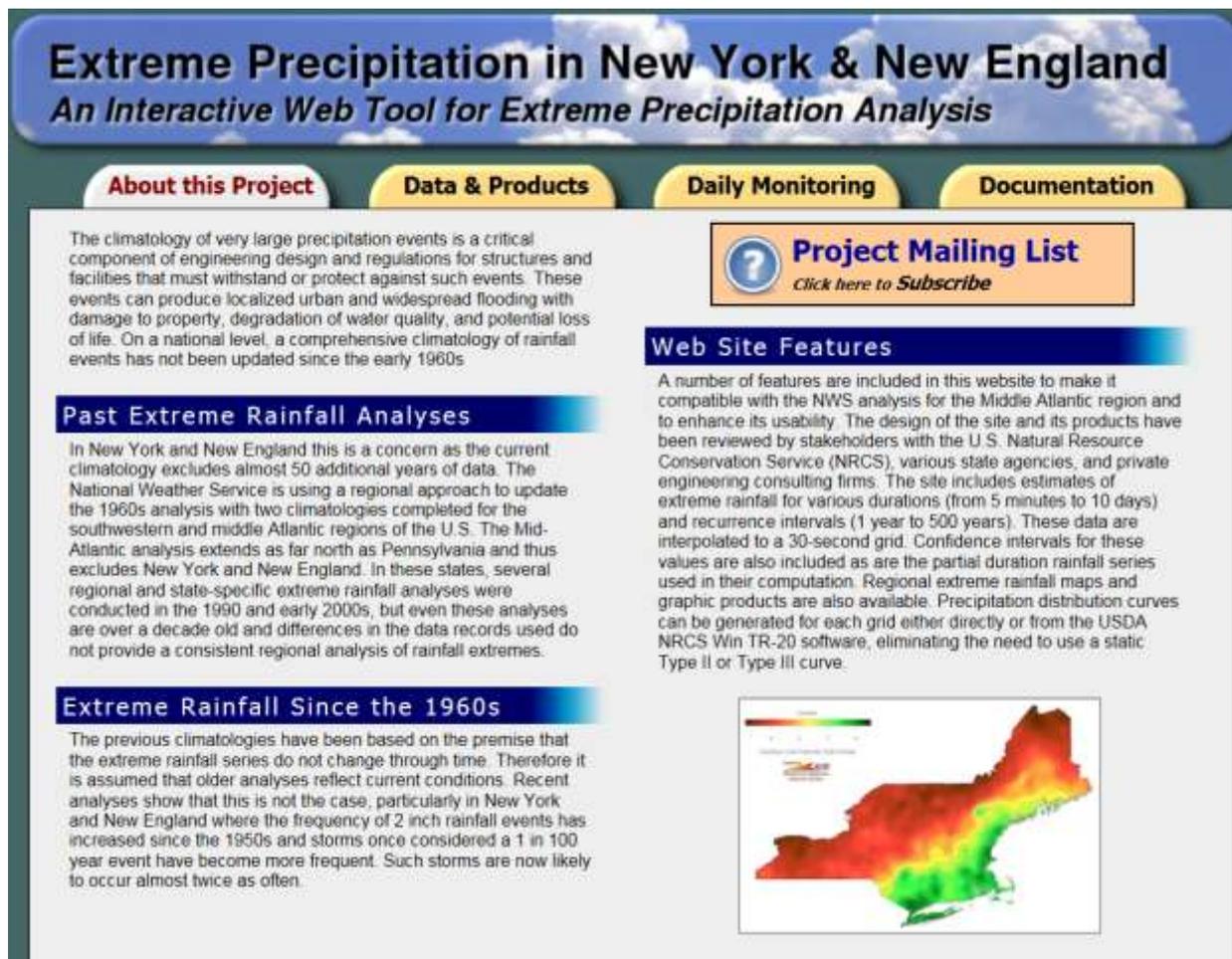
Figure 6-2. Screenshot of the IDF Curves for New York State



NRCC also maintains the Extreme Precipitation in New York & New England website, an interactive tool for extreme precipitation analysis. The site includes estimates of extreme rainfall for various durations (5 minutes to 10 days) and recurrence intervals (1 year to 500 years). These data are interpolated to a 30-second grid. Confidence intervals for these values are included as are the partial duration rainfall series used in their computation. Regional extreme rainfall maps and graphic products are available. Precipitation distribution curves can be generated for each grid either directly or from the USDA NRCS Win TR-20 software, eliminating the need to use a static Type II or Type III curve (NRCC 2018). This tool can be used by municipalities to assist them in the design and feasibility assessment of future projects and allow them to see the future intensity and frequency of rain events. Figure 6-3 shows a screenshot of the website.



Figure 6-3. Screenshot of the Extreme Precipitation in New York & New England website



## Department of State's Division of Code Enforcement and Administration (DCEA)

### Technical Bulletins for the 2010 Codes of New York State

The DCEA publishes technical bulletins for its building codes. TB-1004 came into effect in October 2017 and addressed Flood Venting in Foundations and Enclosures in Flood Areas. The bulletin clarifies definitions and requirements with regard to Residential and Building Construction (19NYCRR 1220 and 1221). Bulletins also address requirements for critical facilities such as fire stations, requirements for fire extinguishers, and other hazards.

### Forms and Publications

The DCEA posts several model reporting forms and related publications on its webpage. The Building Permit Application requests the applicant to indicate whether the site is or is not in a floodplain and advises checking with the jurisdiction's clerk or NYSDEC. The General Residential Code Plan Review form includes a reminder to "add 2' freeboard." Sample Flood Hazard Area Review Forms, including plan review checklists and inspection checklists for Zone A and Zone V, are based on the forms in Reducing Flood Losses through the International Code Series published by International Code Council and FEMA (2008).



### 6.4.5 Fiscal Capabilities – County and Local

#### County and Regional Fiscal Capabilities

Commerce Chenango provides funding opportunities for new and existing businesses in Chenango County, including start-up and expansion assistance, demographic and labor market information, low-interest loan programs, workforce development programs, and grant and loan application assistance. Commerce Chenango also provides support to municipalities seeking CDBG funding through the NYS Office of Community Renewal to support public infrastructure projects, small business development, and to create and preserve affordable housing.

