



SECTION 5 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

The capability assessment evaluates the community's capabilities and resources already in place at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels to reduce hazard risks. The assessment also identifies where improvements can be made to increase disaster resistance in the community.

The first step in organizing hazard mitigation capabilities or resources is to describe the basic approaches available to reduce hazard risks. According to the 2013 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Standard Operating Guide (SOG), the following four general approaches may reduce hazard risks: (1) local plans and regulations, (2) structure and infrastructure, (3) natural systems protection, and (4) education and awareness. A brief description of each (according to the PEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Planning SOG) is provided below:

- **Local Plans and Regulations** – These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the ways land is developed and buildings are constructed.
- **Structure and Infrastructure** – These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure or constructing new structures to reduce hazard vulnerability.
- **Natural Systems Protection** – These actions minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- **Education and Awareness** – These actions inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate these hazards, and may also include participation in national programs.

Capability assessments document the existing resources available to local communities to reduce hazard risks. Resources can be divided into five categories: human, physical, technical, informational, and financial. For each basic capability or approach, one or more of the five resources may be available. A brief description of each resource (PEMA 2013) is provided below:

- **Human resources** include local police, fire, ambulance, and emergency management and response personnel; local government services; and electric, gas, and other utility providers that are critical during disasters.
- **Physical resources** include the equipment and vehicles (such as emergency response and recovery equipment and vehicles), public lands, facilities, and buildings available to the community.
- **Technical/technological resources** include early warning systems, weather alert radios, stream-level monitoring gauges, and 9-1-1 communications systems. Technical/technological resources also include specific requirements established by law, regulation, or ordinance.
- **Informational resources** include materials about disasters and hazard mitigation and planning and are available from a wide variety of sources, such as applicable websites, libraries, and state and federal agencies.
- **Financial resources** identify the sources of funding available for hazard mitigation. Most state and federal grant programs require local communities to provide at least part of the necessary project funding in real dollars or through in-kind services. Local communities need to assess their financial capability and resources to implement hazard mitigation action plans.

The following sections describe and summarize the federal, state, county, and local capabilities to address hazard risks in Fulton County.



5.1 UPDATE PROCESS SUMMARY

During the plan update process, Fulton County and all participating municipalities were asked to provide an updated assessment of their mitigation planning capabilities. Each municipality was provided with a Capability Assessment Survey based on Appendix 3 of the October 2013 edition of the PEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Planning SOG (PEMA 2013). The survey was provided to each of the municipal planning points of contact at the Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting. Completed Capability Assessment Surveys, whether completed by hand or electronically, are provided in Appendix D.

Fulton County has several resources available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives, including emergency response measures; local planning and regulatory tools; administrative assistance and technical expertise; fiscal capabilities; and participation in local, regional, state, and federal programs. These resources enable community resiliency through actions taken before, during, and after a hazard event. Emergency services, manpower, equipment, and fiscal resources are important tools in addressing hazard potential and mitigation in Fulton County communities.

This Capability Assessment section describes and summarizes the federal, state, county, and local capabilities to address hazard risks in Fulton County.

5.2 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

A jurisdiction's ability to effectively manage natural hazard risks is directly related to its level of hazard mitigation capabilities. As such, mitigation strategies developed in coordination with Fulton County's municipalities have a direct effect on establishing new capability functions in the community or strengthening existing capabilities.

Fulton County and most of its municipalities updated and completed the Capability Assessment Survey (Appendix D). If municipalities did not update or partially update their capabilities information, the same information provided by those municipalities for the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was carried forward into this plan update.

The following sections further detail the capability assessment findings.

5.2.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability

While municipalities in Pennsylvania must comply with the minimum regulatory requirements established under the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code, they otherwise have considerable latitude in adopting ordinances, policies, and programs that can be used to manage natural and non-natural hazard risks. Specifically, municipalities can manage these risks through comprehensive land use planning, hazard-specific ordinances (for example, flood damage prevention, sinkholes, and steep slopes), zoning, site-plan approval, and building code enforcement. When effectively prepared and administered, these regulations can lead to hazard mitigation.

For example, the adoption of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act (Act 166 of 1978) established minimum floodplain management criteria. A municipality must adopt and enforce these minimum criteria to be eligible for participation in the NFIP. Municipalities have the option of adopting a single-purpose ordinance or incorporating these provisions into their zoning and/or subdivision and land development ordinances or building codes, thereby mitigating the potential impacts of local flooding.

County and Municipal Planning Capabilities

Fulton County Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive plan is a policy document that states objectives and guides the future growth and physical development of a municipality. The comprehensive plan is a blueprint for housing, transportation, community facilities, utilities, and land use. It examines how the past led to the present and charts the community's future path. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Act 247 of 1968, as reauthorized and amended,



requires counties to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan. In addition, the MPC requires counties to update the comprehensive plan every 10 years.

Section 301a.(2) of the MPC requires comprehensive plans to include a plan for land use, which among other provisions suggests that the plan should give consideration to floodplains and other areas of special hazards and other similar uses. The MPC also requires comprehensive plans to include a plan for community facilities and services and recommends giving consideration to storm drainage and floodplain management.

Fulton County participated in a six-county comprehensive plan, “Alleghenies Ahead - Joint Comprehensive Plan” which is slated to guide Fulton County until 2028. The comprehensive plan was adopted in 2018 and the Fulton County Action Plan specifically addresses the following plan elements:

- Broadband and Cellular Service
- Collaboration and Coordination
- Business and Workforce Development
- Agriculture
- Recreational Amenities and Natural Assets

Each plan element includes a profile, trends, inputs, and outputs and action items.

- Action items for broadband and cellular service include establishing a regional broadband and cell service task force, performing an inventory of all infrastructure inventory, implementing a customer survey and identifying anchor customers, hiring a telecommunications project manager at SAPDC, and conducting broadband outreach and aggregation.
- Action items for collaboration and coordination include conducting outreach and education about local and regional best practices in problem solving and service delivery, identifying and approaching potential candidates for merger or consolidation, ascertaining legal and financial guidance for collaboration, and creating a satellite office for SAPDC in Fulton County.
- Action items for business and workforce development include reconstructing/revamping the Fulton County economic development organization responsible for countywide business development, working with land owners to leverage the Interstate 70 corridor and attract new business/development in Warfordsburg, leveraging state grants for improvements to downtown McConnellsburg, and developing “Main Street,” and a downtown revitalization initiative.
- Action items for agriculture include ensuring agriculture is represented in the county economic development agency, actively recruiting new processing facilities to locate in Fulton County, developing a public campaign to educate and raise public awareness and appreciation of county farmers, and collaborating with agricultural lenders to provide low interest loans to farmers.
- Action items for recreational amenities and natural assets include conducting a trail feasibility study for a county-wide north-south trail, coordinating and cooperating with other Southern Alleghenies counties and chamber of commerce and tourism agencies to market both private and public recreational and cultural destinations, and coordinating with Bedford County on The Old Pennsylvania Pike.

