

SECTION 5. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3) requires that a local mitigation plan describe existing authorities, policies, programs and resources available to each participant and their ability to expand on and improve existing policies and programs to support mitigation strategies. This assessment is an integral part of the planning process. The assessment process enables identification, review, and analysis of current federal, state, and local programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that could either facilitate or hinder mitigation.

Existing laws, ordinances, plans and programs at the federal, state, and local level can support or impact hazard mitigation actions identified in this plan. Hazard mitigation plans (HMPs) are required to include a review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information as part of the planning process (44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Section 201.6(b)(3)). Federal and state programs identified through this review are those that affect or intersect with the actions identified in this plan. Each program enhances capabilities to implement mitigation actions or has a nexus with a mitigation action in this plan.

During the 2024 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 to integrate hazard mitigation into their plans, programs, and day-to-day operations.

The capability assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Volume II describes the planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, and fiscal capabilities of each participating jurisdiction.

5.1 UPDATE PROCESS SUMMARY

The purpose of the capability assessment is to understand the planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, and financial capabilities present in Rockland County. This assessment helps the County and other participating jurisdictions identify strengths and opportunities that can be used to reduce losses from hazard events and reduce risks throughout Rockland County.

To complete the capability assessment, the contracted consultant met virtually with each participating jurisdiction to review the capability assessment from the 2018 HMP and update accordingly. The consultant also reviewed plans, codes, and ordinances to enhance the information provided by the jurisdictions.

5.2 PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY

Planning and regulatory capabilities are based on the implementation of ordinances, policies, local laws, state statutes, plans, and programs that relate to guiding and managing growth and development. Planning and regulatory capabilities refer not only to current plans and regulations, but also to the jurisdiction's ability to change and improve those plans and regulations as needed. Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 summarize planning and regulatory capabilities at the federal, state, county, and local levels.

Table 5-1. County Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Capability	Details	
Municipal Land Use Planning and Regulatory Authority	Description:	<p>New York’s counties have the statutory power to create planning boards (General Municipal Law [GML] section 239-c). The county legislative body may prepare a county comprehensive plan or delegate its preparation to the county planning board or to a “special board” (GML section 239-d). Prior to adopting or amending a county official map, the county legislative body must refer the proposed changes to the county planning board and other municipal bodies (GML section 239-e). In addition, the county legislative body may authorize the county planning board to review certain planning and zoning actions, including certain subdivision plats, by municipalities within the county (GML section 239-c(3)).</p> <p>State laws require that any city, town, or village in a county possessing a “county planning agency” or “regional planning council” refer to that agency on certain zoning matters before taking final action on those matters. In addition, where authorized by the county legislative body, certain subdivision plats must be referred to the county by the town, village or city planning board before taking final action. Referral to the county planning agency or regional planning council is an important aid to the local planning and zoning process. It provides local planning and zoning bodies with advice and assistance from professional county and regional staff and can result in better coordination of zoning actions among municipalities by interjecting inter-community considerations. In addition, it allows other planning agencies (county, regional, and state) to better orient studies and proposals for solving local as well as county and regional needs.</p> <p>Floodplain regulations govern the amount, type, and location of development within defined flood-prone areas. Federal standards, applicable to communities that are eligible for federal flood insurance protection, include identification of primary flood hazard areas, usually defined as being within the 1 percent-annual-chance floodplain. Within flood hazard areas, certain restrictions are placed on development activities. Such restrictions include a requirement that buildings be elevated above flood elevations or be flood-protected and a prohibition on development on filled land. Municipalities can adopt their own floodplain regulations, which may be more stringent than the federal standards. Local floodplain regulations can identify a larger hazard area (such as a 500-year floodplain) and may prohibit certain types of construction within flood hazard areas. Municipalities must adopt local floodplain regulations to be eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).</p> <p>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 the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II. The Rockland County Planning Department, Rockland Codes Initiative and Rockland Planning Federation all provide local land use planning support to municipalities. The Rockland County Planning Department is available to provide courtesy reviews and input to local Comprehensive Plan updates to ensure that they incorporate the information, findings, and recommendations of this HMP as appropriate.</p> <p>A primary function of the Rockland County Planning Department is the review of site plans, subdivisions, variances, zone changes, zoning code amendments, special permits and other land use, zoning, or environmental actions under the State-mandated GML application process. Planners also offer recommendations and guidance on local master plans and ordinance updates. The department performs a variety of tasks, focusing on topics related to housing, environmental and natural issues, historic and cultural resources, recreation and open space, and infrastructure.</p> <p>A May 2017 Rockland County Executive Order prohibits County departments from issuing permits for developments that have not complied with GML. The GML requires towns and villages to comply with the findings of the County Planning Commissioner or file a reason why a decision has been made to not comply. Failure to do so will result in the County not issuing permits for such uses as water and sewer connections, well permits, rooming house permits, drainage permits, road opening permits, issuance of new addresses, and others.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No

Capability	Details	
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. It promotes communication, cooperation, and understanding among various constituencies affected by the land use and planning decisions of local governments
Emergency and Evacuation Plans	Description:	The Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services plays a lead role in planning, mitigation, coordination, response, and recovery for natural disasters, such as hurricanes, coastal storms, floods, and winter storms. The Office maintains the Rockland County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that is reviewed bi-annually. The County CEMP contains annexes related to hurricane/coastal storm, winter storm, and heat. Four of the five towns in Rockland County have CEMPs (updated within the year). Six of the 18 villages have CEMPs, and some villages defer to a town’s plan. The Office of Fire and Emergency Services also maintains the Rockland County Continuity of Operations Plan. Specific evacuation plans are identified in the Rockland County CEMP Hurricane/Coastal Storm Annex and Dam Safety Plans (Emergency Action Plans).
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. It promotes communication, cooperation, and understanding among various constituencies affected by natural disasters and other emergencies.
	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program	Description:
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Facilitated consultation with community-based groups in connection with the preparation and implementation of the LWRP.

Capability	Details	
<p>Flood Mitigation and Resilience Report: Saddle River Watershed (SD114), June 2022</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The analysis of the Saddle River watershed was conducted as part of the Resilient New York Program, an initiative of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Rockland County, including the Saddle River watershed, has an active history of flooding. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) historical records, 25 hurricane or tropical storm tracks have passed within 65 miles of Rockland County since 1861, with five passing directly through Rockland County.</p> <p>As part of the analysis, flood-prone High-Risk Areas (HRAs) along West Branch Saddle River, East Branch Saddle River, and Pine Brook were identified, and an analysis of flood mitigation considerations within each HRA was undertaken. Factors with the potential to influence more than one HRA were also evaluated and discussed. An analysis of watershed land use was conducted, and a flood resiliency best practices audit was conducted for each community within the watershed.</p> <p>Flood mitigation scenarios such as dam removal, road closures, replacement of undersized bridges and culverts, and floodproofing measures of individual structures were investigated. Rough order-of-magnitude cost ranges were provided for the recommended flood mitigation scenarios. A range of potential funding sources were also identified.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>NYS DEC, in cooperation with the New York State Office of General Services (NYS OGS)</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation:</p>	<p>No</p>
	<p>Hazards Addressed:</p>	<p>Flood</p>
	<p>Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:</p>	<p>Yes. Projects must reduce threats to lives and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible; be designed and implemented according to sound technical standards; and conserve natural resources.</p>
<p>Clarkstown New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, Sections I and II, December 2014</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The Clarkstown New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Plan, developed during six months of community stakeholder engagement, reflects Clarkstown’s vision and goals, honoring its unique qualities and assets for building a safer, more resilient and sustainable future. The Clarkstown NYRCR planning area is coterminous with the municipal boundaries and includes all eight hamlets. Although some Clarkstown neighborhoods were not directly impacted by flooding or wind damage, these areas contain important recovery and resiliency assets and serve as resources for resilient reconstruction.</p> <p>Most storm-related flooding in Clarkstown comes from the Hackensack River and its many tributaries rising above their banks, flowing into their natural floodplains and inundating the surrounding areas. During the NYRCR process, the Town identified the following issues related to flooding and storms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency service provider access • Flooding in residential neighborhoods • Interruptions to Town services and facilities • Repeated flooding of businesses • Road closures • Widespread and prolonged power outages <p>The plan identified the following strategies to provide protection to the Town from future events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and protect critical infrastructure and transportation assets. • Develop initiatives and financial assistance programs to better protect residents, businesses, and commercial centers from future storm damage and to allow them to recover more quickly. • Improve stormwater infrastructure and drainage systems using green infrastructure practices where possible and cost-effective. • Ensure access to and improve resiliency of critical health and social service facilities and safe havens during and after storm events. • Preserve open spaces and restore natural resources to better support flood mitigation.

