

Section 5.0 – Local Mitigation Planning

The following requirement(s) are met throughout this section:

- §201.4(c)(3)(ii): *[The State mitigation strategy **shall** include] a general description and analysis of the effectiveness of local mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities.*
- §201.4(c)(3)(ii): *[The State mitigation strategy **shall** include a] discussion of the State’s pre-and post-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities to mitigate the hazards in the area, including: an evaluation of State laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to hazard mitigation as well as to development in hazard-prone areas [and] a discussion of State funding capabilities for hazard mitigation projects*
- §201.4(c)(4)(i): *[The section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning **must** include a] description of the State process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local mitigation plans.*
- §201.4(c)(3)(iv): *[The State mitigation strategy **shall** include an] identification of current and potential sources of Federal, State, Local, or private funding to implement mitigation activities.*

5.1 – Technical Assistance

5.1.1 –Mitigation Section (New York State OEM)

The Mitigation Section provides technical assistance to any community that requests it. Technical assistance may take the form of guidance documents, regional workshops, one-on-one meetings with the community or telephone conversations. Mitigation Staff will also review and critique draft mitigation plans to ensure they meet the Federal requirements prior to submitting the plans to FEMA for review and approval.

Mitigation planning staff currently provide Local planning communities with mitigation planning tools, guidance material, hazard maps, and data including: landslide susceptibility map, wind zone map, peak ground acceleration (seismic) map, historical information including disaster declaration, and NFIP report statistics describing both the number of policies and claims. The Mitigation Section has also initiated the process to provide print maps and downloadable PDF and Geographic Information System (GIS) files, hazard maps and data and a number of planning tools and guidance resources via the NYSOEM Mitigation web page.

The Mitigation Section has facilitated planning at the Local level beginning in 1997, following the passage of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, which

mandated the preparation of floodplain management plans as a pre-requisite for the project funds. FEMA maintains an up-to-date Local plan status report and can provide interested parties with a current status report for their jurisdiction. Interested jurisdictions should contact the Mitigation Section of the State OEM.

5.2 – Funding Sources

There are five main FEMA sources of mitigation funding, four of which are run annually on a nationally-competitive basis. (See Section 7.0 - Monitoring Progress of Mitigation Activities, pg. 7-1, and NYSOEM's website www.semo.state.ny.us/programs/mitigation/).

1: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Purpose: To significantly reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property from natural hazards. HMGP funds mitigation planning, as well as projects consistent with priorities identified in State, Tribal, or local hazard mitigation plans. HMGP is tied to disaster and emergency declarations, so there is no prescribed timetable.

2: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

Purpose: To provide funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event, to reduce immediate overall risks to the population and structures, and long-term reliance on funding from disaster declarations. PDM is run annually under the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program.

3: Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Purpose: To reduce or eliminate the long term risk of Flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FMA is run annually under the Unified HMA Program.

4: Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)

Purpose: To reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the NFIP that have had one or more claim payments for flood damages. RFC is run annually under the Unified HMA Program.

5: Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)

Purpose: To reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss residential structures insured under the NFIP. SRL is run annually under the Unified HMA Assistance Program.

Under the Public Assistance (PA) program, FEMA also provides Section 406 mitigation funds to facilities damaged in a Presidentially-declared disaster. The State provides half the 25% non-Federal share under the PA program, and occasionally funds the acquisition of properties (see www.nysdhcr.gov/Programs/FloodRemediation/, Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program).

The State provides no match under HMGP or the Unified HMA grant programs.

Potential Alternate Funding Sources

Current and potential funding sources were discussed at the Mitigation Planning Meetings. All representatives were asked to develop a list of possible funding sources that could be accessed by Local governments as well as State Agencies. A summary of major programs is listed in **Table 5-1**.