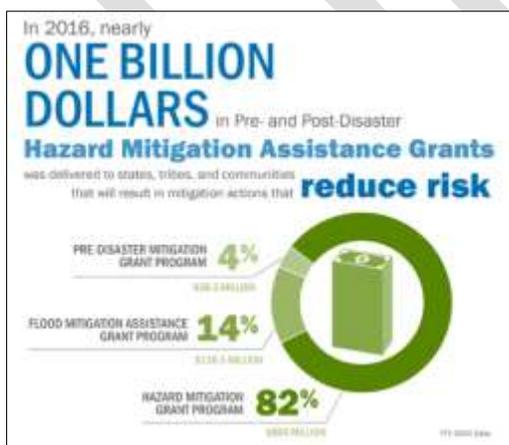
The Chenango County Department of Planning & Development administers the Chenango County Revolving Loan Fund to provide economic development loans to create new employment opportunities, increase value of properties, and to provide assistance for projects that will enhance the community. The Department also provides support to municipalities seeking CDBG funding through the NYS Office of Community Renewal to support public infrastructure projects, small business development, and to create and preserve affordable housing.

The Southern Tier 8 Regional Board provides funding opportunities through the Community Revitalization, Rural Initiatives, and Shovel Ready Site Funds. Southern Tier 8 Regional Board also works with non-profits and municipalities through the Appalachian Regional Commission Area Wide Development Program and Federal Economic Development Agency (EDA).

#### Municipal Fiscal Capabilities

Chenango County municipalities fund mitigation projects through existing local budgets, local appropriations (including referendums and bonding), and a variety of federal and state loan and grant programs. Many municipalities noted throughout the planning process that they are faced with increasing fiscal constraints, including decreasing revenues, budget constraints, and tax caps. In an effort to overcome these fiscal challenges, municipalities continue to leverage the sharing of resources and combining available funding with grants and other sources and note that plans and inter-municipal cooperation are beneficial in obtaining grants.

### 6.4.6 Fiscal Capabilities – State and Federal



Source: FEMA, 2018

The *NYS Capabilities* section of the 2019 New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan features a section on mitigation-related funding administered by state agencies that eligible jurisdictions can use to find mitigation actions. A list of funding opportunities can be accessed here:

<https://mitigateny.availabs.org/strategies/funding>

As noted on the FEMA hazard mitigation assistance website (<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>), FEMA administers five programs that provide funding for eligible mitigation planning and projects that reduces disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. The programs are the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and the HMGP Post Fire Grant, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, and the new Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Program.



HMGP assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation planning and projects following a Presidential major disaster declaration. PDM provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and projects on an annual basis. FMA provides funds for planning and projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on an annual basis. BRIC supports jurisdictions in hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The BRIC program will replace the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency (FEMA 2020).

HMGP funding is generally 15% of the total amount of Federal assistance provided to a State, Territory, or federally-recognized tribe following a major disaster declaration. PDM and FMA funding depends on the amount congress appropriates each year for those programs. BRIC is funded by a 6% (\$500 million) set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funding.

Individual homeowners and business owners may not apply directly to FEMA. Eligible local governments may apply on their behalf (FEMA 2020).

Table 6-5 provides an overview of program funding eligibility and cost share.

**Table 6-5. FEMA HMA Grant Cost Share Requirements**

Programs	Cost Share (Percent of Federal / Non-Federal Share)
HMGP	75 / 25
FMA – insured properties and planning grants	75 / 25
FMA – repetitive loss property <sup>(2)</sup>	90 / 10
FMA – severe repetitive loss property <sup>(2)</sup>	100 / 0
BRIC <sup>(3)</sup>	75 / 25
BRIC – subrecipient is small and impoverished community <sup>(3)</sup>	90 / 10

Source: FEMA HMA Guidance 2015; Regulations.gov; FEMA 2020

- (1) Subapplicants should consult their State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) for the amount of percentage of HMGP subrecipient management cost funding their State has determined to be passed through subrecipients.
- (2) To be eligible for an increased federal cost share, a FEMA-approved state or tribal (standard or enhanced) mitigation plan that addressed repetitive loss properties must be in effect at the time of award, and the property is being submitted for consideration must be a repetitive loss property.
- (3) The proposed BRIC program is in the public comment period as of May 2020 and is expected to have an open grant period and be finalized by the Fall of 2020.

### Federal Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Federal mitigation grant funding is available to all communities with a current HMP (this plan); however most of these grants require a “local share” in the range of 10-25 percent of the total grant amount. Details about grant programs and further descriptions of these opportunities can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>. The FEMA mitigation grant programs are described below.



### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. FEMA makes these grants available to states by after each federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures and can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements, and development of state or local standards. Projects must fit into an overall mitigation strategy for the area identified as part of a local planning effort. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved HMP (this plan).

Figure 6-4. FEMA HMGP Funding Allocation



Source: FEMA 2018

Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to NYS DHSES, placed in rank order for available funding, and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and could be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available. Additional information regarding the HMGP is available on the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>.

Figure 6-5. FEMA HMGP Applicant/Subapplicant Process



Source: FEMA 2018

### Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

The FMA program combines the previous Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss Grants into one grant program. The FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is at least 75 percent. For the non-federal share, at most 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source; of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At minimum, a FEMA-



approved local flood mitigation plan is required before a project can be approved. The FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. The NYS DHSES serves as the grantee and program administrator for the FMA program.

The FMA program is detailed on the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (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 is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.

The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.

For additional information regarding the BRIC program, please refer to: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>.

### Extraordinary Circumstances

For PDM and FMA project subawards, the FEMA Region might apply extraordinary circumstances when justification is provided and with concurrence from FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) prior to granting an exception. If this exception is granted, a local mitigation plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of the project subaward to that community.

For HMGP, BRIC, and FMA, extraordinary circumstances exist when a determination is made by the applicant and FEMA that the proposed project is consistent with the priorities and strategies identified in the State (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan and that the jurisdiction meets at least one of the criteria below. If the jurisdiction does not meet at least one of these criteria, the region must coordinate with FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) for HMGP; however, for BRIC and FMA the region must coordinate and seek concurrence prior to granting an exception. The criteria are as follows:

- The jurisdiction meets the small impoverished community criteria (see Part VIII, B.2 of HMA Unified Guidance).
- The jurisdiction has been determined to have had insufficient capacity due to lack of available funding, staffing, or other necessary expertise to satisfy the mitigation planning requirement prior to the current disaster or application deadline.
- The jurisdiction has been determined to have been at low risk from hazards because of low frequency of occurrence or minimal damage from previous occurrences as a result of sparse development.
- The jurisdiction experienced significant disruption from a declared disaster or another event that impacts its ability to complete the mitigation planning process prior to award or final approval of a project award.
- The jurisdiction does not have a mitigation plan for reasons beyond the control of the state, federally-recognized tribe, or local community, such as Disaster Relief Fund restrictions that delay FEMA from granting a subaward prior to the expiration of the local or tribal mitigation plan.

For HMGP, BRIC, and FMA, the applicant must provide written justification that identifies the specific criteria or circumstance listed above, explains why there is no longer an impediment to satisfying the mitigation planning requirement, and identifies the specific actions or circumstances that eliminated the deficiency.



