



NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Jerome M. Hauer, Ph.D., MHS, Commissioner

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Contact: Peter Cutler  
(518) 242-5202  
pcutler@dhses.ny.gov

**NEW YORK HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROJECT  
ADVANCES FOR FEDERAL ACTION**

*Project proposed to enhance Schoharie County's Flood Warning System,  
support the monitoring of areas subject to flash flooding*

An upstate New York State resiliency project in Schoharie County has progressed to the final stage for federal review and approval under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This past June, Governor Cuomo called for government and non-profit organizations across New York State to submit applications for projects to rebuild smarter, stronger, more sustainable communities in the wake of recent natural disasters. After a thorough State vetting, more than one thousand applications have advanced for review under the FEMA process.

The grant program is aimed at increasing the State's resiliency, mitigating the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reducing hardship. FEMA funds provide 75% reimbursement of eligible project costs.

During the recovery and reconstruction process following a federally declared disaster, such as Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy, FEMA provides HMGP funds for states to administer grant programs that mitigate the vulnerability of life and property to future disasters. The project is:

**Schoharie County: Enhancement to the County's Flood Warning System - \$76,374**

**Background**

Schoharie County is home to the Schoharie Creek, the largest tributary to the Mohawk River. The county currently has an inoperable I-Flow Rain Gauge System with six standing rain gauges throughout the area. The gauges were operational prior to the Hurricane Irene event of August 2011 that devastated Schoharie County and left their Emergency Operations Center building substantially damaged, thus eliminating the system. Schoharie County would like to install a more robust system to better monitor flooding and protect its residents.

**HMGP Project**

This project will enhance Schoharie's existing county-wide flood warning system, which consists of a series of networked rain and stream gauges. Funding will allow Schoharie County to monitor rainfall in higher elevation areas subject to flash flooding. The goal of this is to improve the understanding of rain events and subsequent flooding and utilize this information for flood forecasting and warning in the County's most vulnerable areas. Forecasting and warning, when coupled with effective response plans, enable citizens and public officials to act to protect people and property before floodwaters reach critical levels.

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