

## **SECTION 3: STATE MITIGATION STRATEGY**

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### 3.1 STATE HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & ACTIONS

#### OVERVIEW

According to 44 CFR 201.4(c)(3) a state hazard mitigation plan must contain a mitigation strategy that is the state's blueprint for reducing losses identified in the risk assessment. The state's mitigation strategy is described below, and has been updated as part of the 2019 revision. During the update of hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and actions, the Mitigation Branch:

- Identified applicable mitigation goals, objectives, and actions of the stakeholders that participated in the updating of the plan. This includes direct feedback from the SHMT, Emergency Support Function (ESF) Leads, ESF-14 Partners, and state agency staff.
- Identified and reviewed the goals, objectives and actions of the all hazard county mitigation plans that have been developed and approved by FEMA, the handful of community specific mitigation plans that have been developed and approved and any FMA plans that have not been incorporated into local DMA2K plans. These local goals, objectives and action items were compared to those found in the state plan and gave the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch a clearer vision of what the locals felt was important.
- Identified and reviewed the goals, objectives, and actions of the 2014 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Reviewed the state's priority hazards, which include: flooding, tornado/wind, severe summer storms and severe winter storms.

The State of Ohio mitigation strategy in this section of the plan utilizes the following terminology, based on FEMA's *State and Local Mitigation Planning How-To Guide*:

- *Goals* – General guidelines that explain what is desired to be achieved. They are usually broad policy-type statements, long term, and represent global visions.
- *Objectives* – Strategies or implementation steps to attain identified goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and measurable.
- *Mitigation Actions* – Specific actions to achieve goals and objectives. The mitigation actions are described below and listed in the Mitigation Action Plan Table found in Section 3.2. This table prioritizes mitigation actions, identifies a lead agency for implementation, and is used to track implementation status.

#### PROGRESS ON 2014 GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ACTIONS; CHANGES IN 2019 UPDATE

The format used to report the goals, objectives, and mitigation actions in the 2019 plan update is consistent with previous state mitigation plan updates. For example, the plan generally identifies goals that are all hazard in nature, with specific objectives related to one or more hazards (with the exception of the goal of mitigating repetitive flood loss structures). A 2014 Mitigation Action Plan Update Summary Table is in the appendices (Appendix E); which provides commentary on the status of the action items identified in the 2014 Enhanced plan update.

Finally, the goals/objectives/actions items in this update incorporate priority goals and actions identified in local plans that have been submitted and approved by Ohio EMA and FEMA; incorporate any changes/updates in the strategic plans of agencies that have a role in hazard mitigation; and reflect current trends, issues and priorities. The 2019 mitigation strategy update outlined below was developed with input from the Ohio EMA Executive Staff, the State Hazard Mitigation Team, the Silver Jackets team, and various federal, state, and local entities.

**GOAL #1: REDUCE LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY FROM HAZARD EVENTS**

*Goal Discussion.* Ohio is a populous state with over 11 million people. The population centers in Ohio are often concentrated in hazard areas, especially floodplains. This is due to their natural progression from communities whose economies were largely water dependent (steel mills needed water for cooling, water was needed for transportation). Events that historically caused loss of life were epidemiological – specifically outbreaks of cholera and influenza killed thousands of Ohioans in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. More recently, hazards that have resulted in significant losses of life include: flooding (467 in Great 1913 flood, 26 in 1990 Shadyside flash flood); fires (322 in 1950 Columbus Penitentiary, 95 in 1963 Marietta nursing home); blizzards/winter storms (51 in 1978 blizzard); and tornadoes (35 in 1974 Xenia tornado).

Less known, but more widespread are injuries from hazard events. In addition to minor or major physical injuries, mental injury (trauma, etc.) is an issue after any type of major hazard event. In addition, both injuries and loss of life are possible not only for direct victims of a hazard event, but also for those responding to / assisting those victims.

If the flood of 1913 occurred today, it is doubtful that there would be as many casualties. This would be due to current building and other safety codes. For example, over 700 communities in Ohio have adopted flood loss reduction regulations to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. The regulations make buildings more resilient in flood events, which results in improved safety for building occupants. Similarly, building codes today contain standards for wind and fire resistance, and dam/levee construction and rehabilitation standards help prevent catastrophic failures of these structures.

Monitoring and warning systems today are far more sophisticated and effective than their predecessors. The Ohio STORMS (State of Ohio Rain/Snow Monitoring System) effectively monitors precipitation during hazardous weather events. Integrated warning systems (not just a siren on a pole) are effective in flash flood and tornado prone areas; which can also be very effective in reducing potential loss of life and injury.

*New or continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2008 update.

***Objective 1: Continue to map hazard areas, refine existing hazard mapping data, and develop/refine loss estimation and vulnerability analysis data***

- Action: Conduct HAZUS Level 2 flood analyses for all counties in the state using the best available data.
- Action: Continue to update and improve the vulnerability analysis for state - owned buildings and critical facilities.
- Action: Gather and incorporate structure specific risk data into the Risk Management Information System (RMIS).
- Action: Perform on-site appraisals of all state buildings valued at \$500,000 or more.
- Action: Perform desktop valuations for all state buildings valued at less than \$500,000 to determine current replacement value.

**Objective 2: Promote the use of effective early alert / warning systems**

- Action: Install pre-planned detour signage for recurring closures.
- Action: Install sensors in road shoulders or video detection to monitor flooding.
- Action: Ohio EMA will work with the National Weather Service and local emergency management agencies to adjust trigger points for flood warnings based on completed mitigation projects, changing flood levels and other factors.
- Action: Work with USGS, NOAA, and other partners to promote flood warning systems and the importance of stream and rain gauges.

**Objective 3: Prioritize acquisition of properties, including those in high risk areas (floodways) or those in imminent danger (e.g., landslide) for available funds from FEMA mitigation programs**

- Action: Ensure that grant application review tools and processes prioritize acquisition of repetitively damaged and highest risk properties.