Stormwater Management Planning

In 1978, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed the Stormwater Management Act (Act 167) of 1978 (Pennsylvania State Data Center 1978). Act 167 requires counties to prepare stormwater management plans on a watershed-by-watershed basis. The plans must be developed in consultation with the affected municipalities. Each new plan is required to provide standards for control of runoff from new development, based on a detailed hydrologic assessment. A key objective of each plan is to coordinate the stormwater management decisions of the watershed municipalities. Implementation of each plan is through mandatory municipal adoption of ordinance provisions consistent with the plan.

Plans prepared under Act 167 will not resolve all drainage issues. A key goal of the planning process is to maintain existing peak runoff rates throughout a watershed as land development continues to take place. While the planning process does not solve existing flooding problems, it aims to prevent these problems from getting worse. Each municipality is responsible for correcting existing flooding problems.



In June 2010, Fulton County developed the Act 167 Scope of Study for Fulton County Stormwater Management Plan (Fulton County Planning Commission 2017). This Plan is the result of Phase II of the Act 167 Plan and includes:

- A summary of county watershed characteristics
- An inventory of relevant problems and recommendations
- A proposed scope of study, schedule, and budget for completion of the Phase 2 Plan project

The plan is designed to provide consistency in stormwater management planning, regulation, and implementation; provide an integrated stormwater management plan; provide useable technical information in a geographic information system (GIS) format; and provide technical information for future hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and regulatory activities.

An Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for the Cove Creek Watershed was previously completed in 1993.

According to Section 11(b) of Act 167, municipalities subject to the Stormwater Management Plan must enact or amend and implement such ordinances as necessary to regulate development in a manner consistent with the Stormwater Management Plan. Municipalities are encouraged to use the model ordinance included in the plan.

Open Space and Natural Resource Planning

Fulton County has prepared several plans with the goal of preserving open space for recreational and environmental purposes. These plans are included as chapters in the Alleghenies Ahead Joint Comprehensive Plan (Fulton County Planning Commission 2018) and the Fulton County Greenways and Open Space Network Plan (2007).

Transportation Planning

Fulton County participates in the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC). The SAPDC serves as the state-designed Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for six member counties. The RPO is responsible for developing a long-range transportation plan, the transportation improvement program (TIP) and other transportation-related documents and reports.

Informational Resources

Fulton County has a variety of informational resources available, including websites, brochures, pamphlets, workshops, and public service announcements (PSAs).

- The Planning & Mapping Department has an informational website located at <https://www.co.fulton.pa.us/planning-commission.php>
- The County's website is located at <https://www.co.fulton.pa.us/>
- Information on hazard mitigation and preparedness was referenced at the websites for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (www.fema.gov) and PEMA (<https://www.pema.pa.gov/>).
- Fulton County Emergency Management Agency website is located at <https://www.co.fulton.pa.us/ema.php>

Fulton County Emergency Management

The Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) maintains a strong emergency management capability that supports Fulton County. The County operates an emergency 9-1-1 call center and activates its own emergency operations center (EOC) during emergencies. In addition, the County provides or supports emergency service programs and measures, including emergency response, public alert and warning systems, emergency communications systems, hazard event monitoring systems, and public information and outreach programs. Capabilities include the 9-1-1 center, EOC, emergency service measures, emergency response planning, public information programs, and geographic information system, which are described in the sections below.



9-1-1 Center

9-1-1 is the telephone number used to report emergencies. Citizens use the service in the event of the presence or potential for an immediate threat to life or property and to request response from police, fire, or emergency medical services (EMS) agencies. Examples include reporting a crime that has just occurred or is in progress; describing an odor such as gas or reporting a fire; or calling for assistance with a sick or injured person who requires treatment and possibly transportation to a hospital emergency department. The 9-1-1 system is capable of accepting calls from hearing or speech-impaired callers using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), and text messages. Each county in Pennsylvania operates a 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Personnel at these PSAPs would need to coordinate their efforts during a regional hazard event. Computerized mapping of streets with address information is critical for emergency response purposes. The 9-1-1 center is also used to alert citizens during an emergency.

Emergency Operations Center

In the event of an impending emergency or disaster, Fulton County would activate its EOC. When activated, the EOC is in constant communication with the 9-1-1 center to ensure coordination of activities. The EOC is located within the EMA in McConnellsburg Borough.

The EMA capabilities fall under two categories: emergency service measures and emergency response planning. These capabilities are described below.

Emergency Operations Plan

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, Title 35, requires all political jurisdictions in the Commonwealth to have an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), and an EOC.

The Fulton County EOP documents the County’s emergency preparedness planning. The EOP includes County-specific emergency response procedures during significant emergency events. Fulton County’s EOP complies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and is updated every 2 years. The updated risk assessment information from this HMP will be incorporated into subsequent updates to the EOP.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Fulton County has mutual aid agreements (formal agreements) with the contiguous Pennsylvania counties as a result of the Pennsylvania Intrastate Mutual Assistance Program. Every county participates in this program. Fulton County is also part of a larger county consortium, the South-Central Mountains Regional Task Force (SCMRTF), which works together and shares resources during times of emergency. Originally formed in response to the increasing threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and other terroristic activity, the SCMRTF also provides all-hazards preparedness, mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery services to citizens in its purview. This intergovernmental agreement is between the following counties:

- Bedford
- Blair
- Centre
- Fulton
- Huntingdon
- Juniata
- Mifflin
- Snyder

Regional Planning Initiatives

Fulton County also assists in County or regional planning and preparation for the following:

- Local (Municipal) EOPs
- Medical facilities
- Dams



- Airports
- Pandemic
- Mass casualty/fatality incidents
- Counterterrorism preparedness
- Special events, such as concerts, parades, etc.
- School emergency planning
- Day care, group home, and special needs facilities
- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) – The Local Emergency Planning Committee program is based on the SARA of 1986, Title III. This legislation requires local planning by businesses and response agencies (such as fire departments and hazardous materials teams) whenever hazardous materials are involved. SARA also requires the establishment of a system in each community that informs the citizens of chemicals used, manufactured, and stored locally.
- In cooperation with the American Red Cross, the County has designated shelters that may be used during emergencies and disasters.