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education, outreach, and implementation assistance regarding pre-storm preparedness (including proper maintenance of water bodies and stormwater runoff mitigation on private properties), storm protection procedures, and post-storm recovery initiatives to protect from future flooding. • Promote resilience and flood management best practices through land-use planning, policy, and regulation. • Improve regional coordination with neighboring communities and local and state agencies for watershed management to better mitigate flooding and plan for future disasters.
	Responsible Agency:	Town of Clarkstown
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. During the asset risk analysis, community assets that provide services for socially vulnerable populations were identified as they are particularly important both before and following a storm.
Flood Mitigation and Resilience Report: Minisceongo Creek (SD112), November 2021	Description:	<p>The analysis of the Minisceongo Creek watershed was conducted as part of the Resilient New York Program, an initiative of the NYS DEC. Minisceongo Creek originates in west central Rockland County and drains eastward to the Hudson River estuary.</p> <p>This report begins with an overview of the Minisceongo Creek watercourse and watershed, summarizes the history of flooding, and identifies HRAs within the watershed. HRAs were identified based on comments received during stakeholder meetings; conversations with municipal officials, emergency responders, landowners, and business owners; and review of FEMA Flood Insurance Studies and Flood Insurance Rate Maps, HMPs, and other documents. An analysis of flood mitigation considerations within each HRA was undertaken. Flood mitigation recommendations were provided either as HRA-specific recommendations or as overarching recommendations that apply to the entire watershed or stream corridor. Flood mitigation scenarios such as floodplain enhancement and channel restoration, road closures, and replacement of undersized bridges and culverts were investigated and recommended where appropriate.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	NYS DEC, in cooperation with NYS OGS
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Projects must reduce threats to lives and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible; be designed and implemented according to sound technical standards; and conserve natural resources.
Flood Mitigation and Resilience Report: Ramapo River (SD113), March 2023	Description:	<p>This analysis of the Ramapo River and its watershed was conducted as part of the Resilient New York Program, an initiative of NYS DEC. The watershed is located northwest of New York City and is part of the New York City metropolitan area. Portions of the watershed are densely developed, especially the downstream portions. Sections of the Ramapo River are confined by roads and railroads, which encroach upon the river's floodplain.</p> <p>As part of the study, flood-prone HRAs within the Ramapo River watershed were identified and an analysis of flood mitigation considerations within each HRA was undertaken. Flood mitigation scenarios, such as floodplain enhancement and channel restoration, dam modifications, road closures, and replacement of undersized culverts, roadway bridges, and railroad bridges, are recommended where appropriate. Recommendations for flood protection at individual properties were provided. An analysis of watershed land use was conducted, and a Flood Resiliency Best Practices Audit was conducted for each community within the watershed.</p> <p>High-priority recommendations for flood hazard mitigation along the Ramapo River include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In HRA 1, removal of the abandoned railroad bridge and embankment traversing the Ramapo River floodplain in the Suffern West Ward to reduce flooding of critical water supply and wastewater infrastructure. • In HRA 1, replacement of the Fourth Street bridge over the Ramapo River with a hydraulically adequate span to alleviate flooding of an electrical substation.

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In HRA 3, replacement of the Arden Road bridge with a hydraulically adequate span and exploring the feasibility of raising the NY-17 and I-87 roadway elevations upstream to reduce or eliminate flooding of these highways. In HRA 4, replacement of the Brookside Drive East culvert with a hydraulically adequate culvert to alleviate flooding of the upstream neighborhood. In HRA 5, exploring the feasibility of removing, relocating, or lowering the Heritage Rail Trail embankment near the Harriman/Monroe village limits to reduce flooding in neighborhoods near Marc Terrace, James Road, and Dorothy Drive. In HRA 5, exploring the feasibility of reducing the spillway elevation (e.g., with collapsible flashboards) or otherwise increasing the spillway capacity of the Monroe Ponds dam to reduce flooding of properties, businesses, and infrastructure surrounding Monroe Ponds. Voluntary buyout or relocation of flood-prone properties and businesses identified throughout the HRAs.
	Responsible Agency:	NYS DEC, in cooperation with NYS OGS
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Projects must reduce threats to lives and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible; be designed and implemented according to sound technical standards; and conserve natural resources.
Stony Point New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, March 2014	Description:	<p>The Stony Point NYRCR Plan presents proposed programs, policies and construction initiatives developed by the Stony Point NYRCR Community and the Stony Point NYRCR Planning Committee, comprised of Stony Point residents chosen to represent the community. The scope of the planning area includes all areas of the Town of Stony Point outside of Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks. Some areas within the geographic scope were not directly damaged by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, or Superstorm Sandy, but include potential locations for resilient redevelopment, providing the Town the ability to relocate critical facilities out of flood-prone areas.</p> <p>During the NYRCR process, the Town identified the following issues related to flooding and storms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of emergency preparedness Incomplete recovery of the Hudson River waterfront Critical assets vulnerable to flooding Uncertainty surrounding regional energy and infrastructure projects Synergy between local and regional natural and cultural resources <p>The NYRCR plan identified strategies to provide protection to the Town from future events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen current short- and long-term emergency shelters and develop new sheltering opportunities. Encourage economic development and support existing businesses. Improve on existing emergency preparedness, response, and communications. Provide information and assistance to homeowners with pre-storm flood-proofing and post-storm repair, buyouts, and demolition. Promote sustainability and resilience through local land use planning and regulation. Repair, rehabilitate, upgrade and fortify critical infrastructure and transportation. Harness resiliency potential of natural resources.
	Responsible Agency:	NYRCR Stony Point Planning Committee
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood

Capability	Details	
	<p>Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:</p>	<p>During the asset risk analysis, community assets that provide services for socially vulnerable populations were identified as they are particularly important both before and following a storm. Public engagement meetings were held throughout the eight-month planning process, with the final meeting conducted after the final plans were complete. These meetings provided the opportunity for Stony Point residents to learn about the NYRCR planning process, assets, and projects, and provide input to help develop community-driven plans for a more resilient future.</p>
<p>Suffern New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, December 2014</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The Village of Suffern is in the Town of Ramapo in Rockland County, 20 miles west of the Hudson River and measures 2.1 square miles. The Ramapo River Watershed, which is part of the Passaic River Basin, encompasses the entire Village. The Suffern NYRCR planning area encompasses the entire Village of Suffern, and a small part of the New Jersey Township of Mahwah at the New York and New Jersey border. During the NYRCR process, the Village identified the following issues related to flooding and storms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency access • Flooding in residential neighborhoods • Inundation of critical facilities • Loss of power • Repeated flooding of businesses • Road closures • Stream bank erosion and stream bed sedimentation <p>The plan identified the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build closer working relationships with neighboring communities and the State of New Jersey to address flooding issues that do not respect municipal boundaries. • Continue high level of emergency services and enhance physical access to neighborhoods. • Enhance infrastructure and stormwater systems where needed. • Preserve community character to maintain small town charm. • Protect and clean Lake Antrim and the Mahwah and Ramapo Rivers. • Protect, promote, and enhance cultural attractions that draw people to the village. • Revitalize downtown businesses and protect from future storm damage.
	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>Suffern NYRCR Planning Committee</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Hazards Addressed:</p>	<p>Flood</p>
	<p>Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:</p>	<p>Yes. An important component of the NYRCR process was to assess the risk posed to community assets and systems that were affected by past flood events or may be impacted by future storms. Information was added for each asset, including address, geographic coordinates, risk area, asset class and subcategory, community value, critical facility designation, and whether the asset served socially vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, people with special needs, and low-income community members.</p>
<p>Rockland County Sewer Use Law, Last Amended in 2010</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The law establishes rules and regulations governing the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes and other waste into the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 and public sewers tributary thereto, providing for the establishment and collection of charges for use of such sewer system and sewers and prescribing penalties for the violation of such rules and regulations.</p> <p>The general purpose of this law is to provide for efficient, economic, environmentally safe, and legal operation of the Rockland County Sewer District’s publicly owned treatment works. It authorizes the issuance of wastewater discharge permits; provides for monitoring, compliance, and enforcement activities; establishes administrative review procedures; requires user reporting; and provides for the setting of fees for the equitable distribution of costs resulting from the programs established within it.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>Board of Commissioners, Rockland County Sewer District No. 1</p>

Capability	Details	
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Disease Outbreak
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The guiding purpose of the law is to equally protect the overall public health, safety, and welfare of the community.
Rockland County Adopted Capital Improvement Program 2024-2029, December 2023	Description:	<p>The purpose of the Capital Improvement Program is to consider the necessity, priority, feasibility, location, cost, and method of financing of all existing and proposed capital projects and to assist in the consideration of a capital program. A Capital Projects Committee consists of the County Executive as Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Legislature, the Superintendent of Highways, the Commissioner of Finance, the Commissioner of Planning, and other persons the County Executive may designate. The County Executive is responsible for the capital program as submitted to the County Legislature.</p> <p>An example capital project to mitigate potential hazards is to provide funding for the design and construction of emergency generators and electrical improvements to the County Office Building, Sain Building, Highway Building and 2 New Hempstead Road Building. These buildings do not have emergency back-up power as required by code. The project is to access the present buildings’ electrical system, design improvements and perform construction for installation of new electrical systems and emergency generators.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Capital projects are implemented equally in all areas of need within the community. Consideration of comprehensive plans for the County and for any affected municipality therein guides program development.
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Regional Transportation Plan: Moving Forward, June 2023	Description:	<p>The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council developed a Regional Transportation Plan for New York City, Lower Hudson Valley, and Long Island titled <i>Moving Forward: Your Region, Connected</i>. The plan covers all modes of ground transportation including highways, roads and bridges, streets, rail and bus transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, movement of goods, and special needs transportation. Updated every four years, the plan is a blueprint that helps support sustainable growth and guide federal funding for transportation investment in the region. The plan was developed collaboratively with New York Metropolitan Transportation Council member agencies, other stakeholders, and members of public. Rockland County participates in several federally mandated transportation planning programs, including the Regional Transportation Plan.</p> <p>The plan’s Resilience Improvement Plan addendum addresses the immediate and long-range planning activities and investments of the metropolitan planning organization with respect to resilience of the surface transportation system. This systematic approach includes a risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities of transportation assets and systems to current and future weather events and natural disasters. It is consistent with and complements the state and local mitigation plans required under section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165) and meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 176(e). The addendum seeks to enhance the transportation system’s resilience to stressors and disruptions that will have a growing impact across the region in the longer term. These include climate change, sea level rise, and extreme weather; related impacts such as power outages and transportation disruptions; human-caused stressors such as cyberattacks and acts of terrorism; and public health emergencies. The Resilience Improvement Plan addendum also seeks to inform the ongoing recovery process from past and current stresses and disruptions through feasible, cost-effective strategies to reduce and manage vulnerabilities, advance the state of knowledge, and develop methods to assist agencies in the region to plan and invest for long-term, “all hazards” resilience.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All

Capability	Details	
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. As an example, the MTA plans for deploying service during evacuation to the vulnerable population by coordinating with the New York City Office of Emergency Management. Rockland County has participated with Hudson Riverfront Communities on resilience issues during the plan development process. In addition, the County is undertaking a study to develop a continuity of operations plan for County government, as well as a County comprehensive plan update that will include countywide resilience strategies.
Rockland Tomorrow: Rockland County Comprehensive Plan, March 2011	Description:	<p>The Comprehensive Plan seeks to preserve what residents love about Rockland. At the same time, it addresses the very real challenges facing the County, including the provision of affordable housing, jobs, traffic congestion, preservation of the natural and scenic qualities of the Hudson River and County, provision of adequate infrastructure, and preservation of open space and other environmental resources. The plan recognizes Rockland County’s historical suburban development patterns, the importance of abundant open space and scenic vistas, and the central role of the automobile in suburban living. Toward these ends, the plan’s vision can be interpreted as a three-part strategy to guide land use patterns: Conservation, Centers, and Corridors and Clusters. This strategy can be seen throughout the document in helping to preserve or otherwise improve the quality of life for the County’s residents in the coming decades.</p> <p>Overall, the goals emphasize a balanced economy with employment opportunities, the reinforcement of centers, the conservation and enhancement of existing neighborhoods, the need for housing options, and the preservation of open space. The goals include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve open space. • Promote conservation (cluster) subdivision design to help conserve valuable and sensitive open space. • Reinforce existing County centers through investment in infrastructure and housing, and support of businesses. • Foster and maintain well-designed business and industrial corridors and clusters. • Encourage smart growth, while preserving quality-of-life and existing community and neighborhood character. • Acknowledge the impact of climate change on planning and County operations. • Develop strategies for County departments to explore sustainable development measures and “green” technology to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. • Foster a balance between the home rule authority of Rockland County’s municipalities with the legitimate concerns of adjoining communities.
	Responsible Agency:	County Legislature, County Executive, and County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Recommendations to include programs and projects for the underserved communities are evident throughout the plan.
Rockland County Comprehensive Water Conservation and Implementation Plan, March 2020	Description:	<p>The Rockland County Comprehensive Water Conservation and Implementation Plan presents an integrated approach to water conservation that is implementable and cost-effective for Rockland County and its partners. It is intended to complement other resource conservation efforts within the County and support the region’s economic, environmental, and social well-being. The plan was developed through a stakeholder approach envisioned by the County, including a combination of public meetings and stakeholder workshops, then was further refined and finalized through input provided by the Rockland County Planning Department and Task Force on Water Resources Management.</p> <p>The County recognizes that water conservation planning is most effective when interrelationships among water resources, infrastructure, energy use, land use, public and private water supplies, community values, and local governance are addressed. Specifically, the plan addresses current and future water needs while considering implications for water supply, treatment, reuse, watershed health, water quality, instream flows, community wellbeing and fiscal considerations.</p>