**Objective 4: Ensure the continuation of an effective dam/levee safety program**

- Action: Inspect all class I-III dams once every 5 years.
- Action: Take enforcement actions on violations of state dam/levee safety laws for severely deficient and/or structurally unsound high hazard dams.
- Action: Increase the number of Emergency Action Plans through compliance and education efforts.

**Objective 5: Promote wind mitigation techniques and programs**

- Action: Continue to implement and improve the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program.

**Goal #2: Minimize Damage to Property and Societal Disruptions from Hazard Events**

Goal Discussion. Property damage from hazard events is significant in Ohio. Between 1978 and September, 2018, there has been \$323,553,037.21 in paid claims from the NFIP in Ohio. Although this data is a good indicator – it does not account for all of the property losses due to flood. Only about 10% of flood prone structures have flood insurance, the data doesn't include flood claims available through private insurers (for large facilities like factories – private insurance through a secondary insurer is significant), and the data doesn't include crop losses due to flooding.

Similarly, tornadoes and straight-line winds have high loss potential. The 1974 Xenia tornado event resulted in over \$1 billion in damages in a multi-state region (including Ohio). The September 2008 straight-line wind event in Ohio resulted in over \$553.1 million in insured losses, which set a record for the highest amount of insured losses as a result of a single event in Ohio. This event also resulted in over \$52,643,099 in public assistance to communities for infrastructure repair and debris removal. In addition to property losses, societal disruptions occur after a hazard event. Consider the following impacts:

- Infrastructure disruption can result in the cutoff of evacuation routes, pollution due to sanitary facilities not working, lack of clean drinking water, and isolation of populated areas (such as in a road or bridge collapse). Loss of medical facilities, and or public safety facilities, can result in vulnerable populations should a subsequent disaster event occur.

- Direct loss of facilities used by employers, or indirect loss due to infrastructure disruption, can lead to lost wages and lost tax revenues for all levels of government.
- Research has shown that mental health problems, divorce rates, and physical/emotional abuse increase after a significant hazard event.
- Local “gathering places” that are destroyed in a hazard event result in disruption of the social fabric of a community.

Strengthening of laws, regulations, and ordinances for new and existing facilities is not only critical to the protection of property and life but, also, the reduction of massive physical, social, and economic disruption that accompanies disasters. Regulations and ordinances help communities design and construct new facilities or alter existing facilities in a manner that resists the forces of nature and ensures safety. Local land use laws can support this effort by keeping buildings and development out of the most hazardous areas through local land use planning. It is essential that mitigation planning be incorporated into all land use planning activities at the local and state levels.

*New or continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2005 plan.

***Objective 1: Evaluate and improve safety & loss reduction codes/standards for hazards that affect Ohio***

- Action: Support communities who choose to adopt standards beyond NFIP minimums for flood loss reduction.
- Action: Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Commercial Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.
- Action: Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Residential Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.

***Objective 2: Develop mitigation resource information for the business community***

- Action: Continue to participate in the public/private partnership effort between Ohio EMA and the business community.

***Objective 3: Identify funding sources and obtain funds from a variety of Federal, state, regional and local entities to implement mitigation activities***

- Action: Formalize a state level hazard mitigation grant program for Ohio communities.
- Action: Work with Ohio EMA to document a process to be followed if CDBG-DR funds are ever available in the state.
- Action: Explore the possibility of using Alternative Stormwater Infrastructure Loan Program to target properties purchased with HMA grants as future green infrastructure project sites.
- Action: Seek funding to expand local vector control programs.

***Objective 4: Promote sustainable communities and hazard resilient development***

- Action: Develop a priority list of generator needs for Center for Medicaid/Medicare funded facilities.
- Action: Ensure that federally-funded housing, community development, and economic development programs administered by the ODSA are conducted in accordance with state

and local floodplain management regulations.

- Action: The Department of Commerce will partner with ODNR Floodplain Management Program to develop educational information for floodplain managers and the manufactured home community on the Manufactured Homes Program.
- Action: Limit construction or assist with relocation of electrical substations, distribution, and transmission lines in flood-prone areas that serve critical infrastructure customers.
- Action: Implement ODA commitments delineated in the Ohio Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie.
- Action: OPWC will continue to incorporate hazard mitigation principles into emergency projects whenever possible.
- Action: Support dialogue between stakeholders about utilization of quality building components to mitigate damage.

***Objective 5: Promote sustainable communities and hazard resilient development***

- Action: Work with industry to ensure a streamlined and consumer-focused claim filing and premium payment process during and after a disaster event.
- Action: Monitor the uptake of flood insurance on the private insurance market.
- Action: Support insurers offering hazard mitigation discounts to customers.
- Action: Support dialogue between the National Flood Insurance Program, insurance companies and the lending community.
- Action: Empower Ohioans with educational toolkits that will help them better understand hazard risks, insurance needs, and disaster preparedness.

**Goal #3: Integrate Hazard Mitigation Policies and Programs**

*Goal Discussion.* Hazard mitigation, which includes loss reduction, has historically occurred in piecemeal fashion – where a need existed or an opportunity made available, mitigation happened. However, with the requirements to do mitigation planning at the state and local level, mitigation programs have the potential to be more robust and have a need to be integrated. Policies and programs at all levels of government tend to be stove-piped, and it is often up to communities to understand how the programs fit together – many times with little help.

As indicated in the previous goal, incorporating actions identified in local mitigation plans such as suggested code and/or land use changes by actually updating local codes and land use plans is one significant way hazard mitigation policies and programs can be integrated. Another is to promote interagency coordination at the state and national level.

*New or continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2008 plan update.

***Objective 1: Expand the SHMT to include other federal, state and local entities***

- Action: Invite at least two additional entities each year to participate on the SHMT.
- Action: OPWC will continue participation on the State Hazard Mitigation Team

***Objective 2: Work with non-traditional partners to better align programs and policies to facilitate hazard mitigation***

- Action: Continue inter-agency participation on the USACE Silver Jackets Initiative.

- Action: Review the OFMA substantial damage mutual aid process and incorporate recent Stafford Act changes.
- Action: Develop statewide procedures providing guidance to state agency fiscal officers on disaster cost tracking policy.