Local Emergency Management Capabilities

According to Pennsylvania Title 35 (Emergency Management Services Code), Chapter 7500, the following stipulations apply:

- Each political subdivision of this Commonwealth is directed and authorized to establish a local emergency management organization in accordance with the plan and program of PEMA. Each local organization shall have responsibility for emergency response and recovery within the territorial limits of the political subdivision within which it is organized and, in addition, shall conduct such services outside of its jurisdictional limits as may be required under this part.
- The governing body of a political subdivision may declare a local disaster emergency upon finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent. The effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans and to authorize aid and assistance.
- Each local organization of emergency management shall have a coordinator responsible for the planning, administration, and operation of the local organization.
- Each political subdivision shall adopt an Intergovernmental Cooperation agreement with other political subdivisions to accomplish the following:
 - Prepare, maintain, and keep current a disaster emergency management plan for (1) the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by a disaster, (2) prompt and effective response to disaster, and (3) disaster emergency relief and recovery consistent with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Plan.
 - Establish, equip, and staff an EOC (integrated with warning and communication systems) to support government operations in emergencies and provide other essential facilities and equipment for agencies and activities assigned emergency functions.
 - Provide individual and organizational training programs to ensure prompt, efficient, and effective disaster emergency services.
 - Organize, prepare, and coordinate all locally available manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, facilities, and services necessary for disaster emergency readiness, response, and recovery.
 - Adopt and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the anticipated effects of a disaster. Execute and enforce such rules and orders as the agency shall adopt and promulgate under the authority of this part.
 - Cooperate and coordinate with any public and private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this part.



- Have available for inspection at its EOC all emergency management plans, rules, and orders of the Governor and PEMA.
- Provide prompt and accurate information regarding local disaster emergencies to appropriate Commonwealth and local officials and agencies and the general public.
- Participate in all tests, drills, and exercises—including remedial drills and exercises—scheduled by the agency or by the federal government.
- Participate in the program of integrated flood warning systems under Section 7313 (6) (relating to powers and duties).
- Direction of disaster emergency management services is first the responsibility of the lowest level of government affected. When two or more political subdivisions within a county are affected, the county organization shall exercise responsibility for coordination and support to the area of operations. When two or more counties are involved, coordination shall be provided by PEMA or by area organizations established by PEMA.
- When all appropriate locally available forces and resources are fully committed by the affected political subdivision, assistance from a higher level of government shall be provided.
- Local coordinators of emergency management shall develop mutual aid agreements with adjacent political subdivisions for reciprocal emergency assistance. The agreements shall be consistent with the plans and programs of PEMA.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Fulton County has formal mutual aid agreements in place with its municipalities.

Emergency Operations Centers

In the event of an impending emergency or disaster, the local EOC may be activated. The purpose of the EOC is to manage the emergency response and coordinate distribution of resources to a disaster incident at the local level.

Emergency Response

Each municipality is responsible for providing emergency response to their municipality consisting of EMS, fire, and police. If a municipality does not have one of these providers in their community, they should have mutual aid agreements with an adjacent political subdivision or the Commonwealth (e.g., law enforcement coverage by the Pennsylvania State Police [PSP]) to respond.

Monitoring Systems

The municipalities may also be equipped with several systems to monitor emergency information and warnings, including the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the National Weather Service (NWS).

Emergency Response Planning

The municipalities may also assist with planning for:

1. Municipal EOPs
2. Medical facilities
3. Dams
4. Counterterrorism preparedness
5. Special events
6. School emergency planning
7. Day care, group homes, and special needs facilities
8. Evacuation

A summary of existing federal, state, regional, and county programs (regulatory and otherwise) to manage specific hazard risks is provided in the hazard profiles in Section 4 of this plan update. While the risk of certain



hazards can be addressed at least partially through mitigation, the risks of other hazards (particularly certain non-natural hazards) are primarily managed through the preparedness and response elements of emergency management or through other regulatory programs at the federal and state levels.

Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

According to FEMA's 2002 NFIP: Program Description, the U.S. Congress established the NFIP with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (FEMA 2002). 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.

Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between communities and the federal government. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risk to new construction and substantial improvements in floodplains, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. This insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance and reduce the escalating costs of repairing buildings and their contents damaged by floods (FEMA 2002).

NFIP-participating communities in Fulton County are required to adopt a flood damage prevention ordinance (also sometimes called a "floodplain" or "floodplain management ordinance") and update this ordinance whenever the regulatory NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are officially updated. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) (Commonwealth-coordinating agency for the NFIP) and PEMA provide support to municipalities by providing suggested text for floodplain management ordinances.

All of the County's municipalities except for Valley-Hi Borough participate in the NFIP. The FIRMs for Fulton County's municipalities were made effective in February 2011. All participating municipalities have adopted a floodplain ordinance, and all municipalities have adopted a stormwater management ordinance besides Valley-Hi Borough.

The floodplain administrators of individual municipalities are often either the code enforcement officer or zoning officer for the municipality, and they enforce the floodplain ordinances locally. Throughout Fulton County, all municipalities enforce the Uniform Construction Code, and only McConnellsburg Borough and Thompson Township enforce zoning regulations. Rather than using a specific Floodplain Development Permit, the County's municipalities include a space for applicants to state whether the proposed development is located in the floodplain on zoning and/or building permit applications. The permit application reviewer confirms whether the property in question is in the floodplain. If it is, the municipal floodplain administrator reviews the proposed development against the municipality's floodplain management ordinance. The floodplain administrator conducts similar reviews of any revisions to the permit application until all requirements are met. As the proposed activity is conducted, the floodplain administrator works with the code enforcement officer and/or zoning officer to conduct inspections and ensure that the proposed activity is carried out as it was permitted.