Capability	Details	
		<p>As the first Comprehensive Water Conservation and Implementation Plan for Rockland County, the primary focus of this plan is to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a holistic understanding of current water demand in the entire County. • Predict future water demand conditions in the County, then identify short- and long-term water savings goals based on potential savings documented in literature. • Develop an implementation plan that the County can use to guide implementation partners in selecting, customizing, and implementing water conservation measures in their jurisdictions. • Present a menu of 20 water conservation measures that address the unique challenges facing Rockland County, while also respecting the authority of local jurisdictions.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management, Conservation Committee and Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	<p>Yes. The planning process was designed to incorporate technical analysis, best practices, and stakeholder engagement including a combination of public meetings, stakeholder workshops, and detailed review by the Rockland County Planning Department and Task Force. A half-day workshop on March 7, 2019, was attended by more than 100 participants, with representatives from the County’s local jurisdictions along with other stakeholders such as the County Department of Health, local school districts and colleges, large water users, utilities and municipalities, and the green industry. Participants provided critical input to the planning process, sharing information and insights regarding programs they may implement. To enhance Plan implementation, the Committee committed to work with stakeholders in the County that know how to successfully engage residents and special populations, including multi-lingual communities and those with special circumstances.</p>
<p>Rockland County Stream Control Act, July 1976, Amended November 2001</p>	Description:	<p>The legislative intent and purpose of this act is the alleviation of recurring flood damage to public and private property and the prevention of damage to public health and safety resulting from floods in Rockland County. It is the intent of this act to protect health, safety, the economy, and general welfare through the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing for the protection, preservation, proper maintenance, and use of its water courses, tidal marshes, floodplain lands, watersheds, water recharge areas, and natural drainage systems to minimize their disturbance. • Preventing damage from erosion, turbidity, siltation, and saltwater intrusion. • Preventing loss of fish or other beneficial marine organisms, aquatic wildlife and vegetation, and the natural habitat thereof. • Preventing the danger of flood damage and pollution. • Protecting the quality of water courses, wetlands, tidal marshes, shorelines, watersheds and water recharge areas, underground water reserves, and natural drainage systems. • Protecting the County’s potable fresh water supplies from the dangers of drought, overdraft, pollution, and misuse or mismanagement.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Drainage Agency
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Although not specifically, all impacted populations will benefit equally by enforcement of the act.
<p>Ready Rockland—For Older Adults and People with Access</p>	Description:	<p>Ready Rockland is a resource guide for vulnerable populations to prepare for a disaster event. The steps outlined in the guide will help vulnerable populations to better identify and assess their needs and resources during times of disaster and include instructions on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting registered

Capability	Details	
and Functional Needs, June 2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a disaster plan Assembling an emergency supply kit Putting together a “go” bag Being prepared to evacuate Sheltering in place Available resources
	Responsible Agency:	Office of Fire and Emergency Services
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This resource specifically aims to provide support for vulnerable populations, such as those who are older than 65 and/or those with access and functional needs.

Table 5-2. State and Federal Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Capability	Details	
Disaster Mitigation Act 2000	Description:	The Disaster Mitigation Act is the current federal legislation addressing hazard mitigation planning. It emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. It specifically addresses planning at the local level, requiring plans to be in place before Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funds are available to communities. This plan update is designed to meet the requirements of the act, improving eligibility for future hazard mitigation funds.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	HMPs that meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act establish eligibility for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds.
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Act aims to help communities proactively identify and mitigate their vulnerabilities to adverse impacts, including identifying underserved and socially vulnerable populations that may require additional support during an emergency.
National Flood Insurance Program	Description:	<p>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 damage. The flood hazard profile in Section 4.3.6 provides information on recent legislation related to reforms to the NFIP.</p> <p>All municipalities in Rockland County actively participate in the NFIP. As of November 2023, there were 962 NFIP policies in Rockland County. There have been 3,113 claims made, totaling over \$43 million for damage to structures and contents.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Full compliance and good standing under the NFIP are application prerequisites for all FEMA grant programs for which participating jurisdictions are eligible under this plan.
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program aims to provide incentives for communities that proactively identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, including identifying those that may require additional support during an emergency.
NFIP Community Rating System	Description:	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. Flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS:

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood losses. • Facilitate accurate insurance rating. • Promote the awareness of flood insurance. <p>Municipalities and the County can expect significant cost savings on premiums if enrolled in the CRS program. As of October 2023, one community in Rockland County participates in the CRS program. The Village of Suffern is currently a Class 9 CRS community (Verisk Analytics, Inc. 2023).</p>
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	CRS premium discounts on flood insurance range from 5 percent for Class 9 communities up to 45 percent for Class 1 communities.
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program aims to provide incentives for communities that proactively identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, including identifying those that may require additional support during an emergency.
New York State Floodplain Management	Description:	<p>In 1992, the New York State Legislature found that “it is in the interests of the people of this state to provide for participation” in the NFIP (New York Laws, Environmental Conservation, Article 36). Although the Legislature recognized that “land use regulation is principally a matter of local concern” and that local governments “have the principal responsibility for enacting appropriate land use regulations,” the law requires all local governments with land use restrictions over SFHAs to comply with all NFIP requirements. The law clearly advises local governments that failure to qualify for the NFIP may result in sanctions under federal law and specifies that the state “will cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of these sanctions.”</p> <p>The 1992 law that provides for local government participation in the NFIP also requires state agencies to “take affirmative action to minimize flood hazards and losses in connection with state-owned and state-financed buildings, roads and other facilities, the disposition of state land and properties, the administration of state and state-assisted planning programs, and the preparation and administration of state building, sanitary and other pertinent codes.” The Commissioner of the NYS DEC assists state agencies in several respects, including reviewing potential flood hazards at proposed construction sites.</p> <p>There are two departments that have statutory authorities and programs that affect floodplain management at the local jurisdiction level in New York State: NYS DEC and the Department of State’s Division of Building Standards and Codes.</p> <p>NYS DEC 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 NYS DEC’s 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 bureau consists of three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dam Safety Section is responsible for reviewing repairs and modifications to dams and ensuring 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 Coastal Erosion and 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.
	Responsible Agency:	NYS DEC and Division of Building Standards and Codes
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No

Capability	Details	
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program aims to provide incentives for communities that proactively identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, including identifying those that may require additional support during an emergency.
New York Power Authority	Description:	The New York Power Authority (NYPA) is America’s largest state power organization, with 16 generating facilities and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. State and federal regulations shape NYPA’s diverse customer base, which includes large and small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, community-owned electric systems, rural electric cooperatives, and government entities. NYPA provides the lowest-cost electricity in New York State and is the only statewide electricity supplier.
	Responsible Agency:	New York State
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes. As part of its commitment to supporting growth, development, and innovation across New York, NYPA provides grants and low-cost power to eligible organizations.
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. NYPA’s Environmental Justice program is driven by a commitment to always be a good neighbor to the historically underserved and marginalized communities located near NYPA facilities and assets. Community collaboration and engagement are the hallmarks of this program. NYPA leverages its expertise in energy and energy technology to provide no-cost programs and services that meet the unique needs of communities.

5.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

Table 5-3 and Table 5-4 summarize administrative and technical capabilities at the federal, state, county, and local levels. Detailed information regarding administrative and technical capabilities in the County and the municipalities can be found in each jurisdictional annex found in Volume II.

Table 5-3. County and Local Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Capability	Details	
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services	Description:	The Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services responds to natural disasters such as snowstorms, floods, and hurricanes; technical disasters such as chemical spills; and hazardous materials incidents. It provides 911 service for the residents of Rockland County and coordinates dispatch of fire companies and ambulance squads. It also conducts Indian Point drills on a regular basis. The Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services provides support and training necessary to its fire service and emergency responders. The Office oversaw the development of this plan update, which will allow its jurisdictions to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding, as well as mitigate physical and economic damage resulting from future natural disasters.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Office of Fire and Emergency Services offers a Special Needs Registry User Guide and an Access and Functional Needs Registry for vulnerable populations. All hazards and emergencies are responded to equally.
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Description:	Authorized by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was enacted by Congress as the national legislation on community safety. This law is designed to help local communities protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards.