When an HMGP project funding is awarded under extraordinary circumstances, the recipient shall acknowledge in writing to the Regional Administrator that a plan will be completed within 12 months of the subaward. The recipient must provide a work plan for completing the local or tribal mitigation plan, including milestones and a timetable, to ensure that the jurisdiction will complete the plan in the required time. This requirement shall be incorporated into the award (both the planning and project subaward agreements if a planning subaward is also awarded).

### Federal and State Disaster and Recovery Assistance Programs

Following a disaster, various types of assistance could be made available by local, state, and federal governments. The types and levels of disaster assistance depend on the severity of the damage and the declarations that result from the disaster event. The following sections detail the general types of assistance that might be provided should the President of the United States declare the event a major disaster.

#### Individual Assistance (IA)

Individual Assistance (IA) provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses, and some non-profit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses could be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible for loans to cover personal property losses. Individuals are allowed to borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate, \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property, and an additional 20 percent for mitigation. For businesses, loans could be made to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Non-profit organizations, such as charities, churches, and private universities are eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster but are restricted by law to small businesses only. IA is detailed on the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/individual-disaster-assistance>.

#### Public Assistance (PA)

Public Assistance (PA) provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities, and school districts) and certain non-profit agencies that were involved in disaster response and recovery programs or that suffered loss or damage to facilities or property used to deliver government-like services. This program is largely funded by FEMA with both local and state matching contributions required. PA is detailed on the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>.

#### Small-Business Administration (SBA) Loans

SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, business of all sizes, and most private nonprofit organizations. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets.

Homeowners could apply for up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Renters and homeowners could borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property-such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances that were damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million are available to qualified businesses or most private nonprofit organizations. Additional information regarding SBA loans is available on the SBA website: <https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness/disaster-assistance>.



### Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG)

To address the needs of critical health and human service providers and the populations they serve, the State of New York will receive a total of \$235.4 million in federal Superstorm Sandy SSBG funding. The state will distribute \$200,034,600 through a public and transparent solicitation for proposals and allocate \$35.4 million in State Priority Projects, using the SSBG funding. Sandy SSBG resources are dedicated to covering necessary expenses resulting from Superstorm Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation, and rebuilding of health care facilities, mental hygiene facilities, child care facilities, and other social services facilities. Additional information regarding the SSBG program is available on the website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg>.

### Department of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

The HSGP plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. The FY 2020 HSGP supports efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas. This includes two priorities: building and sustaining law enforcement terrorism prevention capabilities and maturation and enhancement of state and major urban area fusion centers (HSGP 2020). HSGP is comprised of three interconnected grant programs including the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG). Together, these grant programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration. Additional information regarding HSGP is available on the website: <https://www.fema.gov/homeland-security-grant-program>.

### Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

CDBG are federal funds intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, and planning and administration. Public improvements could include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances and during the times of “urgent need” (e.g., post disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding could be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event. Additional information regarding CDBG is available on the website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/>. In 2018, the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program was created to fund resilience projects in qualifying areas struck by disaster in 2015-2017.

### U.S. Economic Development Administration

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that supports regional economic development in communities around the country. It provides funding to support comprehensive planning and makes strategic investments that foster employment creation and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. Through its Public Works Program, USED A invests in key public infrastructure, such as traditional public works projects, including water and sewer systems improvements, expansion of port and harbor facilities, brownfields, multitenant manufacturing and other facilities, business and industrial parks, business incubator facilities, redevelopment technology-based facilities, telecommunications facilities, and development facilities. Through its Economic Adjustment Program, USED A administers its Revolving Loan Fund Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business in areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious



structural damage to the underlying economic base. Additional information is available on the USEDPA website: <https://www.eda.gov/>.

#### Federal Highway Administration - Emergency Relief

The Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief is a grant program that can be used for repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of a disaster. NYS is serving as the liaison between local municipalities and FHWA. The program is appropriated \$100 million annually. For information regarding the FHWA Emergency Relief Program, please refer to: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm>

#### Federal Transit Administration - Emergency Relief

The Federal Transit Authority Emergency Relief is a grant program that funds capital projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace equipment and facilities of public transportation systems. Administered by the Federal Transit Authority at the U.S. Department of Transportation and directly allocated to MTA and Port Authority, this transportation-specific fund was created as an alternative to FEMA PA. Currently, a total of \$5.2 Billion has been allocated to NYS-related entities related to Hurricane Sandy. IN the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the program provided emergency-related capital and operating expenses to transit providers. Additional information regarding the FTA Emergency Relief Program is available on the website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/emergency-relief-program>.

#### FEMA National Dam Safety Program

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) is administered by FEMA with the primary purpose of providing financial assistance to states to strengthen their dam safety programs. Funds from this program are used for the following types of activities:

- Dam safety training for state personnel
- Increase in the number of dam inspections
- Increase in the submittal and testing of Emergency Action Plans
- More timely review and issuance of permits
- Improved coordination with state emergency preparedness officials
- Identification of dams to be repaired or removed
- Conduct dam safety awareness workshops and creation of dam safety videos and other outreach materials

In 2016, the President signed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) which added a new grant program under the NDSP. Section 5006 of the Act, Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams, provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.

#### Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Program

A state or territory with an enacted dam safety program, the State Administrative Agency, or an equivalent state agency, is eligible to apply for the HHPD grant. Each eligible state may submit only one HHPD grant application. Nonfederal dams that (i) are in a state or territory with a state or territorial dam safety program; (ii) are classified as having "high hazard potential" by the dam safety agency in the dam's state or territory; (iii) have an emergency action plan approved by the state or territory's dam safety agency; and (iv) the state or territory in which the dam is located determines either of these criteria – the dam fails to meet minimum dam safety standards public. An "eligible high hazard potential dam" does not include: (i) a licensed hydroelectric dam; or (ii) a dam built under



the federal authority of the Secretary of Agriculture. For additional information regarding the HHPD program, please refer to: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety/grants/resources>.

In New York State, the NYSDEC applies for HHPD funding on behalf of the State. In April 2021, it was announced that \$650,000 is available in the State to support eligible dam repairs. Funding is available to local government and non-profit owners of high-hazard dams.

Figure 6-6. NYSDEC HHPD Funding Announcement



Source: NYSDEC 2021

### State Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

#### Empire State Development

Empire State Development offers a wide range of financing, grants, and incentives to promote business and employment growth and real estate development throughout the state. Several programs address infrastructure construction associated with project development, acquisition, and demolition associated with project development and brownfield remediation and redevelopment. Additional information regarding Empire State Development is available on the website: <https://esd.ny.gov/>.