NFIP-participating communities in Fulton County are required to make current NFIP FIRMs available to their residents for review and may provide mapping assistance through their floodplain administrators. Typically, this mapping is available at the municipal offices in each community. Floodplain administrators provide information about mapping to their residents using established outreach methods such as municipal websites, newsletters, and mailings. At the time of this plan update, the Fulton County FEMA Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) (dated February 2011) were used to evaluate exposure and determine potential future losses.

Floodplain administrators also use established outreach methods to provide information about flood insurance to residents and business owners. They can provide information on the availability of flood insurance, how to get a flood insurance policy, and how to determine the appropriate level of coverage.

Municipal participation in and compliance with the NFIP is supported at the federal level by FEMA Region III and the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) and at the commonwealth level by the PA DEP, PA DCED, and PEMA. The County's Planning Commission supports flood mitigation efforts, associated training, and public education and awareness programs.



Flood hazard risk management in Fulton County is further supported by the Act 167 County-Wide Stormwater Management Plan (see above). Ideally, this plan will continue to reduce the effects of flooding in certain areas of the County.

Additional information on the NFIP program and its implementation within the County can be found in the flood hazard profile in Section 4.3.5.

Community Rating System (CRS)

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the CRS to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of the program is to encourage communities, through flood insurance rate adjustments, to implement standards beyond the minimum required in order to:

- Reduce losses from floods
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings
- Promote public awareness of the availability of flood insurance

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. By enrolling in CRS, municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts.

There are 10 CRS classes that provide varied reductions in insurance premiums. Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction; Class 10 communities receive no premium reduction. CRS premium discounts on flood insurance range from 5 percent for Class 9 communities up to 45 percent for Class 1 communities. The CRS recognizes 18 creditable activities that are organized under four categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness.

Currently, no Fulton County municipalities participate in the CRS Program. Increased participation will be supported by the County and will be promoted through the local emergency management coordinators, as identified in the updated mitigation strategies.

Municipal Capabilities

Participating municipalities in this planning effort were provided a Capability Assessment Survey. Table 5-1 summarizes the responses of the municipalities based on planning and regulatory capability, supplemented by information received from the County regarding municipal capabilities. Detailed information regarding Fulton County municipalities' planning and regulatory capabilities can be found in the municipal survey responses provided in Appendix D.



Table 5-1. Planning and Regulatory Capability

Municipality	Hazard Mitigation Plan	EOP	Disaster Recovery Plan	Evacuation Plan	COOP Plan	NFIP	NFIP – CRS	Floodplain Regulations	Floodplain Mgmt. Plan	Zoning Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Comprehensive Land Use Plan (or General, Master, or Growth Mgmt. Plan)	Open Space Mgmt. Plan	Stormwater Mgmt. Plan/Ordinance	Natural Resource Protection Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Dev. Plan	Historic Preservation Plan	Farmland Preservation	Building Code	Fire Code	Other
Fulton County	X	X	-	-	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X*
Belfast Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Bethel Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush Creek Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-
Dublin Township	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Licking Creek Township	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X*
McConnellsburg Borough	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Taylor Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thompson Township	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Todd Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Union Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-
Valley-Hi Borough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wells Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-

Notes:
 “X” indicates that the municipality currently has this capability in place.
 “-” indicates no capability is currently in place.
 “*” indicates that the “Other” capability is Agricultural Security Areas.
 COOP: Continuity of Operations

“N/A” indicates not applicable
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.



5.2.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

Administrative capability is described as the adequacy of departmental and personnel resources for the implementation of mitigation-related activities. Technical capability relates to an adequacy of knowledge and technical expertise of local government employees or the ability to contract outside resources for this expertise to effectively execute mitigation activities. Common examples of skillsets and technical personnel needed for hazard mitigation include: planners with knowledge of land development/management practices, engineers or professionals trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure (e.g., building inspectors), planners or engineers with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards, emergency managers, floodplain managers, land surveyors, scientists familiar with hazards in the community, staff with the education or expertise to assess community vulnerability to hazards, personnel skilled in geographic information systems, resource development staff or grant writers, and fiscal staff to handle complex grant application processes.

Municipalities are further supported by county, regional, state, and federal administrative and technical capabilities. For this HMP, the majority of support agencies and resources have been identified and referenced throughout this plan update.

It is noted that the County and many of its municipalities have identified specific mitigation initiatives described in this plan update, which will help build and enhance mitigation-related administrative and technical capabilities in Fulton County.

Federal and Commonwealth Capabilities

Federal agencies that can provide technical assistance for mitigation activities include but are not limited to:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Agriculture
- Economic Development Administration
- Emergency Management Institute
- Environmental Protection Agency
- FEMA
- Small Business Administration

Commonwealth agencies which can provide technical assistance for mitigation activities include but are not limited to:

- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
- Pennsylvania Silver Jackets

Municipal Capabilities

Participating municipalities in this planning effort were provided with a capabilities survey. Table 5-2 summarizes the responses of the municipalities based on administrative and technical capability. Copies of the individual municipal responses are found in Appendix D.



Table 5-2. Administrative and Technical Capability

Municipality	Planners (with land use/land development knowledge)	Planners or Engineers (with natural and/or human-caused hazards knowledge)	Engineers or Professionals trained in building and/or infrastructure construction practices	Emergency Managers	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Land Surveyors	Scientists or Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	Personnel skilled in GIS and/or the FEMA HAZUS program	Grant Writers or Fiscal Staff to handle large/complex grants	Staff with expertise or training in Benefit-Cost Analysis	Other
Fulton County	X	-	-	X	N/A	-	X	X	-	-	-
Ayr Township	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belfast Township	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bethel Township	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Brush Creek Township	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin Township	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licking Creek Township	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
McConnellsburg Borough	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor Township	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thompson Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
Todd Township	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-
Valley-Hi Borough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wells Township	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:

“X” indicates that the municipality currently has this capability in place.

“-” indicates no capability is currently in place.

“N/A” indicates not applicable

Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.

5.2.3 Financial Capability

Mitigation projects and initiatives are largely or entirely dependent on available funding. As such, it is critical to identify all available sources of funding at the local, county, regional, state, and federal levels to support implementation of the mitigation strategies identified in this plan update.

Jurisdictions fund mitigation projects through existing local budgets, local appropriations (including referendums and bonding), and through myriad federal and state loan and grant programs.