Capability	Details	
		<p>To implement EPCRA, Congress requires each state to appoint a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The SERCs are required to divide their states into Emergency Planning Districts and to name a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for each district.</p> <p>Broad representation by fire fighters, health officials, government and media representatives, community groups, industrial facilities, and emergency managers ensures that all necessary elements of the planning process are represented.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Represented by community groups.
Rockland County Planning Department	Description:	<p>It is the Rockland County Planning Department’s goal and responsibility to appropriately guide municipal planning decisions using the guidelines set forth by the GML, the Official County Map, and the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The Department’s dedicated professionals and cutting-edge technology assist the County in maintaining a livable, sustainable, suburban community. The Planning Department encourages sustainable development among municipalities; that is, development that looks at the big picture, incorporating land-use and transportation planning measures together with the needs of the community.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Planning Department emphasizes sustainable development, which aims to meet the needs of all residents, including those that are underserved and/or socially vulnerable.
Rockland County Highway Department	Description:	<p>The Rockland County Highway Department has the responsibility for the administration, construction, maintenance, supervision, repair, and care of approximately 340 lane miles of roadways, 83 bridges, and 115 culverts within the County jurisdiction. The department mission is to provide a safe, well-maintained, and efficient operation of the County highway and bridge system. The Highway Department consists of the following six divisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Division • Maintenance and Construction Division • Drainage Agency • Permits Division • Traffic Safety Division • Maps and Highway GIS Division
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Department works with other County and municipal agencies to ensure all residents can travel safely via private and public transit.
Rockland County Health Department	Description:	<p>The mission of the Rockland County Department of Health is to protect and promote optimal health for all residents. Its goal is a safe, healthy county for County residents to live, work and play, and where everyone has an equal opportunity for a healthy and productive life. To fulfill this mission, the Department fulfills the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides family planning services and education. • Operates the WIC (women, infant, children) nutrition program in Rockland.

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers nutrition, diabetes, stop smoking, and other health promotion and education programs. • Evaluates and offers referrals for children with developmental delays. • Helps protect children from lead poisoning. • Plans for emergency response. • Provides coordination, training and resources to the EMS community, and offers CPR courses. • Practices disease prevention and control.
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Department provides services that specifically support low-income households and children, such as the WIC nutrition program.
Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources	Description:	<p>Local Law No. 19 of 1996 established the Division of Environmental Resources (DER). The DER is located within Rockland County government and serves as the core environmental department responsible for informing the County Executive and the County Legislature on all environmental issues. These include but are not limited to, state and federal initiatives, new programs, funding sources, concerns of residents, and environmental problems within the County.</p> <p>The DER includes the Environmental Management Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, Water Quality Committee, Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, and the Parks Commission. The Division’s goal has been two-fold: to protect Rockland’s environment and to provide County residents both active and passive recreational opportunities. Park acquisitions have been attained through County funds matched with federal and state grants along with land donations, tax delinquency and partnerships with land trusts and other municipalities.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Division aims to protect access to parks and open spaces for all residents by acquiring parks and other initiatives.
Rockland County Open Space Acquisition Program	Description:	<p>The Open Space Acquisition Program launched in 1999 to acquire areas of scenic beauty, environmentally sensitive lands, farms, and Hudson River waterfront areas. Its goal is to protect the rapidly disappearing natural, cultural, and historic resources in Rockland County for the future.</p> <p>Between 1999 and 2010, 31 individual properties were acquired, preserving 1,204 acres of land. A total of \$23,300,000 in County funds were expended while \$11,576,000 in state grants and partnerships with Land Trusts and local municipalities were leveraged. The Open Space Acquisition Program has successfully provided access to the Hudson River (27 acres), preserved steep slopes (500 acres), protected wetlands (350 acres), and preserved a valuable historic resource (0.5 acres). The remaining acreage includes floodplains, scenic vistas, and properties to provide access to other parklands. These parcels are scattered throughout the five Towns in the County and offer a variety of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>In September 2019, the County approved Resolution No. 406 of 2019 authorizing the creation of a 2020 capital project to include \$30,000,000 to acquire open space properties. In 2023, 25 acres were purchased and preserved, and, in the beginning of 2024, 14 acres were preserved.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No

Capability	Details	
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Department aims to protect access to open spaces and natural resources for all residents by acquiring land.
Resilient NY	Description:	In November 2018, New York State launched the Resilient NY program. The overall goal of the program is to improve community resiliency to extreme weather events that result in flooding and ice jam formations. NYS DEC and NYS OGS retained two consulting firms to prepare the Resilient NY studies. The consultants will work with NYS DEC experts, municipalities, and interested stakeholders to collect relevant information about flooding and ice jam formations in each priority watershed and use this information to develop specific mitigation projects and actions. The Resilient NY program supported the development of Flood Mitigation and Resilience Reports for the following watersheds: Hackensack River, Mahwah River, Minisceongo Creek, Ramapo River, Saddle River, and Sparkill Creek.
	Responsible Agency:	NYS DEC and NYS OGS, with support from Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.
	Description:	Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Environmental Program encourages municipalities and residents to conserve water and to protect existing water resources. It offers guidance in the use of rain barrels and rain gardens and provides educational services for invasive species management.
Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No
Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management	Description:	The mission of the Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management is to develop a water plan that ensures a safe, long-term water supply for Rockland County and incorporates sustainability, demand-side principles, and conservation. The Task Force will assemble, examine, and investigate relevant data, further County goals regarding protection of floodplains, woodlands, and wetlands, increased groundwater supply, stormwater runoff reduction, and flood damage prevention for residents and businesses. The Task Force will also develop education and outreach programs, seek funding opportunities, and report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislative and Executive branches of County government.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts	Description:	The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts is comprised of 10 soil and water conservation districts working together to conserve water quality and natural resources in the Hudson River Estuary watershed. The counties of Albany, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, and NYC each have a soil and water

Capability	Details	
		conservation district. Each district’s professional staff works with public and private landowners to protect and enhance water quality, reduce erosion, prevent pollution, and preserve natural resources. As a coalition, it works to educate and act on a regional scale to keep waters clean.
	Responsible Agency:	N/A
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.
Rockland County Sewer District #1	Description:	Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 was formed in 1963. The District primarily services the Towns of Ramapo and Clarkstown and several parcels in the Town of Orangetown. The District operates and maintains major interceptors and pumping stations and all sewers within the Villages of Spring Valley, New Square, Hillburn, and Sloatsburg. The Towns of Ramapo and Clarkstown maintain most of the 8-inch diameter sewers. The District’s wastewater treatment facilities are located in Orangeburg and Hillburn, New York.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.
Rockland County Office of Community Development	Description:	<p>The Office of Community Development serves the people of Rockland County by administering federal grants to provide affordable housing and improve the quality of life to low- and moderate-income residents in Rockland in an ethical, courteous, timely and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program works to support activities that build stronger and more resilient communities. Activities may address needs such as infrastructure, economic development, public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, microenterprise assistance, code enforcement, and homeowner assistance.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Supporting underserved communities is a mandate for expending U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG Funds.
Rockland County Office of Buildings and Codes	Description:	The Office of Buildings and Codes is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) and the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code (Energy Code) in unincorporated areas of Rockland County. It ensures that homes, buildings, and businesses within the unincorporated areas are structurally sound and compliant with New York State Uniform and Energy Code. Adherence to these codes protects the health and safety of residents, visitors and first responders within the County.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No

Capability	Details	
Rockland County Agricultural and Farm Protection Board	Description:	The Agricultural and Farm Protection Board’s mission is to advise the County Executive and Legislature on the proposed establishment, modification or termination of any agricultural district and agricultural initiatives. The Board reviews subdivision proposals that may affect agricultural land and approves and revises the County’s Comprehensive Plan objectives on farmland protection. It may request that the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets intervene in disputes between agriculture producers and government agencies. The board provides public education related to the benefits of preserving and promoting the environmental, cultural, and economic aspects of agriculture. The board is comprised of several representatives from local farms, County legislatures, Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, Soil and Water Conservation District board members and more, working together to protect the County’s agricultural economic and history. The County explored establishing an Agricultural District, but determined the County did not meet the State’s requirements to do so. The Board is currently dormant, but has identified members if needed to advise on agricultural initiatives.
	Responsible Agency:	Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Board aims to protect the County’s historically active agricultural economy and agribusinesses.