#### New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)

##### Damaged Roads and Signals

High winds, storm tidal surge and flooding caused significant damage to NYSDOT facilities, roads and local transportation infrastructure in the Hudson Valley, Long Island and New York City. Repair and replacement will be necessary for these facilities and infrastructure. In some cases, municipalities will be direct applicants; therefore, not all FEMA-eligible costs are included for damaged infrastructure.

##### Scour Critical/Floodprone Bridge Program

The Scour Critical/Flood Prone Bridge Program is an initiative developed to harden New York State’s at-risk bridges to withstand extreme weather events. In the past three years, the state has suffered 9 presidentially declared disasters due to extreme weather, many involving severe flooding (NYSDOT 2014).





For this initiative, 105 scour critical/flood prone bridges throughout New York State were identified as most at-risk from repeated flooding and are located in the Capital District, Long Island, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Finger Lakes, Central/Western and Southern Tier regions. The locations encompass 78 communities within 30 counties across the State (NYSDOT 2014). Additional information of the list of bridges is available on the website: [https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/business-center/cbow/repository/CBOW\\_list\\_2014.pdf](https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/business-center/cbow/repository/CBOW_list_2014.pdf).

All the bridges included in this program were built to the codes and standards of their time and remain safe and open for everyday traffic; however, due to a variety of natural severe weather events and the increasing frequency of major storms and floods, they are vulnerable to scour and flooding caused by the intensity and velocity of water from extreme natural events. Bridge scour erodes and carries away foundation materials, such as sand and rocks from around and beneath bridge abutments, piers, foundations, and embankments (NYSDOT 2014).

This program encompasses a variety of bridge improvement work, including upgrading concrete bridge abutments and/or piers by adding steel or concrete pile foundations, increasing the size of waterway openings to meet 100-year flood projections, and reducing or eliminating the number of bridge piers in the water to prevent debris and ice jams that can flood surrounding areas. Completion of the program will ensure continual access to critical facilities and essential personnel during emergency events. Adverse impacts to travel throughout the state will be greatly reduced during severe weather events, as well (NYSDOT 2014).

This program aims to increase the state's resiliency and mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters. The total cost of the program, including all 105 bridges across the state, is \$518 million. It will be paid for with a mix of funding from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. No state funding will be required (NYSDOT 2014).

### Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was established by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWP Program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the EWP Program, EWP-Recovery, and EWP-Floodplain Easement. Additional information regarding the EWP is detailed below and available on the website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>.

#### *EWP - Recovery*

The EWP Program is a recovery effort program aimed at relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor that must be a legal subdivision of the state, such as a city, county, township, or conservation district, and Native American Tribes or Tribal governments. NRCS will pay up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services.

EWP work is not limited to any one set of measures. It is designed for installation of recovery measures to safeguard lives and property as a result of a natural disaster. NRCS completes a Damage Survey Report, which provides a case-by-case investigation of the work necessary to repair or protect a site.

Watershed impairments that the EWP Program addresses are debris-clogged stream channels, undermined and unstable streambanks, jeopardized water control structures and public infrastructures, wind-borne debris removal, and damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought.



### *EWP - Floodplain Easement (FPE)*

Privately-owned lands or lands owned by local and state governments might be eligible for participation in EWP-FPE. To be eligible, lands must meet one of the following criteria:

- Lands that have been damaged by flooding at least once within the previous calendar year or have been subject to flood damage at least twice within the previous 10 years.
- Other lands within the floodplain are eligible, provided the lands would contribute to the restoration of the flood storage and flow, provide for control of erosion, or that would improve the practical management of the floodplain easement.
- Lands that would be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach.

EWP-FPE easements are restored to the extent practicable to the natural environment and can include both structural and nonstructural practices to restore the flood storage and flow, erosion control, and improve the practical management of the easement.

Structures, including buildings, within the floodplain easement must be demolished and removed or relocated outside the 100-year floodplain or dam breach inundation area.

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program**

The CSC program is jointly sponsored by the following six New York State agencies: DEC; Energy Research and Development Authority; Public Service Commission; Department of State; NYSDOT; and the Department of Health. The program encourages municipalities to minimize the risks of climate change and reduce long-term costs through actions which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical support on energy and climate and guidance tailored to New York State communities. As of April 2020, more than 303 communities, representing 8.7 million New Yorkers in every region of the state, have committed to acting on climate through New York State's Climate Smart Communities program.

Benefits of participating in the program include saving taxpayer dollars, improving operations and infrastructure, increasing energy independence and security, demonstrating leadership, and positioning for economic growth. Registered Climate Smart Communities receive notification of state and federal assistance that they can leverage to help adopt low-carbon technologies and of programs and support for efficiency improvements and energy conservation. Further, those communities receive an advantage in accessing some state assistance programs, can call on the help of other local governments that already have adopted climate smart practices and policies, and receive statewide recognition for their climate-smart accomplishments. Key elements of the Climate Smart Communities program are described below.

Additional information regarding the CSC program is available on the website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>.

### **Climate Smart Communities Pledge**

Any city, town, village or county in New York can join the program by adopting the Climate Smart Communities Pledge. To become a registered Climate Smart Community, the municipality's governing body must adopt a resolution that includes all ten elements of the pledge and inform DEC of the passage of the resolution. The required ten elements of the pledge are as follows:

- Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.
- Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action.



- Decrease community energy use.
- Increase community use of renewable energy.
- Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.
- Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.
- Support development of a green innovation economy.
- Inform and inspire the public.
- Commit to an evolving process of climate action.

At the time of this plan update, no communities in Chenango County have adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge.

### Climate Smart Communities Certification (CSC) Program

The CSC program enables high-performing registered communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. Designed around the existing ten pledge elements, the certification program recognizes communities achieving any on over 130 total possible actions through a rating system leading to four levels of award: Certified, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Recertification of completed actions is required every five years. Details of the program and the specific documentation required for each action are described in the CSC Certification Manual at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/certman.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/certman.pdf). At the time of this plan update, no communities in the County have achieved certification.

### Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

In April 2016, DEC announced an expansion of the Environmental Protection Fund to support communities ready to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change. Climate Smart Community Implementation grants support mitigation and adaptation projects and range from \$100,000 to \$2 million. Competitive grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 will provide support for local governments to become certified Climate Smart Communities. All counties, cities, towns, and villages of the State of New York are eligible to receive funding. The CSC grant program will provide 50/50 matching grants for eligible projects in the following categories.

Funding is available for **implementation projects** that advance a variety of climate adaptation and mitigation actions, including the following:

- Construction of natural resiliency measures.
- Relocation or retrofit of climate-vulnerable facilities.
- Conservation or restoration of riparian areas and tidal marsh migration area.
- Reduction of flood risk.
- Clean transportation.
- Reduction or recycling of food waste.