***Objective 3: Ensure better coordination of state and local mitigation planning activities***

- Action: Develop and implement strong state incentives for maintaining local mitigation plans.
- Action: Continue participation in the FEMA pilot program that enables Ohio to review and approve local hazard mitigation plans.

***Objective 4: Work with partners to improve customer experience with mitigation grant/planning programs***

- Action: Ohio EMA will work with FEMA legal staff to develop modified deed language for properties acquired with HMA funds in Ohio that clarifies the property re-use review and approval process.

**Goal #4: Eliminate Vulnerable Repetitive Loss Flood-Prone Structures in the State of Ohio**

*Goal Discussion.* Ohio ranks in the top twenty states in the nation in the number of FEMA identified repetitive loss flood prone structures. Furthermore, flooding is Ohio's most costly natural hazard. Although there are various definitions of repetitive loss, these structures represent the most vulnerable and flood prone building stock in Ohio. For such structures, the best and preferred mitigation option is acquisition/demolition. However, it may be possible to use other mitigation techniques (i.e., flood proofing) especially when the structure use is non-residential.

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch and ODNR, Floodplain Management Program continue to be active in this area. The Mitigation Branch utilizes repetitive loss lists published by FEMA to identify repetitive loss structures and target them for outreach regarding FEMA mitigation grant programs that may be available. The ODNR Floodplain Management Program addresses repetitive loss properties through education and training of local floodplain administrators. The Floodplain Management Program's efforts ensure that the local floodplain administrators are aware of the requirements to conduct "substantial damage" determinations, which require compliance with local flood damage reduction regulations to ensure that vulnerable structures are mitigated during the repair/renovation process. Structures that are substantially damaged/improved, and have flood insurance, may also have access to additional funds available through the property owner's flood insurance policy to make such changes. During the year, substantial damage training is provided in workshops statewide. After significant flood events, the Floodplain Management Program conducts NFIP briefings that focus on a community's responsibility to conduct substantial damage determinations. Finally, the Floodplain Management Program works with the Ohio Building Official's Association to train a volunteer cadre of building officials to conduct substantial damage determination field inspections.

*New or continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2008 plan update.

***Objective 1: Continue to educate Ohio Floodplain Administrators and volunteer cadres such as the Ohio Building Officials Association on the post-event "substantial damage" process***

- Action: Conduct training and/or post-disaster briefings for appropriate audiences on substantial damage assessments.

***Objective 2: Educate owners of repetitive loss properties on mitigation techniques and programs that are available***

- Action: Develop and implement an outreach strategy targeting repetitive loss property owners on mitigation techniques and funding programs.

***Objective 3: Prioritize repetitive loss properties for available funds from FEMA mitigation programs***

- Action: Reduce the number of severe repetitive loss properties each year by assisting such owners with successful funding of mitigation projects through FEMA mitigation programs.

**Goal #5: Promote Research, Education, and Outreach Activities to Create a Culture of Mitigation in Ohio.**

*Goal Discussion.* To take effective mitigation actions, individuals, communities, and the state must have data upon which to make decisions. This data must be based on the best and latest scientific research (ranging from data on the hazard itself to the mitigation actions taken) and must be disseminated effectively.

*New or continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2008 plan update.

***Objective 1: Develop publications and information on all hazards that could potentially impact Ohio***

- Action: Develop success stories in wind resistant construction codes and mitigation techniques.
- Action: Update the Debris Management Course, deliver pilot offerings, and train Ohio EMA Regional staff to deliver the course.
- Action: Create Ohio version of mitigation planning and project courses.
- Action: Vector control recommendations communicated to the public to eliminate/avoid sources of standing water and overgrown brush that allow for the breeding of disease-carrying vectors.
- Action: Ohio EMA will continue to actively participate on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

***Objective 2: Utilize the State Hazard Analysis, Resource, and Planning Portal to promote hazard mitigation***

- Action: Continue to maintain, populate, and enhance the State Hazard Analysis Resource and Planning Portal.
- Action: Develop an interactive digital summary of the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Action: Conduct open space monitoring of properties purchased with HMA funds and report to FEMA every three years using SHARPP to collect data.

***Objective 3: Seek opportunities to partner with academic institutions to promote mitigation and resilience principles***

- Action: Sustain the Mitigation Branch internship program.
- Action: Continue the local mitigation planning studio course with The Ohio State University.



**Objective 4: Identify hazard risk data gaps and promote research projects that expand knowledge**

- Action: Incorporate a “weather resilience” data category into the Traffic Operation Assessment Systems Tool (TOAST)

**Objective 5: Educate the public on government, private sector and non-profit programs that reduce hazard risk.**

- Action: Educate potential applicants on how OPWC programs can be used to assist with mitigation.

**Goal #6: Provide leadership in hazard mitigation**

*Goal Discussion.* Mitigation and Recovery Branch staff strive to integrate hazard mitigation principles in a variety of ways to make Ohio communities more sustainable and citizens more resilient in the face of future disaster events. The Branch is the leading voice for mitigation in the State of Ohio.

The Branch Chief leads and coordinates activities for the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT). The role of the SHMT is twofold: to facilitate a collaborative discussion of mitigation policies, programs, and procedures in Ohio, and to have a mechanism for efficiently and objectively reviewing project applications for many of FEMA's hazard mitigation programs. Additionally, the Branch is the state entity responsible for implementing FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, and assists Ohio communities in their mitigation planning efforts. State and local governments rely on Mitigation and Recovery Branch staff technical assistance to develop mitigation plans and projects both before and after a disaster.

The Branch is very active in state and federal associations and workgroups in order to provide hazard mitigation guidance that is aligned with the Branch vision and mission. Such groups include (but are not limited to) the External Stakeholder Workgroup, FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partnership, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, and the Ohio Floodplain Management Association.

*New or Continuation?* This goal is a continuation from the 2011 update.

**Objective: Continue to be a leading voice in mitigation nationwide through increased involvement in national and state initiatives, dialogues and workgroups**

- Action: Continue to support efforts to comply with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).
- Action: Continue participation on emergency management and floodplain association workgroups.
- Action: Participate in earthquake table top exercise with mitigation component.