Table 5-4. Federal and State Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Capability	Details	
FEMA	Description:	FEMA is an agency under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that coordinates the federal government’s role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror. When a disaster occurs in the United States, the governor of the state in which the disaster occurs must declare a state of emergency and formally request that FEMA and the federal government respond to the disaster.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
NOAA	Description:	NOAA is a scientific agency whose services include daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, climate monitoring, fisheries management, coastal restoration, and supporting marine commerce. These services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America’s gross domestic product. NOAA scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information when they need it.
	Responsible Agency:	NOAA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Geological Survey	Description:	The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides science about natural hazards that threaten lives and livelihoods; water, energy, minerals, and other natural resources; the health of the environment; and the impacts of climate and land-use change. USGS scientists develop methods and tools to supply timely, relevant, and useful information about the Earth and its processes.

Capability	Details	
		USGS is the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. It is sought out for its natural science expertise and its vast earth and biological data holdings. Its mission is to serve the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect quality of life.
	Responsible Agency:	USGS
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Description:	<p>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a federal agency under the Department of Defense. USACE has approximately 37,000 civilians and soldiers delivering engineering services to customers in more than 130 countries. With environmental sustainability as a guiding principle, the USACE team works to strengthen the nation’s security by building and maintaining infrastructure and providing military facilities where servicemembers train, work and live.</p> <p>USACE public works programs account for 24 percent of hydropower capacity in the United States. Additionally, USACE has been involved with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, designing, building, and operating locks and dams • Flood control and protection projects, beach nourishment, and dredging for waterway navigation • Design and construction management of military facilities for the Army, Air Force, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, and other defense and federal agencies • Cleaning sites contaminated with hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste and material
	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Description:	<p>The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for national policy and programs that address America’s housing needs, improve and develop the nation’s communities, and enforce fair housing laws. HUD underwrites homeownership for lower- and moderate-income families through its mortgage insurance programs. Primary programs administered by HUD include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortgage and loan insurance through the Federal Housing Administration • Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to help communities with economic development, job opportunities and housing rehabilitation • HOME Investment Partnership Act block grants to develop and support affordable housing for low-income residents • Rental assistance in the form of Section 8 certificates or vouchers for low-income households • Public or subsidized housing for low-income individuals and families • Homeless assistance provided through local communities and faith-based and other nonprofit organizations • Fair housing public education and enforcement
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes

Capability	Details	
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Description:	The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes programs and implements policies and regulations related to American farming, forestry, ranching, food quality, and nutrition. Its programs help provide the following services, among others: broadband access in rural areas; disaster assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural residents; soil, water, and other natural resource conservation to landowners; wildfire prevention; and agricultural research and statistics.
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Description:	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency protects people and the environment from significant health risks, sponsors and conducts research, and develops and enforces environmental regulations. The agency works to ensure the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans have clean air, land and water. • National efforts to reduce environmental risks are based on the best available scientific information. • Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are administered and enforced fairly, effectively and as Congress intended. • Environmental stewardship is integral to U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy. • All parts of society—communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments—have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks. • Contaminated lands and toxic sites are cleaned up by potentially responsible parties and revitalized. • Chemicals in the marketplace are reviewed for safety.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
Small Business Administration	Description:	The Small Business Administration (SBA) helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships, the Small Business Administration assists and protects the interests of small business concerns. SBA’s programs include help with management, as well as financial and federal contract procurement. SBA provides specialized outreach to women, minorities, and armed forces veterans. SBA loans are available to victims of natural disasters. The agency also offers specialized advice and support in international trade.
	Responsible Agency:	SBA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All

Capability	Details	
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
U.S. Economic Development Administration	Description:	The Economic Development Administration provides grants to economically distressed communities to generate new employment and stimulate industrial and commercial growth. Their investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers—innovation and regional collaboration.
	Responsible Agency:	Economic Development Administration
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	Description:	<p>The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) is 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.</p> <p>NYS DHSES administers the FEMA mitigation grant programs in the state, supports local mitigation planning, and develops and routinely updates the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. NYS DHSES prepared the current State Hazard Mitigation Plan working with input from other state agencies, authorities, and organizations. It was approved by FEMA in 2019, and it keeps New York 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. The 2019 New York State HMP was used as guidance in completing the Rockland County HMP Update.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. NYS DHSES examines impacts on socially vulnerable populations in the State HMP. As the administrator of FEMA grant programs, NYS DHSES also aims to provide equitable access to mitigation funding for lower-resourced jurisdictions and communities.
	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety	Description:
Responsible Agency:		NYS DEC

Capability	Details	
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Grant funding is available to assist eligible dam owners with infrastructure repair costs. Funding is provided through FEMA’s High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. NYS DEC accepts applications for grants to assist with technical, planning, design, and other pre-construction activities associated with the rehabilitation of eligible dams classified as high-hazard dams.
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. As the administrator of the FEMA grant programs, the Bureau aims to provide equitable access to mitigation funding for lower-resourced jurisdictions and communities.
New York State Department of State’s Division of Building Standards and Codes	Description:	<p>The New York State Department of State’s Division of Building Standards and Codes provides a variety of services related to the development, administration, and enforcement of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and Energy Conservation Construction Code. These codes provide for the construction of safe, resilient, and energy efficient buildings throughout New York State.</p> <p>The statutory responsibility for developing and maintaining the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (Energy Code) is vested in the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (Code Council). If the Code Council decides to amend either code, it commences a process for rule making set forth in the State Administrative Procedure Act. The Code Development Unit administers statutory functions and evaluates proposed changes to the codes.</p> <p>Executive Law §379 authorizes the legislative body of a local government to enact or adopt local laws and ordinances that impose standards for construction that are more restrictive than the corresponding standards imposed by the Uniform Code. Energy Law §11-109 allows counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts or district corporations to promulgate local energy conservation construction codes that are more stringent than the state Energy Code. The Code Council is empowered by Executive Law §379 and Energy Law §11-109 to approve these more restrictive standards and more stringent local energy conservation construction codes when such codes or standards follow Executive Law §379 and Energy Law §11-109. The Code Development Unit assists with reviewing the technical aspects of these local laws and ordinances and reporting its findings to the Code Council.</p> <p>The Division of Building Standards and Codes’ Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response (CEDAR) Program provides requesting communities with post-disaster assistance under the leadership of the DHSES Office of Emergency Management and in accordance with Executive Law 2-B. The program’s initial disaster response focuses on performing rapid evaluation safety assessments of damaged structures in affected communities for use as part of the application process to request federal disaster assistance through FEMA. The CEDAR program’s long-term disaster response provides a unified method for communities to access the range of resources available within and beyond the Department of State.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Department of State offers various grant funding opportunities to help bolster New York’s communities and vulnerable citizens.
	New York State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure	Description:
Responsible Agency:		N/A
Provides Funding for Mitigation:		No
Hazards Addressed:		Flood

Capability	Details	
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Office provides assistance in ways that also acknowledge the added stress on communities from development pressures and broader socioeconomic forces.
Climate Smart Communities	Description:	<p>Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers grants, rebates for electric vehicles, and free technical assistance. The CSC certification program recognizes leaders of local governments that have undergone a rigorous review process to confirm their completion of a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the community level. The goals of the CSC certification program are to engage and educate local governments in New York State, provide a robust framework to guide their climate action efforts, and recognize their achievements.</p> <p>The structure of the certification program is based on the CSC pledge elements that were developed in 2009. Participation in the program is voluntary. The program is designed to encourage ongoing implementation of actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help communities adapt to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>In Rockland County, the following municipalities are certified CSC, followed by their ranking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nyack (V)—<i>Bronze</i> • Piermont (V)—<i>Bronze</i> <p>The following municipalities are registered with the CSC, but have not been ranked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockland County • Clarkstown (T) • Haverstraw (V) • Montebello (V) • New Hempstead (V) • Orangetown (T) • South Nyack (V) • Upper Nyack (V) • Wesley Hills (V) • West Haverstraw (V)
	Responsible Agency:	The program is jointly sponsored by the following New York State agencies: NYS DEC; Energy Research and Development Authority; Department of Public Service; Department of State; Department of Transportation; Department of Health, and NYPA. NYS DEC acts as the main administrator of the program.
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program incentivizes mitigation strategies that acknowledge the added stress on communities from being historically underserved or that have a high share of socially vulnerable residents.