Funding is available for **certification projects** that advance several specific actions aligned with Climate Smart Communities Certification requirements, including the following:

- Right-sizing of government fleets.
- Developing natural resource inventories.
- Conducting vulnerability assessments.
- Developing climate adaptation strategies.
- Updating hazard mitigation plans to address changing conditions and reduce climate vulnerability.



In scoring grant applications, increasing points are awarded to communities who have already taken the CSC pledge and to those that have achieved certification status. All grant recipients must take the Climate Smart Communities Pledge within the term of their grant contract. For climate mitigation projects, grant recipients must provide a report of estimates of emissions reduction. Certification actions must adhere to the requirements and standards described in the Climate Smart Communities Certification Manual that is available on the website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html>. For implementation projects involving property (construction, improvements, restoration, rehabilitation), grant recipients that do not have ownership of the property must obtain a climate change mitigation easement.

The Climate Smart Communities Toolkit was developed to educate New York communities on recommended practices that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, specifically in the areas of land-use, transportation policy, green buildings, infrastructure investment, green infrastructure, housing policy, adaptation, and resilience. The Climate Smart Communities Guide to Local Action contains overviews of possible community actions, how-to's and case studies to help communities implement the CSC pledge. The Climate Smart Communities Land Use Toolkit allows New York communities to find recommended practices that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of land use, transportation policy, green building, infrastructure investment, green infrastructure, and housing policy.

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)**

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#### **Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program**

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The WQIP program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments. The competitive, statewide grant program is open to local governments and not-for-profit corporations. Grant recipients can receive up to 75 percent of the project costs for high priority wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, aquatic habitat restoration, and municipal separate storm sewer system projects; up to 50 percent for salt storage projects; and up to 40 percent for general wastewater infrastructure improvement projects. Additional information regarding this program are available on the website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>. Eligible activities for the WQIP Program include the following:

- Wastewater treatment improvement.
- Non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control.
- Land acquisition for source water protection.
- Salt storage.
- Aquatic habitat restoration.
- MS4s.

#### **New York State DEC/ Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (EPG)**

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The DEC, in conjunction with the New York State EFC, offers grants to municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects.

The Wastewater Infrastructure EPG assists municipalities with the engineering and planning costs of CWSRF-eligible water quality projects. Eligible municipalities have a median household income (MHI) of \$65,000 or less in the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions of Capital District, Southern Tier, North Country, Mohawk Valley, Central NY, Finger Lakes, or Western NY OR an MHI of \$85,000 or less in REDC regions of Long Island, New York City, or Mid-Hudson. Grants with a 20 percent required local match could



finance activities, including engineering and consultant fees for engineering and planning services for the production of an engineering report.

The goal of the EPG program is to advance water quality projects to construction, so successful applicants can use the engineering report funded by the grant to seek financing through the CWSRF program, WQIP program, or other funding entities to further pursue the identified solution. Details regarding this program can be found on the website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/81196.html>. Funding priorities go to projects that have one of the following qualities:

- Required by an executed Order on Consent.
- Required by a draft or final State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit.
- Upgrading or replacing an existing wastewater system.
- Constructing a wastewater treatment and/or collection system for an area with failing onsite septic systems.
- Identified in a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan.

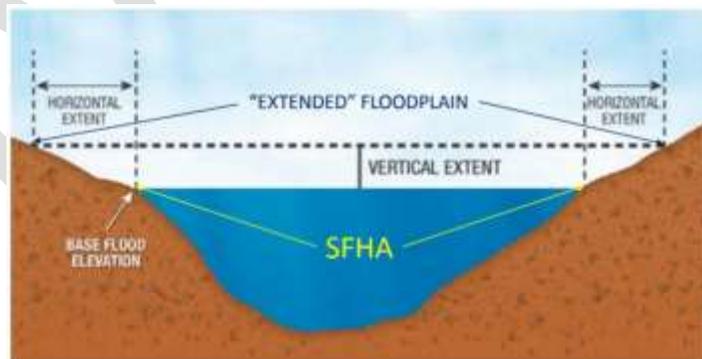
### New York State Department of Transportation

#### BRIDGE NY

The BRIDGE NY program, administered by the NYSDOT, is open to all municipal owners of bridges and culverts. Projects are awarded through a competitive process and support all phases of project development. Projects selected for funding under the BRIDGE NY Initiative are evaluated based on the resiliency of the structure, including such factors as hydraulic vulnerability and structural resiliency; the significance and importance of the bridge, including traffic volumes, detour considerations, number and types of businesses served, and impacts on commerce; and the current bridge and culvert structural conditions. Information regarding the program can be found on the website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/BRIDGENY>.

### Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA)

On September 22, 2014, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed bill A06558/S06617-B, the CRRA. The purpose of the bill is to ensure that certain state monies, facility-siting regulations, and permits include consideration of the effects of climate risk and extreme-weather events. According to NYSDEC (2018), CRRA's five major provisions include the following:



- Official Sea-level Rise Projections—CRRA requires the DEC to adopt science-based sea-level rise projections into regulation.
- Consideration of Sea-Level Rise, Storm Surge and Flooding—CRRA requires applicants for permits or funding in a number of specified programs to demonstrate that future physical climate risk due to sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding have been considered and that DEC considered incorporating these factors into certain facility-siting regulations.
- Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act Criteria—CRRA adds mitigation of risk due to sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding to the list of smart-growth criteria to be considered by state public-infrastructure agencies.



- Guidance on Natural Resiliency Measures—CRRA requires DEC, in consultation with the Department of State, to develop guidance on the use of natural resources and natural processes to enhance community resiliency.
- Model Local Laws Concerning Climate Risk—CRRA requires the Department of State, in cooperation with DEC, to develop model local laws that include consideration of future risk due to sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding. These model local laws must be based on available data predicting the likelihood of extreme-weather events, including hazard-risk analysis.

CRRA requires NYSDEC, in consultation with the Department of State, to prepare guidance on implementation of the statute. To meet its obligation to develop guidance for the implementation of CRRA, DEC is proposing a new document, State Flood Risk Management Guidance (SFRMG). The SFRMG is intended to inform state agencies as they develop program-specific guidance to require that applicants demonstrate consideration of sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding, as permitted by program-authorizing statutes and operating regulations. The SFRMG incorporates possible future conditions, including the greater risks of coastal flooding presented by sea-level rise and enhanced storm surge and of inland flooding expected to result from increasingly frequent extreme-precipitation events (NYSDEC 2018). Additional details on the CRRA are provided on the website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html>.