### 3.2 STATE MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

#### OVERVIEW

According to the planning requirements of DMA 2000, a SHMP will contain mitigation actions that are cost-effective, environmentally sound, and technologically feasible. Additionally, such actions are to be prioritized. The mitigation action plan below attempts to provide a concise table of the mitigation actions identified in the previous section, with an assigned priority. Additionally, a lead agency is identified for each action.

Borrowing a prioritization technique from the State of Kentucky, the mitigation actions have been prioritized in the following way:

**Table 3.2.a**

Priority	Description
A	Projects or activities that permanently eliminate damages or deaths and injuries across the state from any hazard
B	Projects or activities that reduce the probability of damages, deaths, and injuries across the state from any hazard
C	Projects or activities that educate the public on the subjects of hazard mitigation, hazard research, and disaster preparedness
D	Projects or activities that warn the public to approaching natural hazard threats

Action Number	Action	Goal / Objective Reference	Hazard	Lead Agency	Priority	Potential Funding Source	Status	% Complete
<b>Goal 1, Objective 1</b>								
1	Conduct HAZUS Level 2 flood analyses for all counties in the state using the best available data.	Goal 1, Obj 1	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	Silver Jackets Funding	Silver Jackets funding was used to complete HAZUS Level 2 analysis for Planning Region 2.	33%
2	Continue to update and improve the vulnerability analysis for state-owned buildings and critical facilities.	Goal 1, Obj 1	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF	Work with DAS to enhance the building inventory and incorporate data from ongoing appraisal process.	Ongoing
3	Perform on site appraisals of all state buildings valued at \$500,000 or more.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DAS - ORM	B	GRF	Contract has been awarded. System implementation is underway. Region 1 planning/kickoff will be occurring soon.	10%
4	Perform desktop valuations for all state buildings valued at less than \$500,000 to determine current replacement value.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DAS - ORM	B	GRF	Contract has been awarded. System implementation is underway.	10%
5	Gather and incorporate structure specific risk data in the Risk Management Information System (RMIS).	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DAS - ORM	B	GRF	Contract has been awarded. System implementation is underway. Region 1 planning/kickoff will be occurring soon.	10%
<b>Goal 1, Objective 2</b>								
6	Install pre-planned detour signage for recurring closures	Goal 1, Obj 2	Flood	ODOT	D	ODOT	Ongoing	Ongoing

7	Install sensors in shoulders or video detection to monitor flooding	Goal 1, Obj 2	Flood	ODOT	D	ODOT	Ongoing	Ongoing
8	Ohio EMA will work with the National Weather Service and local emergency management agencies to review trigger points for flood warnings and adjust based on completed mitigation projects, changing flood levels and other factors.	Goal 1, Obj 2	Flood	Ohio EMA, NWS, Local EMA	D	GRF	New Action Item	0%
9	Work with USGS, NOAA, and other partners to promote flood warning systems and the importance of stream and rain gauges.	Goal 1, Obj 2	Flood	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	USGS, HMA	There may be an opportunity to utilize DR-4360 HMGP 5% funds to purchase stream gauge equipment.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 1, Objective 3</b>								
10	Ensure that grant application review tools and processes prioritize acquisition of repetitively flooded and highest risk properties.	Goal 1, Obj 3	Flood	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	A	HMA	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 1, Objective 4</b>								
11	Inspect all Class I-III dams once every 5 years.	Goal 1, Obj 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DDS	B	Dam permit fees and GRF	The Dam Safety Program met this goal in the last 5-year planning period.	Ongoing

12	Take enforcement actions on violations of state dam/levee safety laws for severely deficient and/or structurally unsound high hazard dams.	Goal 1, Obj 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DDS	B	Dam permit fees and GRF	Notices of Violation are issued for deficiencies identified during inspections. The Dam Safety Program provides technical assistance to remedy deficiencies.	Ongoing
13	Increase the number of Emergency Action Plans through compliance and education efforts.	Goal 1, Obj 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DDS	B	Dam permit fees and GRF	DNR is working with Class I dam owners statewide to increase the numbers of approved EAP's.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 1, Objective 5</b>								
14	Continue to implement and improve the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program.	Goal 1, Obj 5	Wind	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	B	HMA	Ohio EMA recently applied for a PDM grant to fund construction of 39 residential safe rooms.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2, Objective 1</b>								
15	Support communities who choose to adopt standards beyond NFIP minimums for flood loss reduction.	Goal 2, Obj 1	Flood	ODNR-DOW, FPM	B	FEMA CAP Program and State GRF	The majority of these initiatives include flood plain regulation, map modification & higher standards workshops.	Ongoing
16	Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Commercial Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.	Goal 2, Obj 1	Multi	DOC – Industrial Compliance	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing

17	Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Residential Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.	Goal 2, Obj 1	Multi	DOC – Industrial Compliance	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2, Objective 2</b>								
18	Continue to participate in the public/private partnership effort between Ohio EMA and the business community.	Goal 2, Obj 2	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF	The Ohio Public Private Partnership has focused on response and recovery efforts to date. The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch will continue to explore the possibility of OP3’s engagement in mitigation activities.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2, Objective 3</b>								
19	Formalize a state level hazard mitigation grant program for Ohio communities.	Goal 2, Obj 3	Multi	Ohio EMA, DPS, and Governor’s Office	B	GRF	New action item.	0%
20	Work with Ohio EMA to document a process to be followed if CDBG-DR funds are ever available in the state.	Goal 2, Obj 3	Multi-hazard	DSA	C	CDBG-DR	New action item.	0%

21	Explore the possibility of using the Alternative Stormwater Infrastructure Loan Program to target properties purchased with HMA grants as future green infrastructure project sites.	Goal 2, Obj 3	Flood	DSA	B	Alternative Stormwater Infrastructure Loan Program	New action item.	0%
22	Seek funding to expand local vector control programs.	Goal 2, Obj 3	Biological (Disease)	ODH	B	GRF	New action item.	0%
<b>Goal 2, Objective 4</b>								
23	Develop a priority list of generator needs for Center for Medicaid/Medicare funded facilities.	Goal 2, Obj 4	Multi	ODH	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
24	Ensure that federally-funded housing, community development, and economic development programs administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency are conducted in accordance with state and local floodplain management regulations.	Goal 2, Obj 4	Flood	DSA	C	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing

25	Partner with ODNR Floodplain Management Program to develop educational information for floodplain managers and the manufactured home community on the Manufactured Homes Program.	Goal 2, Obj 4	Flood	DOC – Industrial Compliance	C	GRF	New action item.	0%
26	Limit construction or assist with relocation of electrical substations, distribution, and transmission lines in flood prone areas that serve critical infrastructure customers	Goal 2, Obj 4	Multi	PUCO	B	PUCO approval for electric infrastructure improvement rider(s)	New action item	Ongoing
27	Implement ODA commitments delineated in the Ohio Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie.	Goal 2, Obj 4	Natural Hazards	ODA-DSWC	B	GRF, USEPA & USDA	New action item.	Ongoing
28	OPWC will continue to incorporate hazard mitigation principles into emergency projects whenever possible.	Goal 2, Obj 4	Multi	OPWC	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2, Objective 5</b>								
29	Support dialogue between stakeholders about utilization of quality building components to mitigate damage.	Goal 2, Obj 5	Multi	OPWC	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing



30	Work with industry to ensure a streamlined and consumer-focused claim filing and premium payment process during and after a disaster event.	Goal 2, Obj 5	Multi	ODI	C	GRF	New action item	Ongoing
31	Monitor the uptake of flood insurance on the private insurance market.	Goal 2, Obj 5	Flood	ODI	C	GRF	New action item	Ongoing
32	Support insurers offering hazard mitigation discounts to customers	Goal 2, Obj 5	Multi	ODI	C	GRF	New action item	Ongoing
33	Support dialogue between the National Flood Insurance Program, insurance companies and the lending community	Goal 2, Obj 5	Flood	ODI	C	GRF	New action item	Ongoing
34	Empower Ohioans with educational toolkits that will help them better understand hazard risks, insurance needs, and disaster preparedness.	Goal 2, Obj 5	Multi	ODI	C	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3, Objective 1</b>								
35	Invite at least two additional entities each year to participate on the SHMT.	Goal 3, Obj 1	Multi	SHMT	C	GRF		Ongoing

36	OPWC will continue participation on the State Hazard Mitigation Team.	Goal 3, Obj 1	Multi	OPWC	B	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3, Objective 2</b>								
37	Continue inter-agency participation on the USACE Silver Jackets Initiative.	Goal 3, Obj 2	Flood	SHMT	C	GRF	The Ohio Silver Jackets team meets quarterly and continues to implement a range of mitigation projects statewide.	Ongoing
38	Review the OBOA Substantial Damage mutual aid process and incorporate recent Stafford Act changes.	Goal 3, Obj 2	Flood	Ohio EMA, ODNR, and OBOA	B	GRF	New action item.	0%
39	Develop statewide procedures providing guidance to state agency fiscal officers on disaster cost tracking policy.	Goal 3, Obj 2	Multi	OBM	C	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3, Objective 3</b>								
40	Develop and implement strong state incentives for maintaining local mitigation plans.	Goal 3, Obj 3	Multi	Ohio EMA	C	GRF		0%
41	Continue participation in the FEMA pilot program that enables Ohio to review and approve local hazard mitigation plans.	Goal 3, Obj 3	Multi	Ohio EMA	C	HMA and GRF	New action item.	Ongoing

Goal 3, Objective 4								
42	Ohio EMA will work with FEMA Region V legal staff to develop modified deed language for properties acquired with HMA funds in Ohio that clarifies the property re-use review and approval process.	Goal 3, Obj 4	Multi	Ohio EMA	C	HMA	New action item.	0%
Goal 4, Objective 1								
43	Conduct training and/or post-disaster briefings for appropriate audiences on substantial damage assessments	Goal 4, Obj 1	Flood	ODNR-DOW, FPM	A		Workshops are conducted as needed or requested. Post-event briefings are ready for deployment.	Ongoing
Goal 4, Objective 2								
44	Develop and implement an outreach strategy targeting repetitive loss property owners on mitigation techniques and funding programs	Goal 4, Obj 2	Flood	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C		Ohio EMA will continue to utilize FMA technical assistance grants to implement repetitive loss outreach to property owners.	Ongoing
Goal 4, Objective 3								
45	Reduce the number of severe repetitive loss properties each year by assisting such owners with successful funding of mitigation projects through FEMA mitigation programs	Goal 4, Obj 3	Flood	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	A	HMA, State GRF, and local funds from various sources including property owners	Ongoing effort through the administration and implementation of FEMA HMA programs and other mitigation funding sources. According to SHARPP, 1532 properties have been mitigated in Ohio using HMA programs.	Ongoing

Goal 5, Objective 1								
46	Develop success stories in wind resistant construction codes and mitigation techniques.	Goal 5, Obj 1	Wind	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF		Ongoing
47	Update the Debris Management Course, deliver pilot offerings, and train Ohio EMA Regional staff to deliver the course.	Goal 5, Obj. 1	Multi	Ohio EPA and Ohio EMA	C	GRF	New action item.	0%
48	Create Ohio version of mitigation planning and project courses	Goal 5, Obj 1	Multi	Ohio EMA	C	GRF	New action item	0%
49	Vector Control recommendations communicated to the public to eliminate/avoid sources of standing water and overgrown brush that allow for the breeding of disease-carrying vectors.	Goal 5, Obj 1	Biological (Disease)	ODH	C	GRF	Enduring mitigation program not identified in previous plans.	Ongoing
50	Ohio EMA will continue to actively participate on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.	Goal 5, Obj 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
51	Continue to maintain, populate, and enhance the State Hazard Analysis Resource and Planning Portal.	Goal 5, Obj 2	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF	Ohio EMA will work with DAS and DPS IT to upgrade outdated portions of site.	Ongoing