Federal mitigation grant funding (Stafford Act 404 and 406) (FEMA 2000) is available to all communities with a current HMP (this plan); however, most of these grants require a “local share” in the range of 10 to 25 percent of the total grant amount.

Federal Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (Stafford Act 404 and 406) is a post-disaster mitigation program made available to states by FEMA after each federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75



percent funding for hazard mitigation measures and can be used to fund cost-effective projects to protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that projects to 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. Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP include state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Native American 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 PEMA for ranking and submission 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.

Sections 404 and 406 hazard mitigation funding are two distinct criteria associated with mitigation funding. Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities, including raising, removing, relocating, or replacing structures located within flood hazard areas. FEMA 406 HMGP is applied to parts of a facility that were actually damaged by a disaster and the mitigation measures that provide protection from subsequent events.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (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. 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, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations.

The federal government cost share for an FMA project is 75 percent. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source, and of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At a minimum, a FEMA-approved local HMP is required before a project can be approved. FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the Commonwealth. PEMA serves as the grantee and program administrator for FMA.

As of fiscal year 2013, the Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Flood Claims Programs were dismantled and incorporated into the FMA. As a result, residential and non-residential properties currently insured with NFIP are eligible to receive FMA funds as long as they meet either the Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property definitions as described in Section 4.3.5 of this plan.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program is an annually funded, nationwide, competitive grant program. No disaster declaration is required. Federal funds will cover 75 percent of a project's cost up to \$3 million. As with the HMGP and FMA, a FEMA-approved local HMP is required to be approved for funding under the PDM Program.

Federal Disaster Assistance Programs

Following a disaster, various types of assistance may be made available by local, state, and federal governments. The types and levels of disaster assistance depend on the severity of the damage and the declarations that result from the disaster event. If the President of the United States declares an event a major disaster, general types of assistance may be provided, including the following:

- Individual Assistance – Provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses, and some nonprofit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses may be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible



for loans to cover personal property losses. Individuals may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate and \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property. For businesses, loans may be made to repair or replace disaster damage to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Nonprofit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster. These loans are restricted, by law, to small businesses only.

- Public Assistance – Provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities, and school districts) and certain nonprofit 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.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are federal funds intended to provide low- and moderate-income citizens with decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible entities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. Public improvements may include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances, and during times of “urgent need” (for example, post-disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding may be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event.

Additional Federal Resources

Weatherization Assistance Program: Minimizes the adverse effects of high-energy costs on low-income, elderly, and disabled citizens through client education activities and weatherization services like heating system modifications and insulation (US DOE 2011).

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Programs: Provides loan guarantees as security for federal loans for acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation, clearance, site preparation, special economic development activities, and construction of certain public facilities and housing (HUD 2011).

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Provides disaster assistance through the following:

- The Emergency Conservation Program provides emergency funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.
- The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides financial assistance for non-insurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program: Undertakes emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed (NRCS 2011). It is not necessary for an emergency to be declared by the President for an area to be eligible for assistance. The program objective is to assist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protecting destabilized stream banks, establishing cover on critically eroding lands, repairing conservation practices, and purchasing floodplain easements. The program is designed to implement recovery measures.



Commonwealth Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Commonwealth programs that may provide financial support for mitigation activities include but are not limited to:

- Community Conservation Partnerships Program
- Community Revitalization Program
- Flood Mitigation Program
- Floodplain Land Use Assistance Program
- Growing Greener Program
- Keystone Grant Program
- Local Government Capital Projects Loan Program
- Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program
- Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program
- Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program
- Shared Municipal Services
- Technical Assistance Program

Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund - Act 13 of 2012

Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP): Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for watershed restoration and protection projects. The overall goal of this program is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of non-point source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the PA DEP's Impaired Waters list.

Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP): In addition, Act 13 of 2012 allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. Projects can involve development, rehabilitation, and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation.

Flood Mitigation Projects: Finally, Act 13 of 2012 allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") for funding statewide initiatives to assist with flood mitigation projects.

While most of the identified fiscal capabilities are available to all of the municipalities in Fulton County, the extent to which communities have leveraged these funding sources varies widely. It is expected that communities familiar with accessing grant programs will continue to pursue those grant sources, as appropriate.

Municipal Capabilities

The implementation of mitigation actions requires time and fiscal resources. While some mitigation actions are less costly than others, it is important that funds are available locally to implement policies and projects. Financial resources are particularly important if jurisdictions try to take advantage of Commonwealth or federal mitigation grant funding opportunities that require local-match contributions.

Capital Improvement Planning

Capital improvement plans are often recommended by counties to their municipalities because these plans help identify specific capital projects to be funded and completed according to a defined schedule. Some of these projects involve improvements to facilities and infrastructure that provide hazard mitigation benefits. As such,



during this update process, the County and its municipalities have been encouraged to consider the mitigation benefits associated with their known or anticipated capital projects as a way to help prioritize their execution and to develop awareness that mitigation grants may be available to help fund such projects.

Special Purpose Taxes

Communities may exercise their taxing authority to raise funds for any project they see fit. This includes special taxes to fund mitigation measures. Spreading the cost of a community project among the community's taxpayers helps provide the greatest public good for relatively low individual cost.

Gas/Electric Utility Fees

In the same way that special taxes can be levied to fund mitigation projects, a community can also finance a project by dedicating a portion of homeowner gas and electric utility fees to upgrade and maintain the related infrastructure. Burying transmission lines to protect them from the effects of winds and ice storms is expensive. These fees help to offset that cost.

Water/Sewer Fees

Water Authorities and Fees

Water authorities are multipurpose authorities with water projects, many of which operate both water and sewer systems. The financing of water systems for lease back to the municipality is among the principal activities of the local government facilities' financing authorities. An operating water authority issues bonds to purchase existing facilities or to construct, extend, or improve a system. The primary source of revenue is user fees based on metered usage.

The cost of constructing or extending water supply lines can be funded by special assessments against abutting property owners. Tapping fees also help fund water system capital costs. Water utilities are directly operated by municipal governments and by privately owned public utilities regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. The PA DEP has a program to assist with consolidation of small individual water systems to make system upgrades more cost effective.