#### 6.4.7 Potential Mitigation Funding Sources

While it is important to recognize the mitigation strategies for each jurisdiction to help achieve the mitigation goals and objectives of the (HMP, it is also important to provide sources for funding to implement these strategies. The table below provides a list of programs, descriptions, and links for those seeking funding sources. Please note that this table is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but rather a starting point to help identify potential sources of funding for the identified mitigation strategies. For additional resources, refer to the FEMA 2020 *New York Mitigation Resource Guide* ([https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema\\_region-03\\_mitigation-funding-resource-guide\\_new-york-09-24-2020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema_region-03_mitigation-funding-resource-guide_new-york-09-24-2020.pdf)).



**Table 6-6. Mitigation Funding Sources**

Program	Description	Lead Agency	Website
<b>Federal</b>			
Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)	Grants to provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages – includes FMA, HMGP, PDM	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance">https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance</a>
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	Program Grants to States and communities for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects to help reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program</a>
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Grants to States and communities for planning and projects providing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program</a>
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	Replacement program for PDM that will invest in local mitigation projects and promote capacity-building	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/bric">https://www.fema.gov/bric</a>
Public Assistance: Hazard Mitigation Funding Under Section 406	Hazard mitigation discretionary funding available under Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act following a Presidentially declared disaster	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/05/03/4309/fema-hazard-mitigation-grants-404-and-406">https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/05/03/4309/fema-hazard-mitigation-grants-404-and-406</a>
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.	FEMA	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program</a>
Disaster Housing Program	Emergency assistance for housing, including minor repair of home to establish livable conditions, mortgage and rental assistance	HUD	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/dhap">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/dhap</a>
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Grants to local and state government and consortia for permanent and transitional housing, (including financial support for property acquisition and rehabilitation for low income persons)	HUD	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/</a>
HUD Disaster Recovery Assistance	Grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation)	HUD	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources">https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources</a>
Section 108 Loan Guarantee	Enables states and local governments participating in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to obtain federally guaranteed loans for disaster-distressed areas	HUD	<a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/</a>
Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program	The SGIA program focuses on complex or cutting-edge issues, such as stormwater management, code revision, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, infill development, corridor planning, green building, and climate change. Applicants can submit proposals under 4 categories: community resilience to disasters, job creation, the role of manufactured homes in sustainable neighborhood design or medical and social service facilities siting.	EPA	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth">https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth</a>



Program	Description	Lead Agency	Website
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<a href="https://www.fws.gov/partners/">https://www.fws.gov/partners/</a>
FHWA Emergency Relief Program	Fund for the repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways that have suffered serious damage as a result of (1) natural disasters or (2) catastrophic failures from an external cause	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	<a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm</a>
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	Investing in critical road, rail, transit and port projects across the nation	U.S. DOT	<a href="https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about">https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about</a>
Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.	USDA	<a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program</a>
Emergency Loan Program	USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine	USDA	<a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index</a>
Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program	Provide assistance to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences	NRCS	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/</a>
Financial Assistance	Financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land	NRCS	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/</a>
Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program	Assist local, tribal, territorial, and state governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities	U.S. DHS	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program</a>
Land & Water Conservation Fund	Matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies)	National Park Service	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm</a>
<b>State</b>			
Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) Disaster Recovery Grants	Grants for disaster recovery projects related to damage caused by a sudden, unexpected event involving fire, water, man-made or natural phenomena where a timely response is necessary to prevent the irretrievable loss of vital or archival records, or to ensure reasonable, timely access to vital records	New York State Archives / New York State Education Department	<a href="http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/grants_lgrmif.shtml">http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/grants_lgrmif.shtml</a>
The New York State Emergency Services Revolving Loan	Repair of firefighting apparatus, ambulances, or rescue vehicles; Renovation, rehabilitation, or repair of facilities that house firefighting equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles, and related equipment	NYS DHSES	<a href="http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/services/loan/">http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/services/loan/</a>



Program	Description	Lead Agency	Website
Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)	Matching grants for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties	New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/92815.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/92815.html</a>
Recreational Trails (RTP)	Program Matching grants for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of trails and trail-related projects	NYSOPRHP	<a href="https://parks.ny.gov/grants/recreational-trails/default.aspx">https://parks.ny.gov/grants/recreational-trails/default.aspx</a>
Environmental Protection & Improvement Grants	Competitive grants for environmental protection and improvement; available for municipalities, community organizations, not-for-profit organizations and others	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/92815.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/92815.html</a>
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants	The grant is a 50/50 matching funds program. Its purpose is to make funds available to rural fire companies for the purchase of wildland firefighting equipment such as portable backpack pumps, Nomex protective clothing, hand tools, hard hats, hose, portable radios and dry hydrants.	NYSDEC	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html</a>
Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grants	Provide funding to implement regional comprehensive water quality management planning activities as described in Section 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act. 604(b) funds are to be used for water quality management planning activities, including tasks to determine the nature, extent and causes of point and nonpoint source water pollution problems, and to develop plans to resolve these problems.	NYSDEC	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/53122.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/53122.html</a>
Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program	The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments. Applications are typically available each spring through the Consolidated Funding Application.	NYSDEC	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html</a>
New York State DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (EPG)	The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), will offer grants to municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects. The ultimate goal of the EPG program is to advance water quality projects to construction, so successful applicants can use the engineering report funded by the grant to seek financing through the CWSRF program, Water Quality Improvement Project program, or other funding entities to further pursue the identified solution.	NYSDEC	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/81196.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/81196.html</a>
Climate Smart Communities Grant Program	The CSC Grant program was established in 2016 to provide 50/50 matching grants to cities, towns, villages, and counties (or boroughs of New York City) of the State of New York for eligible climate adaptation and mitigation projects.	NYSDEC	<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html</a>
BRIDGE NY	The State is making funding available for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts statewide.	NYS DOT	<a href="https://www.dot.ny.gov/BRIDGENY">https://www.dot.ny.gov/BRIDGENY</a>



## 6.5 MITIGATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE

### 6.5.1 Update of Municipal Mitigation Strategies

To evaluate progress on local mitigation actions, each jurisdiction was provided with a Mitigation Action Plan Review Worksheet, pre-populated with those actions identified for their jurisdiction in the prior (2015) plan. For each action, municipalities were asked to indicate the status of each action (*No Progress/Unknown, In Progress/Not Yet Complete, Ongoing, Completed, Discontinued*) and provide review comments on each. Municipalities were requested to quantify the extent of progress and provide reasons for the level of progress or why actions were discontinued. Each jurisdictional annex in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) provides a table identifying the jurisdiction's prior mitigation strategy, the status of those actions and initiatives, and their disposition within their updated strategy.

Local mitigation actions identified as *Complete*, and those actions identified as *Discontinued*, were removed from the updated strategies. Those local actions that municipalities identified as *No Progress/Unknown, In Progress/Not Yet Complete*, or certain actions/initiatives identified as *Ongoing* were carried forward in their local updated mitigation strategies. Actions considered ongoing capabilities were marked as *Discontinued* and included in the plan as ongoing capabilities. Municipalities were asked to provide further details on these projects to help better define the projects, identify benefits and costs, and improve implementation.