Goal 5, Objective 2								
52	Develop an interactive digital summary of the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Goal 5, Obj 2	Multi	Ohio EMA	C	PDM and State GRF	New action item. PDM grant to help pay the cost was awarded in summer 2018. Project kick-off with IT staff will occur winter of 2019.	5%
53	Conduct open space monitoring of properties purchased with HMA funds and report to FEMA every 3 years using SHARPP.	Goal 5, Obj 2	Multi	Ohio EMA	A	GRF	New action item. Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch will utilize SHARPP to conduct open space monitoring and report to FEMA every three years.	Ongoing
Goal 5, Objective 3								
54	Sustain the Mitigation Branch internship program.	Goal 5, Obj 3	Multi	Ohio EMA	B	HMA and GRF	Revised action item.	Ongoing
55	Continue the local mitigation planning studio course with The Ohio State University.	Goal 5, Obj 3	Multi	Ohio EMA and OSU	B	HMA and GRF	New action item.	Ongoing
Goal 5, Objective 4								
56	Incorporate a "weather resilience" data category into the Traffic Operation Assessment Systems Tool (TOAST)	Goal 5, Obj 4	Multi	ODOT	B	ODOT	New action item.	0%
57	Educate potential applicants on how OPWC programs can be used to assist with mitigation.	Goal 5, Obj 5	Multi	OPWC	C	GRF	New action item.	Ongoing

Goal 6, Objective 1								
58	Continue to support efforts to comply with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).	Goal 6, Obj 1	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	GRF	Ohio EMA EMAP re-accreditation is scheduled for February 2019.	Ongoing
59	Continue participation on emergency management and floodplain association workgroups.	Goal 6, Obj 1	Multi	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C		Mitigation Branch staff participate in multiple associations and work groups.	Ongoing
60	Participate in earthquake table top exercise with mitigation component.	Goal 6, Obj 1	Earthquake	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	C	NEHRP	Kick-off meeting for exercise design will occur in winter 2019.	5%

### 3.3 STATE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

The 44 CFR 201.4(c)(3)(ii) states the mitigation strategy shall include a description of the State’s pre- and post-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities to mitigate the hazards in the area, including an evaluation of the State laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to hazard mitigation as well as to development in hazard-prone areas.

This section outlines these items. This section includes a discussion of the state’s primary laws, regulations, programs, and policies related to hazard mitigation strategy. State agency programs were evaluated via a self- assessment. A brief evaluation of the state’s overall approach to development in hazard-prone areas and mitigation funding capability is also included.

Overall, the state’s capability to manage hazards and implement hazard mitigation has remained steady.

#### LAWS AND REGULATIONS

##### OHIO CONSTITUTION

Section 3 of Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution designates Ohio as a “home rule” state. Home Rule gives municipal jurisdictions the power to govern themselves in local municipal matters independent of state laws. Section 7 of Article XVIII requires that municipalities need to adopt or amend a charter for its government to enact laws. Municipal corporations that do not adopt a charter must follow the procedures provided in state law.

##### OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC) and OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (OAC)

All statutes of a permanent and general nature of the State of Ohio are organized and published in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). These are the laws passed by the Ohio General Assembly. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) is a codification of the rules of the administrative agencies of the state. These rules must be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). The committee consists of five State Representatives and five State Senators.

The primary function of JCARR is to review proposed new, amended, and rescinded rules. JCARR ensures that:

1. the rules do not exceed the scope of the rule-making agency's statutory authority;
2. the rules do not conflict with a rule of that agency or another rule-making agency;
3. the rules do not conflict with the intent of the legislature in enacting the statute under which the rule is proposed;
4. the rule-making agency has prepared a complete and accurate rule summary and fiscal analysis of the proposed rule, amendment, or rescission, and;
5. if the rule has an adverse impact on businesses, that the rule-making agency has demonstrated through the business impact analysis, the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSI) recommendations and the agency’s memorandum of response to the CSI recommendations, that the rule’s regulatory intent justifies its adverse impact on business.

A discussion of the primary laws, regulations, and policies that have an impact on mitigation programs within the State of Ohio follows.

## PLANNING, ZONING, AND SUBDIVISION AUTHORITIES

Under the Ohio Constitution, the power to plan, zone, subdivide or regulate land use belongs to the General Assembly. Most state authority to plan and regulate land use has been delegated to local government. In recent years some of the delegated power has been taken back to address state wide concerns, especially in the environmental arena (for example the authority to regulate drilling for oil and gas wells used to rest with home rule municipalities but now rests with the ODNR–Division of Mineral Resource Management).

Planning, zoning, and subdivision regulations are not the same. Each is described below.

A comprehensive plan serves as a guide and a tool for decision makers regarding land use, development, capital investments, and place making; the plan sets the general direction for future growth and redevelopment across a jurisdiction for the next 10-15 years. Typically, a comprehensive plan consists of elements such as: land use, transportation, housing, recreation and open space, economic development, community character, and others as needed. Each element included in the plan is unique to that community's situation and desires.

In Ohio, separate document known as a "comprehensive plan" not required to be adopted by local governments in order to promulgate and enforce planning and zoning regulations. The state statutes enabling planning are permissive and not mandatory. Failure to plan does not necessarily invalidate zoning regulations.

The relationship between wise land use planning and the reduction of a community's exposure, risk, and vulnerability to hazards is clear. Experience has shown that those communities that carefully plan future land development to avoid (to the extent possible) hazard areas and vulnerable structures suffer much less disaster-related damage and impacts than do communities that don't carefully plan for development. The benefits of wise land use and development planning, from a hazard mitigation standpoint, include:

- Less disruption to a community's economic, social, and physical structure;
- Less impact on the community's tax base;
- Less impact on the provision of essential services; and
- Less financial impact in terms of local participation in disaster program cost sharing.

In addition, communities that are more prone to disaster damage may be looked upon less favorably by potential business enterprises as a safe, secure place in which to conduct business. Two ways to incorporate hazard mitigation planning into comprehensive planning is to have a hazard mitigation element in the comprehensive plan, and incorporate hazard mitigation concepts, strategies, and policies into existing elements of the comprehensive plan.