Sewer Authorities and Fees

Sewer authorities include multipurpose authorities with sewer projects. The authorities issue bonds to finance acquisition of existing systems or to finance construction, extension, and improvements. Sewer authority operating revenues originate from user fees. The fee frequently is based on the amount of water consumed, and payment is enforced by the ability to terminate service or the imposition of liens against real estate. In areas with no public water supply, flat rate charges are calculated on average use per dwelling unit.

Stormwater Utility Fees

Stormwater utility fees are assessed and collected to offset the cost of maintaining and upgrading stormwater management structures such as drains, retention ponds, and culverts.

Development Impact Fees

Development impact fees are one-time fees assessed to offset the cost of providing public services to a new development. They may be dedicated to providing new water or sewer infrastructure, roads, parks and recreational areas, libraries, schools, etc. The new infrastructure may be less vulnerable to hazard impacts.

General Obligation, Revenue, and/or Special Tax Bonds

Jurisdictions may simply decide to dedicate general fund or similar financing to implement hazard mitigation projects.



Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements

Intergovernmental cooperation is one manner of accomplishing common goals, solving mutual problems, and reducing expenditures. Fulton County contains 13 municipalities. Each of these municipalities conducts its daily operations and provides various community services according to local needs and limitations. Each municipality varies in staff size, resource availability, fiscal status, service provision, constituent population, overall size, and vulnerability to the identified hazards.

Table 5-3. Fiscal Capability

Municipality	Capital Improvements Program	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Special Purpose Taxes	Gas/Electric Utility Fees	Water/Sewer Fees	Stormwater Utility Fees	Development Impact Fees	General Obligation, Revenue, and/or Special Tax Bonds	Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements	Other
Fulton County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belfast Township	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X*
Bethel Township	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Brush Creek Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licking Creek Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McConnellsburg Borough	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thompson Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Todd Township	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Union Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valley-Hi Borough										
Wells Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:
 “X” indicates that the municipality currently has this capability in place.
 “-” indicates no capability is currently in place.
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.
 “*” indicates fees generated from Agricultural Security Areas.

5.2.4 Education and Outreach

Education and outreach programs and methods are used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information. Examples include obtaining certification in programs, such as Firewise and StormReady, and developing and communicating hazard awareness and safety information to residents.

At the municipal level, education and outreach capabilities vary. Some municipalities have the capability to handle outreach initiatives, while others rely on County resources. Several municipal websites post local plans and ordinances, and many municipalities post information regarding hazard-related topics. The local fire departments and emergency managers are active in the schools participating in programs, such as fire safety in the fall and attending other community activities to conduct outreach. Appendix D details the outreach and education conducted at the municipal level.



Public Information Programs

Flood Maps

Flood maps and flood data, including new digital maps for Fulton County, are available at the municipal offices. County and municipality maps, tax maps, and property assessment records are available at the Assessment Office and online at <http://www.courthouseonline.com> and using the online GIS Web Tool located on the County website. Deeds are available at the Prothonotary's Office and online at <http://www.infoconcountyaccess.com>.

Library Education Tools

Libraries have educational materials, available upon request, which are used at public speaking events or County meetings, when appropriate. Educational materials include but are not limited to:

- Various types of training videos
- Pennsylvania emergency preparedness guides
- American Red Cross packets for flash flooding, hurricane, thunder and lightning, tornado, and winter storms
- Family disaster planning guides
- Homeland security information for businesses, families, individuals, neighborhoods, and schools
- Pandemic brochures

Outreach Projects

Several organizations (both public and private sector) have developed outreach projects, educational tools, and training programs. The County promotes both online and traditional in-person programs to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

- *ReadyPA Campaign*: Established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, www.readypa.org is a website that aims to prepare the public for times of disaster by providing education on the risks within Pennsylvania, template emergency plans and kits, and information on ways to get involved with community organizations to help others.
- Emergency management courses are provided through the County EMA to local coordinators and elected officials; these courses include Basic Orientation, Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Emergency Management Coordinator (LEMC), and Damage Assessment.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) works closely with the business industry community to form a safety net around the chemical industry to protect the general population from the possible outcome of hazardous material incidents. The following features of the LEPC demonstrate the capability of the LEPC to support County emergency management and preparedness initiatives.

- The LEPC shall have a minimum of seven members, with at least one representative from each of the following groups:
 - Group 1 – Elected official representing local government within the County
 - Group 2 – Local law enforcement, first aid, health, environmental, hospital, and transportation personnel
 - Group 3 – Firefighting personnel
 - Group 4 – Civil defense and emergency management personnel
 - Group 5 – Broadcast and print media personnel
 - Group 6 – Community groups not affiliated with emergency service groups
 - Group 7 – Owners and operators of facilities subject to the requirements of SARA Title III



- *Reporting Facilities:* The minimum reporting threshold for which facilities are required to have or prepared a Material Safety Data Sheet is 10,000 pounds of hazardous chemicals. This document provides workers and emergency personnel with procedures for handling or working with hazardous materials in a safe manner. It includes information on the chemicals’ physical properties, toxicity, health effects, first aid, reactivity, storage, disposal, protective equipment, and spill-handling procedures.
- *Planning Facilities:* The reporting threshold for Extremely Hazardous Substances (as designated under Section 302 of Title III) is 500 pounds or the threshold planning quantity, whichever is lower. Qualifying facilities are subject to additional reports and accident prevention regulations.

Technical Assistance

The County EMA can support local, public, and private entities as needed through coordination and provision of information and equipment resources. These include both existing County capabilities and predetermined private and public resources.

Municipalities participating in this planning effort were provided with a Capability Assessment Survey. Table 5-4 summarizes the responses of the municipalities based on education and outreach capabilities. Copies of the individual municipal responses are found in Appendix D.

Table 5-4. Education and Outreach Capability

Municipality	Firewise Communities Certification	StormReady Certification	Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	Local citizen groups or nonprofit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	Other
Fulton County	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Ayr Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Belfast Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Bethel Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Brush Creek Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Licking Creek Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
McConnellsburg Borough	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Thompson Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
Todd Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Union Township	-	X	-	-	-	Union Township Transportation and Economic Development Committee	-
Valley-Hi Borough		X					
Wells Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:
 “X” indicates that the municipality currently has this capability in place.
 “-” indicates no capability is currently in place.
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.