5.4 FISCAL CAPABILITIES

Fiscal capabilities are the resources that a jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use to fund mitigation actions. Table 5-5 provides a list of programs and links for jurisdictions seeking funding sources. This table is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but rather a tool to help begin identifying potential sources of funding.

Table 5-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	Details	
Federal		
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Description:	<p>The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. 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 (such as this plan).</p> <p>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 may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Projects in socially vulnerable communities are eligible for a lower federal cost share requirement (90 percent federal, 10 percent non-federal).
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program	Description:	<p>Flood Mitigation Assistance (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 limited, and 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. 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. NYS DHSES serves as the grantee and program administrator for the FMA program.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood, Severe Storm

Capability	Details	
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Projects in socially vulnerable communities are eligible for a lower federal cost share requirement (90 percent federal, 10 percent non-federal).
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	Description:	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) supports states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. 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.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Projects in socially vulnerable communities are eligible for a lower federal cost share requirement (90 percent federal, 10 percent non-federal).
Individual Assistance	Description:	FEMA’s Individual Assistance (IA) program provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households who have uninsured and underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs. FEMA makes these funds available after any major disaster declarations and some programs available under emergency declarations. IA supports seven types of activities through the following programs: Mass Care/Emergency Services, Individuals and Households Program, Disaster Case Management, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Voluntary Agency Coordination.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/individual-disaster-assistance
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. FEMA works with applicants to afford housing needs within their financial means, which is critical to lower income individuals and those who rent. For example, FEMA can help applicants rent or purchase temporary/transitional house units and in some cases can lower sales or rent prices of these units based on the individual’s financial ability.
Public Assistance	Description:	FEMA’s 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.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The PA program aims to restore critical infrastructure and facilities that provide important services that socially vulnerable population may rely on.
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	Description:	Assistance for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. Provides a 75 percent federal cost share and the state pays the remaining 25 percent for actual cost.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program

Capability	Details	
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program evaluates applicants based on expected major economic impact to the area.
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	Description:	The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants 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.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program supports under-resourced communities, which may have higher shares of historically underserved and socially vulnerable populations, to increase community capacity and capability to protect people and property from fire and related hazards.
High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program	Description:	The Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants to non-federal governmental organizations or nonprofit organizations for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=316238
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Dam Failure, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. FEMA evaluates projects based on social and environmental impacts if the dam failed and consequences avoided by bringing it into compliance.
Small Business Administration Loan	Description:	The Small Business Administration (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.
	Responsible Agency:	SBA
	Additional Information:	https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness/disaster-assistance
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program provides assistance to individuals that may have limited capital to replace or repair damaged property.
Community Development Block Grant Program	Description:	Community Development Block Grants (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

Capability	Details	
		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.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Additional Information:	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program directs funds to communities identified as low- and moderate-income.
Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief	Description:	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief is a grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation that can be used for repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways and roads on federal lands that have suffered serious damage because of a disaster. NY DOT serves as the liaison between local municipalities and FHWA.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Department of Transportation
	Additional Information:	https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Through the current Justice 40 Initiative, the U.S. Department of Transportation aims to identify and prioritize projects that benefit rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities facing barriers to affordable, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation.
Federal Transit Administration—Emergency Relief	Description:	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.
	Responsible Agency:	Federal Transit Authority at the U.S. Department of Transportation
	Additional Information:	https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/emergency-relief-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Through the current Justice 40 Initiative, the U.S. Department of Transportation aims to identify and prioritize projects that benefit rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities facing barriers to affordable, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation.
Disaster Housing Program	Description:	Emergency assistance for housing, including minor repair of homes to establish livable conditions, mortgage, and rental assistance available through the HUD.
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Additional Information:	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/dhap
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program provides rent subsidies and housing assistance to help individuals secure temporary or transitional housing, which can especially benefit those with limited incomes or capital, such as those that are over 65 or low-income households.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Description:	Grants to local and state government and consortiums for permanent and transitional housing, (including financial support for property acquisition and rehabilitation for low-income persons).
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Additional Information:	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/

Capability	Details	
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program provides rent subsidies and housing assistance to help individuals secure temporary or transitional housing, which can especially benefit those with limited incomes or capital, such as those that are over 65 or low-income households.
HUD Disaster Recovery Assistance	Description:	Grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation).
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Additional Information:	https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program aims to bridge financial gaps in recovery assistance which can especially benefit those with limited incomes or capital, such as those that are over 65 or low-income households.
Section 108 Loan Guarantee	Description:	Enables states and local governments participating in the CDBG program to obtain federally guaranteed loans for disaster-distressed areas.
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Additional Information:	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program directs funds to communities identified as low- and moderate-income.
Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program	Description:	The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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 four categories: community resilience to disasters, job creation, the role of manufactured homes in sustainable neighborhood design, or medical and social service facilities siting.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Additional Information:	https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Description:	Financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Additional Information:	https://www.fws.gov/partners/
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.

Capability	Details	
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)	Description:	Investing in critical road, rail, transit, and port projects across the nation.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Department of Transportation
	Additional Information:	https://www.transportation.gov/tags/tiger-grants
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. Through the current Justice 40 Initiative, the U.S. Department of Transportation aims to identify and prioritize projects that benefit rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities facing barriers to affordable, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation.
Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program	Description:	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 for the orderly development of the local community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Department of Agriculture
	Additional Information:	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program specifically supports agribusinesses in primarily rural areas.
Emergency Loan Program	Description:	USDA’s Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program specifically supports agribusinesses in primarily rural areas.
Emergency Watershed Protection program	Description:	The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program provides assistance to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Additional Information:	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program specifically supports primarily rural communities.
Financial Assistance	Description:	Financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy or improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.
	Responsible Agency:	NRCS
	Additional Information:	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes

Capability	Details	
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program specifically supports primarily rural communities.
Emergency Management Performance Grants Program	Description:	Assists local, tribal, territorial, and state governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. FEMA aims to support communities that exhibit high rates of social vulnerability.
Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	Description:	Provides reimbursement only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Additional Information:	https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/firefighting_federal_property.html
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. FEMA aims to support communities that exhibit high rates of social vulnerability.
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Description:	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).
	Responsible Agency:	National Park Service
	Additional Information:	https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. This program supports the equitable access of public open spaces.
State, Local, and Private		
Acres for America	Description:	The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Acres for America program works to permanently conserve wildlife habitat. Since 2005, the Acres for America program has conserved almost 1.5 million acres across the United States and provided almost \$4 million in emergency funding to protect fish and wildlife after the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and Hurricane Sandy. The Acres for America program prioritizes conserving critical wildlife habitats, minimizing habitat fragmentation, providing public access, and maintaining natural resource-based economic activities. Eligible projects conserve a substantial amount of land and/or land of critical importance to its region. The program prioritizes applications for projects that are endorsed by national, state, and/or nonprofit entities as being a conservation priority.
	Responsible Agency:	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Drought, Flood
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program considers whether the project would benefit an area with a high share of socially vulnerable residents.