The purpose of zoning is to regulate land use, prevent land-use conflict, and allow growth to occur in a rational manner. More specifically, zoning aims to:

- Promote public health, safety, and general welfare
- Encouraging appropriate land uses
- Protect or maintain property values
- Protect the environment
- Manage traffic flow and density



- Encourage housing for a variety of lifestyles and economic levels
- Manage aesthetics
- Provide for orderly development and manage density
- Help attract business and industry

Zoning is a regulatory way to implement a community's comprehensive plan. From a hazard mitigation perspective, zoning can be used to regulate land use and development in hazardous areas. For example, many Ohio communities have adopted zoning regulations for floodplains and steep slope/landslide prone areas.

The authority to subdivide land is found in ORC Chapter 711. Subdivision regulations are generally adopted to provide for:

- The proper arrangement of streets or highways in relation to existing or planned streets or highways, or to the Official Land Use Plan and Official Thoroughfare Plan;
- The orderly and efficient layout and the appropriate use of the land;
- A common ground of understanding and a sound working relationship between the county and the developer and to safeguard the interests of the homeowner, the subdivider and the jurisdiction and its citizens,
- The accurate surveying of land, preparing and recording of plats and the equitable handling of all subdivision plats by approving authority and subdividers;
- Technically feasible and economically reasonable standards, which achieve a level of subdivision design & construction to minimize damage to property, degradation of natural resources, and to promote and maintain the health, safety and general well-being.

Subdivision regulation can incorporate hazard mitigation principles. For example, subdivision regulations could require flood studies be completed for drainage ways, streams, etc. where no data exists and stormwater management measures for a subdivision could be required to be designed to a 100-year flood event vs. a higher frequency event (such as a 10-year event). Similarly, standards for infrastructure could specify protection against any potential significant hazard.

#### **CHAPTER 5502.22 et seq., ORC – STATE / LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES**

The Chapter provides for a State EMA (which includes the Mitigation Branch), and authorizes countywide (5502.26), regional (5502.27), or local emergency management authorities (5502.271), requiring an emergency management director or coordinator and an Emergency Operations Plan for each county. The law also establishes the legal protection and authority of the EMA to work in times of a disaster. The Ohio EMA is the central point of coordination within the state for response and recovery to disasters.

The Mitigation Branch of the Ohio EMA is responsible for management of FEMA mitigation program activities for the state (except for the ODNR–DOWR, which is the state coordinating entity for the NFIP – see below). The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers pre- and post-disaster HMGP, FMA, and PDM grant programs, including project ranking, implementation, technical assistance, and monitoring. The Mitigation Branch staff coordinates with State agencies to incorporate mitigation techniques into their everyday functions and to provide assistance with project development. The Mitigation Branch also maintains the SOHMP.

**TITLE XXXVII HEALTH-SAFETY-MORALS, ORC –OHIO BUILDING CODE (OBC)**

The Board of Building Standards is comprised of 10 members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The board provides uniform standards and requirements for construction and materials to make buildings safe and sanitary for their intended use and occupancy. This refers to any building that may be used as a place of resort, assembly, education, entertainment, lodging, dwelling, trade, manufacture, repair, storage, traffic or occupancy by the public, and all other buildings or parts and appurtenances thereof erected within the state. The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance ensures compliance with and enforcement of OBC for industrial facilities.

The Board emphasizes the importance of mitigation techniques. In 1995, the International Basic Building Code was implemented and that date is used as a marker for NFIP determinations. Homes built pre-1995 were not required to meet the same standards as those after the code's inception, and are more hazard-prone. The code includes provisions for several mitigation initiatives, such as flood damage reduction, compliance with established building standards and protection of existing buildings from future hazard events.

Changes to the Ohio Building Code in 2017 include the adoption of design and construction standards for residential and community tornado safe rooms. Community safe rooms are required for 911 call stations, emergency operations centers, and fire, rescue, ambulance and police stations. Community and residential safe rooms must comply with ICC 500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters.

**CHAPTER 1301, ORC – OHIO FIRE CODE**

The Ohio Fire Code was enacted with the purpose of prescribing rules to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion. ORC 3781.03 requires the fire marshal or fire chief of municipal corporations having fire departments or the fire chief of townships having fire departments to enforce all provisions of Chapter 3781, and 3791, of the ORC relating to fire prevention. ORC 1301:7-7-07 consists of issues relating to emergency planning and preparedness. The Fire Code effectively reduces the wildfire hazard through the comprehensive scope of the code, which ranges from training and conducting exit drills, to the development of emergency plans.

**CHAPTER 1506, ORC – OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, OHIO COASTAL EROSION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The ODNR is the designated lead agency for the development and implementation of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program. The Coastal Erosion Management Program identifies the coastal erosion areas, enforces rules and regulations for new structures and issues permits for coastal erosion control structures. Coastal erosion is a major concern for cities that border Lake Erie. The permitting and enforcement of the rules and regulation by the ODNR has been effective in reducing coastal erosion in hazard-prone areas.

**CHAPTER 1521, ORC – OHIO DAM SAFETY PROGRAM**

The ODNR-DOWR is the agency that does inspections and the permitting programs for dams and levees. Legislation outlines the standards for dam and levee construction and ODNR-DOWR enforces the dam safety laws. The consequence, if the Dams are not regulated, is flood inundation and potential loss of life.

The ODNR-DOWR's active enforcement of the laws prevents damage, which is the primary goal of mitigation. The program has been effective; there have not been any significant dam failures since the creation of the program.

#### **CHAPTER 1521.13-14; 18 ORC – OHIO FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The ODNR–DOWR, Floodplain Management Program coordinates all floodplain management activities for the State of Ohio. The Floodplain Management Program is the state coordinating office for the NFIP established in the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, "82 Stat. 572, 42 U.S.C.A. 4001, as amended and ensures a participating community's compliance with all requirements.

The Floodplain Management Program in Ohio has been the most effective method of flood reduction and prevention. Regulation of development within the floodplains and compliance after natural disasters lessens the extent of flood damages. The Floodplain Management Program and the Mitigation Branch work closely together to ensure mitigation techniques are being considered.