5.2.5 Self-Assessment

Through the Capability Assessment Surveys, all participating jurisdictions were further asked to provide a self-assessment of their jurisdiction’s capability in the areas of Planning and Regulatory Capability, Administrative and Technical Capability, Financial Capability, and Education and Outreach Capability. Respondents evaluated their degree of capability in these areas as “Limited,” “Moderate,” or “High” Table 5-5 provides the summary results from municipalities that completed capability self-assessment worksheets.

Table 5-5. Capability Self-Assessment Matrix

Municipality	Capability Category			
	Planning and Regulatory Capability	Administrative and Technical Capability	Financial Capability	Education and Outreach Capability
Fulton County	M	M	L	M
Ayr Township	M	M	M	M
Belfast Township	L	L	L	L
Bethel Township				
Brush Creek Township	M	H	M	M
Dublin Township	M	M	M	L
Licking Creek Township	M	M	L	L
McConnellsburg Borough	M	M	L	L
Taylor Township			L	
Thompson Township	M	H	M	M
Todd Township	M	M	M	L
Union Township	M	M	L	L
Valley-Hi Borough				
Wells Township	M	M	L	M

Note:
Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.

Detailed information regarding the municipalities’ capabilities self-assessments can be found in the municipal survey responses provided in Appendix D.

5.2.6 Plan Integration

According to FEMA, plan integration is a process where communities look critically at their existing planning framework and align their efforts. Integration of hazard mitigation principles into other local planning mechanisms (comprehensive plans, transportation plans, floodplain ordinances, etc.) and vice versa is vital to build a safer, more resilient community. This two-way exchange of information supports community-wide risk reduction, both before and after disasters occur. Not only will the community’s planning efforts be better integrated, but by going through this process, there is a higher level of interagency coordination, which is just as important as the planning mechanisms themselves.

Within Fulton County, many existing plans and programs support hazard risk management; thus, it is critical that this HMP integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.

The intention of the Steering Committee and participating jurisdictions is to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations. Steering Committee members will work with local government officials to integrate the newly adopted hazard mitigation goals and actions into the general operations of government and partner organizations. Further, the sample adoption resolution (located in Section 8 of this HMP) includes a resolution item stating the intent of the local governing body to incorporate mitigation



planning as an integral component of government and partner operations. By doing so, the Steering Committee anticipates the following:

- 1) Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of overall emergency management efforts.
- 2) Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of land use policies and mechanisms.
- 3) The HMP, the County and municipal comprehensive plans, and the County and municipal EOPs will become mutually supportive documents that work in concert to meet the goals and needs of County residents.
- 4) Duplication of effort can be minimized.

As noted in Section 6 of this plan, Fulton County has made a concerted effort to reduce its vulnerability to natural and non-natural hazards in its planning and in its daily operations since the Fulton County HMP was last updated in 2015. The County and its jurisdictions have implemented various programs and projects to reduce the impacts of hazards. These projects, programs, and regulations have reduced risk caused by natural and non-natural hazards and support the goals and objectives of this HMP. It is the intent of the County and its participating municipalities to strengthen this focus on mitigation by continuing existing policies and by further implementing the mitigation policies contained in this HMP.

Implementation actions will include incorporating the goals of the HMP into ongoing planning, zoning, building, and engineering activities. Specifically, the County will urge municipalities to take the following actions:

- Fund hazard mitigation projects or actions in operating budgets to the extent possible.
- Notify other municipalities about grant and other funding opportunities as they arise.
- Use data and maps from this HMP as supporting documentation in grant applications.
- Review mitigation actions when allocating funding for the municipal budgets.
- Include hazard mitigation when updating municipal ordinances.
- Identify hazard areas in updates of comprehensive plans to identify land use issues.
- Review the HMP prior to land use or zoning changes and permitting or development decisions.

The information on hazards, risk, vulnerability, and mitigation contained in this HMP is based on the best science and technology available at the time of the plan's preparation. Additionally, certain plans (including blueprints) were incorporated directly into this HMP update. All participating jurisdictions recognize that this information can be invaluable in making decisions under other planning programs, such as comprehensive, capital improvement, and emergency management plans. Figure 5-1 illustrates the interrelationships between the HMP, the Alleghenies Ahead Joint Comprehensive Plan, the County EOP, and other community planning mechanisms. Existing processes and programs through which the HMP should be implemented are described below.

Plan participants will make every effort to implement the relevant sections and/or data contained in the HMP and will use administrative, budgetary, and regulatory processes as well as partnerships to the maximum extent, as described below.

Administrative

Administrative processes include departmental or organizational work plans, policies, or procedural changes that can be addressed by the following departments:

- Fulton County Children and Youth Services
- Emergency Management Agency
- Planning and Mapping
- Sheriff's Office

Additional administrative measures may include the creation of paid or unpaid internships to assist in HMP maintenance.



The Fulton County EMA is responsible for preparing and maintaining the County EOP, including a minimum biennial review. Whenever portions of the plan are implemented in an emergency event or training exercise, a review is performed, and changes are made where necessary. The risk assessment information presented in the 2015 HMP was used to update the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment section of the County EOP. The updated risk assessment information will affect subsequent updates to the EOP. Recommended changes to the HMP, based on changes to the EOP, will then be coordinated with the Steering Committee.

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners and each municipality's planning commission is responsible for maintaining and updating Fulton County's Joint Comprehensive Plan, which covers all 13 municipalities.

The administrative practices described above will continue through the development of subsequent Fulton County updates to the regional comprehensive plan using the information in this updated HMP. In return, the Fulton County sections of the regional comprehensive plan, located on the Fulton County Planning Commission's website, was incorporated into multiple aspects of this HMP. Information from the comprehensive plan and other documents was used to formulate the County profile, identify the history of individual hazards, and detail the population projections in Fulton County.

Budgetary Process

In terms of budgetary processes, the County will review capital budgets and, if funding is available, include a line item for mitigation actions. In addition, the County will maximize mitigation aspects of proposed projects and will encourage municipalities to do likewise.