At the Kick-Off and during subsequent local-level planning meetings, all participating municipalities were further surveyed to identify mitigation activities completed, ongoing, and potential/proposed. As new additional potential mitigation actions, projects, or initiatives became evident during the plan update process, including as part of the risk assessment update and as identified through the public and stakeholder outreach process detailed in Section 3 (Planning Process), communities were made aware of these either through direct communication (local meetings, email, phone) or via their draft municipal annexes.

To help support the selection of an appropriate, risk-based mitigation strategy, each annex provided a summary of hazard vulnerabilities identified during the plan update process, either directly by municipal representatives or through review of available county and local plans and reports, and through the hazard profiling and vulnerability assessment process.

Beginning in June 2020, members of the Steering Committee and contract consultants worked directly with each jurisdiction (phone, email, local support meetings) to assist with the development and update of their annex and include mitigation strategies, focusing on identifying well-defined, implementable projects with a careful consideration of benefits (risk reduction, losses avoided), costs, and possible funding sources (including mitigation grant programs).

Concerted efforts were made to assure that municipalities develop updated mitigation strategies that included activities and initiatives covering the range of mitigation action types described in recent FEMA planning guidance (FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* March 2013), specifically:

- **Local Plans and Regulations**—These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.
- **Structure and Infrastructure Project**—These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures, as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.



- Natural Systems Protection—These are actions that minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- Education and Awareness Programs—These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions could include participation in national programs, such as the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System, StormReady (NOAA), and Firewise (NFPA) Communities.

A mitigation strategy workshop was conducted on January 13, 2021, for all participating jurisdictions to support the development of focused problem statements based on the impacts of natural hazards in the County and their communities. NYS DHSES presented at the meeting about the NYS HMP requirements and the importance of creating strong mitigation projects that connect to the mitigation strategy and will increase resiliency within the County. Prior to the mitigation workshop, members of the planning partnership completed Mitigation Action Development and Brainstorming Worksheets to guide the development and identification of “problem areas” and areas where mitigation actions may be needed in their communities. These problem statements are intended to provide a detailed description of the problem area, including impacts to the jurisdiction, past damages, and loss of service. An effort was made to include the street address of the property/project location, adjacent streets, water bodies, and well-known structures, as well as a brief description of existing conditions (topography, terrain, hydrology) of the site. These problem statements form a bridge between the hazard risk assessment, which quantifies impacts to each community, with the development of actionable mitigation strategies.

A strong effort has been made to better focus local mitigation strategies to clearly defined, readily implementable projects and initiatives that meet the definition or characteristics of mitigation. Broadly defined mitigation objectives were eliminated from the updated strategy unless accompanied by discrete actions, projects, or initiatives.

Certain continuous or ongoing strategies that represent programs that are fully integrated into the normal operational and administrative framework of the community have been identified within the Capabilities section of each annex and removed from the updated mitigation strategy.

At least two mitigation projects per jurisdiction have been documented with an Action Worksheet, as per the New York State Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards Guide.

As discussed within the hazard profiles in Section 5.4, the long-term effects of climate change are anticipated to exacerbate the impacts of weather-related hazards including flood, severe storm, severe winter storm, and wildfire. By way of addressing these climate change-sensitive hazards within their local mitigation strategies and integration actions, communities are working to evaluate and recognize these long-term implications and potential impacts, and to incorporate in planning and capital improvement updates.

Municipalities included mitigation actions to address vulnerable critical facilities and lifelines. These actions were proposed in consideration of protection against 0.2% annual chance (500-year) events, or worst-case scenarios. It is recognized, however, that in the case of projects being funded through federal mitigation programs, the level of protection can be influenced by cost-effectiveness, as determined through a formal benefit-cost analysis. In the case of “self-funded” projects, municipal discretion must be recognized. Further, the County and municipalities have limited authority over privately-owned critical facility owners regarding mitigation at any level of protection.



### 6.5.2 Update of County Mitigation Strategy

The update of the County-level mitigation strategies included a review of progress on the actions/initiatives identified in the 2015 HMP using a process similar to that used to review municipal mitigation strategy progress. The County, through their various department representatives, was provided with a Mitigation Action Plan Review Worksheet identifying all county-level actions and initiatives from the 2015 plan. The County reviewed each action and provided progress. For each action, relevant county representatives were asked to indicate the status of each action (*No Progress/Unknown, In Progress/Not Yet Complete, Ongoing, Completed, or Discontinued*), and provide review comments on each.

Projects/initiatives identified as “*Complete*”, as well as those actions identified as *Discontinued*, have been removed from this plan update. Those actions the County has identified as *No Progress/Unknown, In Progress/Not Yet Complete, or Ongoing* have been carried forward in the County’s updated mitigation strategy. Actions considered ongoing capabilities were marked as *Discontinued* and included in the plan as ongoing capabilities.

Throughout the course of the plan update process, additional regional and county-level mitigation actions were identified by the following processes:

- Review of the results and findings of the updated risk assessment.
- Review of available regional and county plans reports and studies.;
- Direct input from county departments and other county and regional agencies, including:
  - Chenango County Department of Planning and Development
  - Chenango County Department of Public Works
  - Chenango County Bureau of Fire & Emergency Management
  - Chenango County Information Technology
  - Chenango County Public Health – Division of Code Enforcement
  - Chenango County Public Health – Environmental Health Division
  - Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
  - Commerce Chenango
- Input received through the public and stakeholder outreach process.

As discussed within the hazard profiles in Section 5.4 (Risk Assessment), the long-term effects of climate change are anticipated to exacerbate the impacts of weather-related hazards including drought, flood, severe storm, and severe winter storm. The County has included mitigation actions and initiatives, including continuing and long-term planning and emergency management support, to address these long-term implications and potential impacts.

Various county departments and agencies included mitigation actions to address vulnerable critical facilities. These actions were proposed in consideration of protection against 0.2% annual chance (500-year) events, or worst-case scenarios.

It is recognized, however, that in the case of projects being funded through federal mitigation programs, the level of protection can be influenced by cost-effectiveness, as determined through a formal benefit-cost analysis. In the case of “self-funded” projects, local government authority can affect the ability to implement. Further, the County has limited authority over privately-owned critical facility owners regarding mitigation at any level of protection.



### 6.5.3 Mitigation Strategy Evaluation and Prioritization

Section 201.c.3.iii of 44 CFR requires an action plan describing how the actions identified will be prioritized.