**Table 5-1
Funding Sources for Mitigation**

| Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources | | |
|---|---|---|
| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
| Federal Funding Sources | | |
| Hazard Reduction Program | Funding for research and related educational activities on hazards | National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Engineering, Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems, Hazard Reduction Program: (703) 306-1360 |
| Decision, Risk, and Management Science Program | Funding for research and related educational and activities on risk, perception, communication, and management (primarily, technological hazards) | NSF -Directorate for Social, Behavioral Economic Science, Division of Social Behavioral and Economic Research Decision, Risk, and Management Science Program (DRMS): (703) 306-1757 www.nsf.gov/sbe/drms/start.htm |
| Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology Program | Funding for research and related educational activities on topics such as ethics, values, and the assessment, communication, management and perception of risk | NSF -Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Science, Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science and Technology Program: (703) 306-1743 |
| Disaster Mitigation Planning and Technical Assistance | Technical and planning assistance grants for capacity building and mitigation project activities focusing on creating disaster resistant jobs and workplaces. | Department of Commerce (DOC), Economic Development Administration (EDA): (800) 345-1222 EDA 's Disaster Recovery Coordinator: (202) 482-6225 - www.doc.gov/eda |
| Watershed Surveys and Planning | Surveys and Planning Studies for appraising water and related resources, and service formulating alternative plans for conservation use and development. Grants and advisory/counseling services to assist w/ planning and implementation improvement | US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - National Resources Conservation (NRCS) Watersheds and Wetlands Division: (202) 720-4527 Deputy Chief for Programs: (202) 690-0848 www.nrcs.usda.gov |
| National Flood Insurance Program | Formula grants to States to assist FEMA communities to comply with NFIP floodplain management requirements (Community Assistance Program). | FEMA |
| National Dam Safety Program | Technical assistance, training, and grants to help improve State dam safety programs. | FEMA |
| National Earthquake Hazards Reduction | Training, planning and technical Program assistance under grants to States or local jurisdictions | FEMA; DOI-USGS USGS Earthquake Program Coordinator: (703) 648-6785 |
| Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program | Technical and financial assistance for installing works of improvement to protect, develop, and utilize land or water resources in small watersheds under 250,000 acres. | USDA-NRCS Director, Watersheds and Wetlands Division: I (202) 720-3042 (202) 690-4614 www.nrcs.usda.crov |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program | Technical, educational, and limited financial | USDA-NRCS |

Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources

| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
|---|--|--|
| (EQIP) | assistance to encourage environmental enhancement | NRCS County Offices Or .NRCS EQUIP Program Manager: (202) 720-1834 www.nrcs.usda.gov |
| Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration | Direct support for carrying out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will improve the quality of the environment. | DOD-USACE Chief of Planning @ appropriate USACE Regional Office North Atlantic: (212) 264-7111 |
| Beneficial Uses of Dredged Materials | Direct assistance for projects that protect, restore, and create aquatic and ecologically-related habitats, including wetlands, in connection with dredging an authorized Federal navigation project | DOD-USACE Same as above |
| Wetlands Protection – Development Grants | Grants to support the development and enhancement of State and tribal wetlands protection programs | US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EPA Wetlands Hotline: (800) 832-7828 Or EPA Headquarters, Office of Water Chief, Wetlands Strategies and State Programs: (202) 260-6045 |
| Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants | Grants to States to implement non-point source programs, including support for non- structural watershed resource restoration activities. | EPA Office of Water Chief, Non-Point Source Control Branch (202) 260-7088. 7100 |
| Coastal Zone Management Program | Grants for planning and implementation of non-structural coastal flood and hurricane hazard mitigation projects and coastal wetlands restoration | Department of Commerce DOC National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Ocean Service Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management . Chief, Coastal Programs Division: (301) 713-3102 |
| Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) State Administered Program | Grants to States to develop viable Program communities (e.g., housing, a suitable living environment. expanded economic opportunities) in non-entitled areas, for low- and moderate-income persons. | US Department of Housing and Urban (CDBG) State Administered Development (HUD) State CDBG Program Manager Or State and Small Cities Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, HUD , Headquarters: (202) 708-3587 |
| Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Communities Program | Grants to entitled cities and urban counties to develop viable communities (e.g., decent housing, a suitable living environment, expanded economic opportunities), principally for low- and moderate-income persons | HUD Entitlement Communities Program City and county applicants should call the Community Planning and Development staff of their appropriate HUD field office. As an alternative, they may call the Entitlement, Communities Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, HUD Headquarters: (202) 708-1577, 3587 |
| Emergency Watershed Protection(EWP) | Provides technical and financial assistance Program for relief from imminent hazards in small watersheds, and to reduce vulnerability of life and property in small watershed areas damaged by severe natural hazard events. | USDA –NRCS National Office -(202) 690-0848 Watersheds and Wetlands Division: (202) 720-3042 |
| Cooperative River Basin Program | Cooperative River Basin Studies are for appraising water and related land resources and formulating alternatives plans for conservation use and development | USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) www.nrcs.usda.gov |
| Conservation Reserve Program | The program reduces soil erosion, improves water quality, and restores wildlife habitat as a result of idling cropland in exchange for compensation. | USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) www.nrcs.usda.gov |

Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources

| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
|---|--|---|
| Rural Development Assistance -Housing | Grants, loans, and technical assistance to address rehabilitation, health and safety needs in primarily low-income rural areas. Declaration of major disaster necessary. | USDA-Rural Housing Service (RHS) Community Programs: (202) 720-1502 Single Family Housing: (202) 720-3773. Multi-Family Housing: (202) 720-5177 |
| Flood Mitigation Assistance(FMA) | 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 http://www.fema.gov/fima/mitgrant.shtm |
| 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 http://www.fema.gov/fima/mitgrant.shtm |
| Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) Grant Program | Grants to States and communities for planning and projects that provide long-term hazard pre-disaster mitigation measures | FEMA http://www.fema.gov/fima/mitgrant.shtm |
| Pre-Disaster Mitigation Disaster Resistant University (PDM DRU) Grant Program | Planning and project Grants to Universities for implementing long-term pre-disaster hazard mitigation measures | FEMA http://www.fema.gov/fima/mitgrant.shtm |
| Disaster Housing Program | Emergency assistance for housing including; minor repair of home to establish livable conditions, mortgage and rental assistance. (MRA) | FEMA |
| Public Assistance Program (Infrastructure) | Grants to States and Communities to repair damaged infrastructure and public facilities and help restore government and government related services following disasters. Mitigation funding is available for work related to damaged components of the eligible building or structure. | FEMA via NY SEMO |
| HOME Investments Partnership 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 Community Planning and Development Grant Programs, Office of Affordable Housing, HOME Investments Partnership Program 202-708-2685 202-708-0614 ext 4594 800-998-9999 |
| Disaster Recovery Initiative | Grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation) | HUD Community Planning and Development Grant Programs Divisions in their respective HUD field offices or HUD Community Planning and Development 202-708-2605 |
| Non Structural Alternatives to Structural Rehabilitation of Damaged Flood Control Works | Direct Planning and construction grants for Non Structural Alternatives to the Structural Rehabilitation of Flood Control Works damaged in floods or coastal storms. | DOD-US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Emergency Management contact in respective USACE field office: North Atlantic: 718-491-8735 |
| 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 Community Planning and Development Grant Programs, Office of- 202-708-3587 |
| Partners for Fish and Wildlife | Financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats | Department of Interior (DOI) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Coordinator, Ecological Services 703-358-2201 A list of state and regional contacts is available upon request. |

Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources

| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
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| Water Resources Development Act-1986, Section 1135, Project Modification for the Improvement of the Environment | Provides resources for ecosystem rehabilitation by modifying structures, operations, and waters resource projects constructed by USACE or restoring areas where a USACE project contributed to a degradation of an area | DOD-USACE Emergency Management contact in respective USACE field office: Chief of Planning, North Atlantic: 718-264-7411 |
| Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act | Resources for small flood damage reduction projects | DOD-USACE Emergency Management contact in respective USACE field office |
| Post Disaster Economic Recovery Grants and Assistance | Grant Funding to assist with the long-term economic recovery of communities, industries and firms adversely affected by disasters. | Department of Commerce (DOC) - Economic Development Administration (EDA), EDA Headquarters, Disaster Recovery Coordinator 202-482-6225 |
| School Renovation, Idea and Technology Grant, and Emergency Response and Crisis Discretionary Grant | Grant funding for eligible school renovation and emergency response measures. | US Department of Education |
| Public Housing Modernization Reserve for Disasters and Emergencies | Funding to Public housing agencies for modernization needs resulting from natural disasters (including elevation, flood proofing and retrofits) | HUD Director, Office of Capital Improvements 202-708-1640 |
| Indian Housing Assistance (Housing Improvements Program) | Project Grants and technical Assistance to substantially eliminate substandard Indian housing | Department of Interior (DIO) - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Division of Housing Assistance Office of Tribal Services 202-208-5427 |
| North America Wetland Conservation Fund | Cost share grants to stimulate public/private partnerships for the protection, restoration and management of wetland habitats | Department of Interior (DOI) - USDA – Fish & Wildlife (FWS) North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office 703-358-1784 |
| Land Acquisition | Acquires or purchases easements on high quality land and waters for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System | USDA – FWS Division of Realty National Coordinator 703-358-1713 |
| Federal Land Transfer / Federal Land to Parks Program | Identifies federal real property available for open space transfer to states and local governments for development of parks and recreation. | DOI-NPS General Services Administration Offices Texas 817-334-2331 Boston 617-838-5700 Or Federal Lands to Park Leader NPS National Office 202-565-1184 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | Funding to States for outdoor recreational development, renovation, land acquisition and planning. | Department of Interior (DOI) National Parks Service (NPS) |
| Urban Park and Recreation Recovery | Grants to economically distressed urban communities primarily for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. The program encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. | Federal program via NYS OPRHP |
| Transportation Equity Act | Funding from the Highway Trust Fund for enhancements such as acquisition, scenic easements, and conversion of abandoned railways to trails. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration Highway Trust Fund |
| Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program | Funding to construct, renovate, or maintain transient tie-up facilities, activity includes replacement of bulkheads, one time dredging to maintain channels or open water for vessels. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Equity Act-21 |
| Recreational Trails Program (RTP) | Provides and maintains recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized trail use. (NY Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) administers the program | US DOT FHWA in consult with Department of Interior (DOI)-National Parks Service (NPS) Bureau of Land Management and USDA – US Forest Service |

Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources

| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
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| | for NY state) | |
| National Highway System (NHS) and Interstate System/Interstate Maintenance (IM) programs | Funds provided to maintain/reconstruct existing portions of system. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration FHWA |
| Surface Transportation Program | Funding for activity including safety construction and transportation enhancements. Transportation enhancements encompass a broad range of safety education, environmental and historically related activities. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration FHWA |
| Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation | Funding for eligible bridges on any public road. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration FHWA |
| Federal Lands Highways | Funding for Indian reservation roads, park roads and parkways and forest land highways. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration FHWA |
| Recreational Trails | Funding for trails used by motorized and non-motorized recreational vehicles. | US DOT Federal Highway Administration FHWA |
| Wetlands Reserve Program | Financial and technical assistance to protect and restore wetlands through easements and restoration agreement | USDA – NRCS National Policy Coordinator NCRS Watersheds and Wetlands Division 202-720-3042 |
| Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans | Disaster loans to non-farm, private sector owners of disaster damaged property for uninsured losses. | Small Business Administration (SBA) National Headquarters Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance: (202) 205-6734 |
| Conservation Contracts | Debt reduction /cancellation for delinquent and non-delinquent borrowers in exchange for conservation contracts placed on environmentally sensitive real property that secures FSA loans. | USDA-FSA Farm Loan Programs FSA National Office (202) 720-3457, 1632 or local FSA office |
| Emergency Conservation Fund | Emergency funds for rehabilitating farmland damaged by natural hazards, such as erosion, wind and flood. | USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA) |
| Clean Water State Revolving Funds | Loans at actual or below market interest rates to help build, repair, relocate or replace waste water treatment plants. | NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (518) 402-6924 www.nysefc.org |
| National Estuary Program Long Island Sound Preservation (LIS Stewardship Comm.) | Established by Congress in 1987 to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance. The Clean Water Act Section 320 as associated with NEP directs EPA to develop plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary. For LIS, implementation priorities are habitat restoration, watershed management, disposal of dredged materials, and public education and involvement on Long Island Sound issues | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program |
| Section 504 Loans for Housing | Repair loans, grants and technical assistance to very low-income senior homeowners living in rural areas to repair their homes and remove health and safety hazards. | USDA US Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service (RHS) Contact local RHS Field Office, or RHS Headquarters, Director, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division (202 720-1474 |
| Section 502 Loan and Guaranteed Loan Program | Provides loans, loan guarantees and technical assistance to very low and low-income applicants to purchase, build or rehabilitate a home in a rural area. | USDA-RHS Contact the Local RHS Field Office, or the Director, Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, RHS: (202) 720-1452 |
| Rural Development Assistance – Utilities | Direct and guaranteed rural economic loans and business enterprise grants to address utility issues and development needs. | USDA-Rural Utility Service (RUS) Contact Rural Development Field Offices or RHS, Deputy Administrator, Community Programs Division: (202) 720-1490 |
| Farm Ownership Loans | Direct loans, guaranteed / insured loans, technical assistance to farmers so that they may develop, construct, improve, or repair farm homes, farms, and service buildings, and to make other necessary improvements. | USDA-FSA Director, Farm Programs Loan Making Division, FSA: (202) 720-1632 |

Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources

| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
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| Forest Legacy Program | Funding to acquire land and conservation easements from willing sellers in cooperation with participating states to protect environmentally sensitive forests threatened with conversion to non-forest use. | USDA – US Forest Service |
| Farmland Protection Program, Section 388 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 | Cost share assistance for the acquisition of conservation easements or other interests in prime, unique, or other productive soil for the purpose of limiting non-agricultural use of that land. | Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS – Commodity Credit Corporation CCC |
| Watershed Environmental Assistance Program | Funding for water quality improvement projects within the “NYC Watershed” that include water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities and surface water resource protection and development | USACE |
| Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL) | The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide funding to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) . | FEMA www.fema.gov NYSEMO www.semo.state.ny.us |
| Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC) | The Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–264), which amended the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001, et al). Up to \$10 million is available annually for FEMA to provide RFC funds to assist States and communities reduce flood damages to insured properties that have had one or more claims to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) . | FEMA www.fema.gov NYSEMO www.semo.state.ny.us |
| State Funding Sources | | |
| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
| Appropriations through the Governor’s Office | Funding for mitigation planning and project activity through special appropriations through the Governor’s Office | New York State |
| NYS Building Aid, State Education Fund | Funding for eligible school facility construction via State Education Funds, NYS Building Aid | NY State Education SED |
| Environmental Protection Fund | Funding administered by NYS Department of State DOS, Department of Environmental Conservation DEC, and Office of Parks Recreation and Historic preservation OPRHP to support many of the State’s environmental needs. Results include development and mitigation related planning initiatives and projects such as acquisition projects as identified in Conserving Open Space and other Plans. | New York State DOS, DEC, OPRHP |
| The Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act | Provides significant resources for several open space and recreation programs including, open space conservation projects administered by DEC and OPRHP, farm land protection administered by NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets. | New York State DOS, DEC, OPRHP |

| Federal, State, and Other Funding Sources | | |
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| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
| Hudson River Estuary Grants Program | Grants available from Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) through Hudson River Estuary program to: municipalities and not-for-profit corporations located within the geographic boundaries of the Hudson River Estuary and associated shore lands for: community interpretive centers and education projects; open space: planning, inventory and acquisition, scenery or river access; community conservation and river stewardship; watershed planning and Implementation and river access improvements. | NYS DEC |
| Other Funding Sources | | |
| Program | Description | Agency Contact |
| Check with Agency for Specific Program Information | Funding potential | American Red Cross |
| Check with Agency for Specific Program Information | Funding potential | Appalachian Regional Commission |
| Check with Agency for Specific Program Information | Funding potential | Susquehanna River Basin Commission |
| Check with Agency for Specific Program Information | Funding potential | Empire State Development Corporation |
| Check with Agency for Specific Program Information | Funding potential | County Soil and Water Districts |
| Sources: Various FEMA and New York State Mitigation Related Documents, New York State Department of Transportation, Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation SCORP, and New Jersey and Washington State Hazard Mitigation Plans. Note that funding sources are subject to change and each program has eligibility criteria. | | |