Regulatory Measures

Regulatory measures—such as the creation of executive orders, ordinances, and other directives—will be considered to support hazard mitigation in the following areas:

- Comprehensive Planning – Institutionalize hazard mitigation for new construction and land use.
- Zoning and Ordinances – Enforce higher standards or restrictions in hazard areas. Restrict allowable development in hazard areas.
- Building Codes – Enforce codes or higher standards in hazard areas.
- Capital Improvements Plan – Ensure that the person responsible for projects under this plan evaluates whether new construction is in a high-hazard area (such as a flood plain) so the construction is designed to mitigate the risk. Revise requirements for this plan to include hazard mitigation in the design of new construction.
- NFIP – Continue to participate in this program and explore participation in CRS Program.
- Stormwater Management – Continue to implement stormwater management plans and ordinances. Stormwater management plans/ordinances are developed for nine municipalities with another currently under development.
- HMP Plan Coordination – Review all above-mentioned plans to ensure they are consistent with the HMP before making any formal changes (amendments) to master plans, zoning, ordinances, capital improvement plans, or other mechanisms that control development.

Funding

The County and its jurisdictions will consider multiple grant sources to fund eligible projects. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Federal
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)
 - FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – Stafford Act, Section 404
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)



- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – USDA Community Facilities
- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Program
- Commonwealth
 - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank
 - Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds – Flood Mitigation Program
 - Growing Greener
- Regional
 - Appalachian Regional Commission
 - Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission
- Nonprofit organizations, foundations, and private sources

Other potential federal funding sources include:

- Stafford Act, Section 406 – Public Assistance Program Mitigation Grants
- Federal Highway Administration
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
- U.S. Fire Administration – Assistance to Firefighter Grants
- U.S. Small Business Administration Pre- and Post-Disaster Mitigation Loans
- U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration Grants
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- Other sources as yet to be defined

Partnerships

To provide broader support and understanding of hazard mitigation, opportunities for partnerships will be encouraged, as listed below.

Existing Committees and Councils

- Local Government Committees:
 - Fulton County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (<https://conservationtools.org/>)
 - Fulton County Conservation District (<https://www.fultoncountyconservationdistrict.org/>)
 - Fulton Industrial Development Association (<http://www.fultonida.com/>)
 - Fulton County Housing Authority (<https://www.lowincomehousing.us/cty/pa-fulton>)
 - Fulton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (<https://www.co.fulton.pa.us/lepc.php>)

Creative Partnerships for Funding and Incentives

- Public-private partnerships, including utilities and businesses
- State cooperation
- In-kind resources

Working with other Federal and Commonwealth Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- U.S. Geological Service (USGS)



- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)
- PEMA
- Pennsylvania State Police (PSP)

American Red Cross

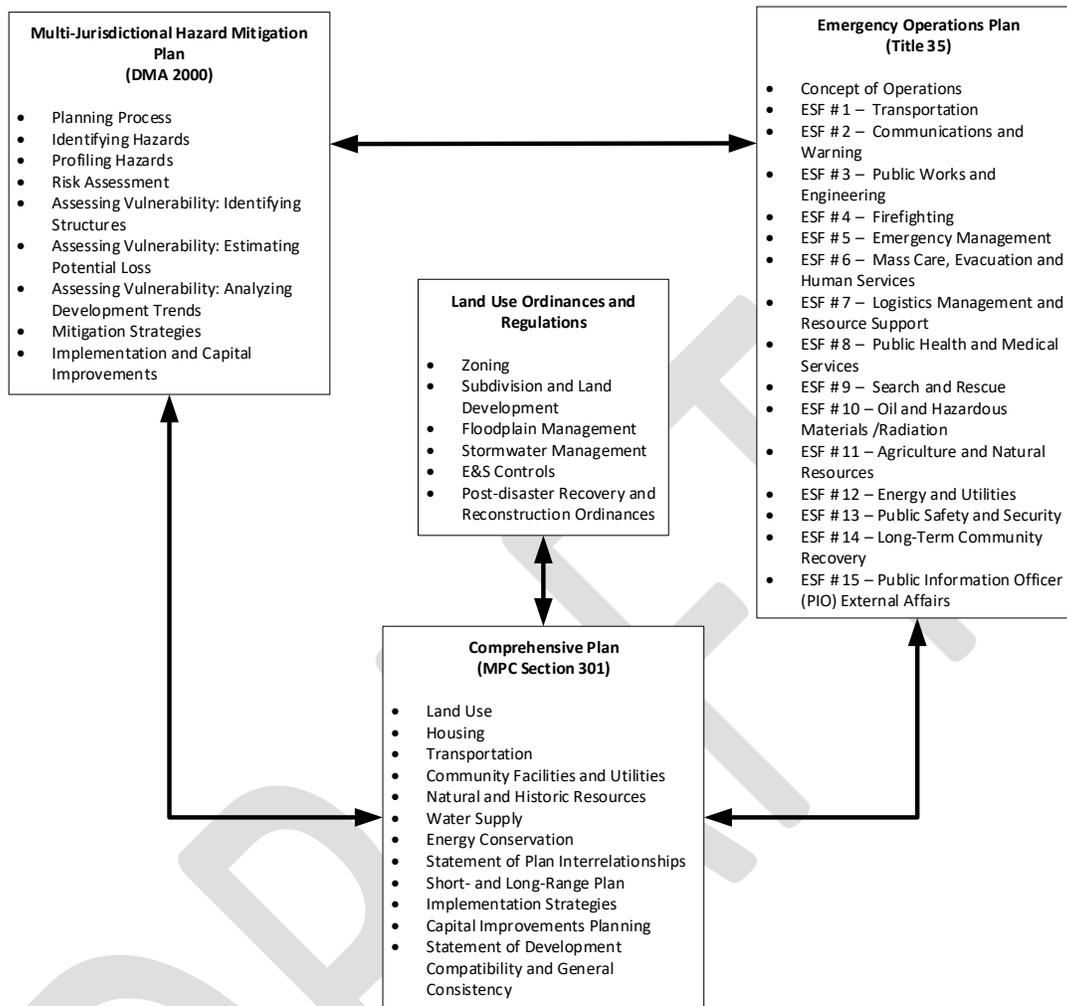
Watershed Associations

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation (<https://www.cbf.org/>)
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (<https://www.srbc.net/>)
- Potomac Conservancy (<https://potomac.org/>)

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Figure 5-1. Plan Interrelationships



Note:
 E&S Erosion and Sedimentation
 MPC Municipal Planning Code

During the plan evaluation process, the Steering Committee will identify additional policies, programs, practices, and procedures that could be modified to accommodate hazard mitigation actions and will include these findings and recommendations in the HMP Progress Report.