Capability	Details	
Environmental Protection Fund: Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grants	Description:	The NYS Department of State awards funding to local governments to revitalize coasts and inland waterways by preparing, updating, or implementing an LWRP. LWRPs serve as an opportunity to plan for coastal climate resilience to flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge via natural resource protection and waterfront land use.
	Responsible Agency:	NYS Department of State
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood, Drought
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The Department offers various grant funding opportunities to help bolster New York’s communities and vulnerable citizens.
Partners for Places Funding Program	Description:	The Partners for Place program supports local government efforts toward climate preparedness and mitigation in the United States and Canada. Funding is given to teams including at least one local government sustainability office and one local place-based foundation.
	Responsible Agency:	Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Yes. The program aims to enhance local capacity and capabilities.
Habitat Restoration Grants	Description:	Habitat Restoration Grant funding supports research on restoration techniques as well as the development of restoration plans for sites in the Hudson River Estuary.
	Responsible Agency:	Hudson River Foundation
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	Flood, Drought
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.
Climate Adaptation Fund	Description:	The Wildlife Conservation Society’s Climate Adaptation Fund provides grant awards to conservation non-profits across the United States to catalyze innovative, science-driven projects responding to the impacts of climate change on wildlife and people.
	Responsible Agency:	Wildlife Conservation Society
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazards Addressed:	All
	Supports Underserved Communities and/or Socially Vulnerable Populations:	No.

5.5 PLAN INTEGRATION

Rockland County and its municipalities have planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, and fiscal capabilities available that can be leveraged to mitigate and reduce risk to the hazards they face. Municipalities have varying degrees of capabilities to plan and administer and enforce codes and regulations. While smaller jurisdictions often have less internal capacity for technical functions, many access services through contractual arrangements or agreements with other local jurisdictions, outside agencies, or vendors. State and federal agencies also provide technical assistance to extend the range of available local capabilities.

The information on hazard, risk, vulnerability, and mitigation contained in this HMP is based on the best available data accessible at the time this plan was prepared. A review of the capabilities of each participating municipality and how those are being integrated is provided in each of the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II. Some municipalities have limited administrative and technical capabilities, and a small number of employees who handle the duties of more than one position.

The Planning Partnership will continue to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations. Planning Partnership representatives will continue to work with local government officials to integrate the newly adopted hazard mitigation goals and actions into the general operations of government and partner organizations. Each participating jurisdiction's local governing body intends to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations. By doing so, the Planning Partnership anticipates realizing the following objectives:

- Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of overall planning and emergency management efforts.
- The hazard mitigation plan, master plans, emergency management plans, and other relevant planning mechanisms will become mutually supportive documents that work in concert to meet the goals and needs of County residents.

Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) provides additional information on the implementation of the mitigation plan through existing programs. Table 5-6 provides mitigation integration and implementation tools available to Rockland County and its municipalities to assist with integrating the HMP with current and future capabilities.

The Rockland County Planning Partnership was tasked with identifying how hazard mitigation is integrated into existing planning mechanisms. Volume II (Jurisdictional Annexes) details how this is done for each participating municipality and the County. During this process, many municipalities recognized the importance and benefits of incorporating hazard mitigation into future municipal planning and regulatory processes and have added new mitigation actions to support this effort.

Table 5-6. Hazard Mitigation Implementation Tools

Plan/Policy	Description	Applicability	Effectiveness
Building Codes	Building standards that include provisions for building in the floodplain, for hurricane or high wind resistant design related to construction, structural design foundation types, and the use of masonry, steel, wood, and glass/glazing, and other materials.	Establish standards for withstanding a variety of hazard forces in the design and construction of structures.	Communities can enact or adopt local laws and ordinances that impose standards for construction that are more restrictive than the corresponding standards imposed by New York State’s Uniform Code and Energy Code.
Capital Improvement Planning/Programs	A short-range plan, usually four to 10 years, which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule, and identifies options for financing the plan.	Secure hazard-prone areas for low-risk uses; strengthen, replace, or realign roads and utilities; and prescribe standards for the design and construction of new facilities.	Communities can include mitigation strategies in their Capital Improvement Plan and incorporate mapped hazard areas into decision-making on projects.
Comprehensive/Master Plans	Overall policy guide for future community growth and development.	Establish land-use policies that discourage development or redevelopment within natural hazard areas. Provide adequate space for expected future growth in areas located outside natural hazard areas. Ensure that safety is explicitly included in growth and development policies.	Communities can include community level communication, preparedness planning, and other non-structural measures and may use mapped hazard areas to rule out areas targeted for future growth or development to minimize increased exposure and vulnerability.
Climate Change Adaptation/Action Plans	An action plan and vulnerability assessment across a broad range of government services to anticipate, plan for, increase awareness of, and build momentum to address and adapt to a changing climate.	Establish a strategic framework to evaluate, comprehend, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate or avoid the projected negative impacts of climate change.	Communities can identify areas that are expected to experience more adverse hazard impacts due to climate change to determine the need for mitigation strategy and/or more resilient building standards and zoning ordinances.
Emergency Operations Plans	Organizational procedures and processes to respond to and recover from an emergency.	Authorize the course of action during an emergency event, including responsibilities, chains of command, and communication protocols.	Communities can develop specific protocols for hazard events they are likely to face based on the HMP.
Floodplain Ordinances	Minimum regulations for compliance with the NFIP. Ensures participating communities consider flood hazards, to the extent that they are known, in all official actions relating to land management and use.	Establish standards for development in the floodplain, including base flood elevations, construction materials, proximity to wetlands and waterways, and allowed structures and uses.	Communities can use the NFIP standards as a baseline and adopt stronger provisions based on the findings from the HMP.
Land Use Plans	Guidance for preventing development in hazardous areas and allowing development that minimizes hazard damage.	Identify mapped hazard areas and keep inappropriate development out of these areas. Land use planning can also be used regionally when governments can collaborate.	Communities can include the special flood hazard area and other mapped hazard areas into the land use planning process to minimize inappropriate development and uses in unsafe areas.
Subdivision Regulations	Construction and location standards for subdivision layout and infrastructure.	Establish standards for such things as stormwater management, erosion control, and subdivision size.	These regulations can reduce the impact of urban flooding, which is often a result of replacing natural land with residential or commercial developments without adequate stormwater drainage.
Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs	Policies and goals to ensure sustainable and economically beneficial development along a waterfront.	Identify areas that are vulnerable to flooding or erosion to keep inappropriate development and uses out of these areas and/or identify potential projects to better protect the waterfront from these hazards.	Communities can use the special flood hazard area and other mapped hazard areas to identify areas for additional oversight or regulation.

Plan/Policy	Description	Applicability	Effectiveness
Parks and Open Space Plans	Goals to protect and preserve a community’s natural landscapes, expand public access, and acquire undeveloped lands.	Identify areas for preservation or acquisition where natural and undeveloped landscapes face high development pressures.	Communities can use mapped hazard areas to identify locations to focus preservation and/or acquisitions efforts. The plan can also identify criteria and goals related to hazard mitigation, such as protecting the community’s permeable land area.
Streambank Buffer Protection Programs	A combination of conservation easements, vegetation management, and landscape restoration of vegetative buffers for streams and waterways to attenuate stormwater runoff quantity and quality issues, decrease streambank erosion, and increase habitat value of the waterway.	Establish design and construction standards for development within a specified distance from streams and waterways. Keeps inappropriate development and uses away from flood- or erosion-prone areas.	Communities can identify areas or projects that may align with the HMP and its mitigation strategy.
Zoning	Laws and ordinances that regulate development by dividing land into zones and setting development criteria for each. Zoning decisions are delegated to local government.	Keep inappropriate development and uses away from hazard-prone areas and designate areas for conservation/open space, public use, or agriculture.	Communities can regulate development in floodplains and other mapped hazard areas and designate areas as “open space” to reduce the effect of flooding by allowing spaces for water to flow unimpeded.