5.3 – Local Plan Integration

5.3.1 – Reviewing, Coordinating and Integrating Local Plans

The Mitigation Section is responsible for reviewing Local All-Hazard Mitigation Plans that are submitted to OEM. To ensure consistency in the review process, Mitigation Staff will use Part 3 of the guidance document produced by FEMA, *State and Local Plan Interim Criteria Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, as the criteria for the plan review.

Upon completion of the Local plan review, OEM will either approve the plan or conclude the plan needs revisions in order to meet the planning requirements. Plans deemed to have satisfied the planning requirements under DMA 2000 will be forwarded to FEMA for final review and approval consideration. Plans which have not fully satisfied the planning requirements under DMA 2000 will be returned to the Local government with a detailed explanation of the recommended revisions to the plan.

During the formal review process for the State Plan, which commences two years into the planning cycle, the information in the FEMA-approved local plans will be reviewed and if deemed appropriate incorporated into the pertinent sections of the State Plan (i.e. Hazard Profiles, Jurisdictions Most Vulnerable, etc) in an effort to continually improve the accuracy of the State Mitigation Plan. Information from the local plans will be compared to the risk areas defined in the State Plan for each hazard and the State Plan will be adjusted as needed.

5.3.2 – Timeframe for Reviewing Local Plans

The Mitigation Section of OEM will perform a review of local mitigation plans and prepare a response to the Local governments within 45 days of receipt, whenever possible. Additionally, FEMA guidance allows a Federal review period of 45 days with the possibility for a review extension if necessary.

5.4 – Prioritizing Local Assistance

In this planning period the Mitigation Section has developed mitigation planning and project applications for communities interested in obtaining planning and project grants. A copy of the All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Application is included as **Appendix 2**. Upon receipt of planning or project grant applications, the Mitigation Staff will review each application and prioritize the community applications to receive funding. Evaluation and priority ranking systems have been developed to assist with prioritization of local assistance for planning activities and projects by evaluating certain criteria included in the application or provided by the applicant. Copies of the project and planning activity applications and sample evaluation & priority ranking system forms are included as **Appendix 2**. The evaluation packet includes a cover briefly describing the system methodology and how the ranking form should be used.

In general, planning and project grants are awarded based on the information provided for, but not limited to, the following topics:

1. Community's exposure and vulnerability to hazards; e.g., number and type of development at risk; types of hazards, etc...
2. GIS analysis of project locations and risk exposure
3. Number or claims history of repetitive loss properties.
4. Community's disaster loss history by disaster type, with repetitive loss properties identified, as appropriate.
5. Status of an All-Hazard Local Mitigation plan.
6. Indications of intense development pressure.
7. Community initiated, or completed, mitigation measures/projects relative to the identified hazards.
8. Opportunity for, and current experience with, private sector interest and involvement in hazard risk reduction activities for the community.

9. A description of how long-term mitigation planning is supported by local elected officials, including the commitment to programmatic, policy and legislative remedies in addition to fiscal and other local government resources.

5.4.1 – Cost Effectiveness of Projects

When the funds requested for eligible projects exceeds the available project funding in a given grant cycle, the Mitigation Section will use an independent Project Review Board (PRB) to assist OEM in determining which projects should be recommended for funding. The PRB represents DPC agencies (i.e., DEC, DHCR, DOS) and local officials (i.e., a local Flood Plain Coordinator or DPW Commissioner). Benefit-Cost Analyses (BCAs) and preliminary environmental reviews are conducted before applications are sent to the PRB; those projects with potentially little or no environmental impact a BC ratio close to or greater than 1.0 will be forwarded to PRB members for their review and rating. Please see **Section 8** for a more detailed review of a benefit-cost (BC) analysis. The projects determined by the PRB to be the most viable will be recommended for funding. A copy of the *Project Evaluation & Ranking System Form* is included as **Appendix 3**.