The County and participating municipalities utilized a modified STAPLEE (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental) mitigation action evaluation methodology based on a set of evaluation criteria suited to the purposes of hazard mitigation strategy evaluation. This method provides a systematic approach that considers the opportunities and constraints of implementing a specific mitigation action.

The Steering Committee applied an action evaluation and prioritization methodology, which includes an expanded set of 14 criteria to include the consideration of cost-effectiveness, availability of funding, anticipated timeline, and if the action addresses multiple hazards.

The 14 evaluation/prioritization criteria used in the 2021 update process are the following:

1. Life Safety—How effective will the action be at protecting lives and preventing injuries?
2. Property Protection—How significant will the action be at eliminating or reducing damage to structures and infrastructure?
3. Cost-Effectiveness—Are the costs to implement the project or initiative commensurate with the benefits achieved?
4. Technical—Is the mitigation action technically feasible? Is it a long-term solution? Eliminate actions that, from a technical standpoint, will not meet the goals.
5. Political—Is there overall public support for the mitigation action? Is there the political will to support it?
6. Legal—Does the municipality have the authority to implement the action?
7. Fiscal—Can the project be funded under existing program budgets (i.e., is this initiative currently budgeted for)? Would it require a new budget authorization or funding from another source such as grants?
8. Environmental—What are the potential environmental impacts of the action? Will it comply with environmental regulations?
9. Social—Will the proposed action adversely affect one segment of the population? Will the action disrupt established neighborhoods, break up voting districts, or cause the relocation of lower income people?
10. Administrative—Does the jurisdiction have the personnel and administrative capabilities to implement the action and maintain it? Will outside help be necessary?
11. Multi-hazard—Does the action reduce the risk to multiple hazards?
12. Timeline—Can the action be completed in less than 5 years (within our planning horizon)?
13. Local Champion—Is there a strong advocate for the action or project among the jurisdiction's staff, governing body, or committees that will support the action's implementation?
14. Other Local Objectives—Does the action advance other local objectives, such as capital improvements, economic development, environmental quality, or open space preservation? Does it support the policies of other plans and programs?

Participating jurisdictions were asked to use these criteria to assist them in evaluating and prioritizing mitigation actions identified in the 2021 update. Specifically, for each mitigation action, the jurisdictions were asked to assign a numeric rank (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the 14 evaluation criteria, defined as follows:

- 1 = Highly effective or feasible
- 0 = Neutral
- -1 = Ineffective or not feasible



Further, jurisdictions were asked to provide a summary of the rationale behind the numeric rankings assigned, as applicable. The numerical results were totaled and then used by each jurisdiction to help prioritize the action or strategy as *Low*, *Medium*, or *High*. Actions that had a numerical value between 1 and 5 were categorized as *low*; actions with numerical values between 6 and 9 were categorized as *medium*; and actions with numerical values between 10 and 14 were categorized as *high*. While this provided a consistent, systematic methodology to support the evaluation and prioritization of mitigation actions, jurisdictions might have additional considerations that could influence their overall prioritization of mitigation actions.

It is noted that jurisdictions might be carrying forward mitigation actions and initiatives from prior mitigation strategies that were prioritized using a different, but not inherently contrary, approach. Mitigation actions in the prior (2015) Chenango County HMP were “qualitatively evaluated against the mitigation goals and objectives and other evaluation criteria. They were then prioritized into three categories: high, medium, and low.” At their discretion, jurisdictions carrying forward prior initiatives were encouraged to re-evaluate their priority, particularly if conditions that would affect the prioritization criteria had changed.

For the plan update there has been an effort to develop more clearly defined and action-oriented mitigation strategies. These local strategies include projects and initiatives that are seen by the community as the most effective approaches to advance their local mitigation goals and objectives within their capabilities. In addition, each municipality was asked to develop problem statements. With active support from NYS DHSES planning staff, municipalities were able to develop action-oriented and achievable mitigation strategies.

As such, many of the initiatives in the updated mitigation strategy were ranked as *High* or *Medium* priority, as reflective of the community’s clear intent to implement, available resources notwithstanding. In general, initiatives that would have had *low* priority rankings were appropriately screened out during the local action evaluation process.

#### 6.5.4 Benefit/Cost Review

Section 201.6.c.3iii of 44 CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs. Stated otherwise, cost-effectiveness is one of the criteria that must be applied during the evaluation and prioritization of all actions comprising the overall mitigation strategy.

The benefit/cost review applied in for the evaluation and prioritization of projects and initiatives in this plan update process was qualitative; that is, it does not include the level of detail required by FEMA for project grant eligibility under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. For all actions identified in the local strategies, jurisdictions have identified both the costs and benefits associated with project, action or initiative.

**Costs** are the total cost for the action or project, and could include administrative costs, construction costs (including engineering, design and permitting), and maintenance costs.

**Benefits** are the savings from losses avoided attributed to the implementation of the project, and could include life-safety, structure and infrastructure damages, loss of service or function, and economic and environmental damage and losses.

When available, jurisdictions were asked to identify the actual or estimated dollar value for project costs and associated benefits. Having defined costs and benefits allows a direct comparison of benefits versus costs and a quantitative evaluation of project cost-effectiveness. Often, however, numerical costs and/or benefits have not been identified or might be impossible to quantitatively assess.



For the purposes of this planning process, jurisdictions were tasked with evaluating project cost-effectiveness with both costs and benefits assigned to *High*, *Medium*, and *Low* ratings. Where quantitative estimates of costs and benefits were available, ratings/ranges were defined as:

*Low* = < \$10,000      *Medium* = \$10,000 to \$100,000      *High* = > \$100,000

Table 6-7 provides the qualitative cost and benefit ratings definitions when quantitative estimates of costs and benefits were not available.

**Table 6-7. Qualitative Cost and Benefit Ratings**

Costs	
High	Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project, and implementation would require an increase in revenue through an alternative source (e.g., bonds, grants, and fee increases).
Medium	The project could be implemented with existing funding but would require a re-apportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
Low	The project could be funded under the existing budget. The project is part of or can be part of an existing, ongoing program.
Benefits	
High	Project will have an immediate impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property.
Medium	Project will have a long-term impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property or will provide an immediate reduction in the risk exposure to property.
Low	Long-term benefits of the project are difficult to quantify in the short term.

Using this approach, projects with positive benefit versus cost ratios (such as high over high, high over medium, medium over low) are considered cost-effective.

For some of the Chenango County initiatives identified, the planning partnership might seek financial assistance under FEMA’s HMA programs. These programs require detailed benefit/cost analysis as part of the application process. These analyses will be performed when funding applications are prepared, using the FEMA benefit/cost analysis model process. The planning partnership is committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits that exceed costs. For projects not seeking financial assistance from grant programs that require this sort of analysis, the planning partnership reserves the right to define “benefits” according to parameters that meet its needs and the goals and objectives of this plan.