#### **4781.26 RULES OF UNIFORM APPLICATION FOR MANUFACTURED HOME PARKS; CONTRACTS FOR INSPECTIONS**

The division of industrial compliance, subject to Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, shall adopt, and has the exclusive power to adopt, rules of uniform application throughout the state governing the review of plans, issuance of flood plain management permits, and issuance of licenses for manufactured home parks; the location, layout, density, construction, drainage, sanitation, safety, and operation of those parks; and notices of flood events concerning, and flood protection at, those parks. The rules pertaining to flood plain management shall be consistent with and not less stringent than the flood plain management criteria of the national flood insurance program adopted under the "National Flood Insurance Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 572, 42 U.S.C.A. 4001, as amended. The rules shall not apply to the construction, erection, or manufacture of any building to which section 3781.06 of the Revised Code is applicable.

#### **CHAPTER 6101, ORC – OHIO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

The Chapter outlines the responsibilities for the organization of conservancy districts. There are multiple active conservancy districts in the state that work to prevent floods, modify stream channels, regulate stream flow and prevent erosion along the Lake Erie Ohio shoreline. Conservancy districts can assess property owners based on the direct benefits they realize from flood reduction and erosion control projects.

#### **CHAPTER 6131, ORC – OHIO PETITION DITCH ENABLING AUTHORITY**

The provisions in this chapter allow counties to dispose or remove surplus water for controlled drainage, irrigation, the storing of water to regulate stream flow or to prevent the overflow of any land in the county and for water conservation. The ODNR-DOWR assists counties to enact actions associated with the Ditch Enabling Authority, which effectively reduces flood damage. Funding occurs through assessment of property owners benefiting from the mitigation project.

## STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS & POLICIES

The State of Ohio emphasizes reduction of adverse effects from hazard events and promotes programs to achieve this objective. This section provides a better understanding of the resources available through State Agencies Pre- and Post-Disaster as related to hazard mitigation.

The format for assessing state agency programs and policies was adapted from FEMA publication 386-3. The planning process described in Section 1.2 was utilized to update the state capability assessment. ESF Lead Partners and ESF-14 Partners either provided updates to the plan text directly, or in some cases coordinated a response with the appropriate subject matter expert in their respective agencies.

The following section identifies and analyzes agencies with programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that either: support, facilitate, or hinder hazard mitigation in Ohio. The definitions used to evaluate whether a specific state capability supports, facilitates, or hinders hazard mitigation are:

- Support loss reduction – Programs, plans, policies, regulations, funding or practices that help implement mitigation measures.
- Facilitate loss reduction – Programs, plans, policies, etc. that make implementing mitigation measures easier.
- Hinder loss reduction – Programs, plans, policies, etc., that pose obstacles to implementing mitigation measures.

Several state agencies promote programs that encompass pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities. Hazards are unpredictable, but there are programs that present an opportunity to mitigate the hazard's destruction before an event occurs. Utilization of mitigation programs prior to a disaster could prevent the damage from occurring or work to lessen the recovery time and expenditures caused by the natural hazard. Post-disaster the State relies on its agencies to assist with the recovery process. A State requests a Presidential Declaration when the scope of recovery from an event is beyond the State's capability. A Presidential Declaration provides numerous resources, which are incorporated into the State agency functions, for assistance in the response and recovery from a disaster.

**OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (OBM)**

The Ohio OBM is a cabinet-level agency within the executive branch of the Ohio State government. The director of OBM sits on the Governor's cabinet as the Governor's chief financial officer.

The mission of OBM is to provide policy analysis, fiscal research and financial management services to the Governor and agencies of state government, helping to ensure the proper and responsible use of state resources. As a cabinet-level agency within the executive branch of state government, OBM develops, coordinates and monitors the individual budgets of state agencies and reviews all financial transactions made with public funds.

**Table 3.3.a**

**Office of Budget and Management Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Allocation of Project Funds (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			The Controlling Board of the OBM supports mitigation activities by allocating the funds to complete the State's cost share match for the HMA grant programs. Ohio EMA worked diligently during the 1997 flood event, with the Controlling Board to identify a 100% match to the HMGP. The State matched HMGP dollar for dollar through the disaster declarations of March 2003. In recent disaster declarations, the state has provided 12.5% of the required 25% non-Federal match.
State-wide policies and procedures for tracking disaster costs	X			OBM worked with the Ohio EMA on a policy which would allow for a defined process in tracking disaster costs upon activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The policy, which became effective on July 1, 2018, requires state agencies to track costs upon notification of an activation of the EOC and to report back costs to the Ohio EMA. OBM plans to continue to strengthen education efforts of state agency Chief Fiscal Officers by incorporating procedures for tracking and when to track within its statewide financial procedures manual, the "FIN Source."

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT (ORM)**

The Office of Risk Management (ORM) provides comprehensive risk management programs and services to all state agencies, boards and commissions, as well as the Judicial and Legislative branches of state government. Pursuant to ORC Sections 9.82 – 9.83, the Office of Risk Management is responsible for the administration of self-insurance and private insurance programs protecting the assets and liabilities of the State of Ohio, its agencies, officials and employees.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Asset Management Services assist state agencies in fulfilling statutory requirements for maintaining, reporting, and certifying state-owned assets; provides technical direction and assistance to agencies regarding asset management, transfers, and consolidation of agencies, retirements, and reconciliation.

**Table 3.3.b**

**Ohio Department of Administrative Services –Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Statewide Property Insurance Program (Pre-Disaster)		X		All state-owned buildings as well as the contents and equipment located therein, or within 1000 feet of premises, are insured under one commercial policy. The policy is underwritten on an all risk, replacement cost basis. The policy includes coverage for excess flood, earth movement, and terrorism. Sub-limits include expenses for green building improvements following a covered loss. Debris removal expenses and limited pollution cleanup (no off-premises pollution liability) are also included coverages.
Loss Control Inspections (Pre-Disaster)		X		Loss control inspections are conducted for state owned properties by the property insurance carrier to identify specific hazards and allow the state agency the opportunity to correct and mitigate hazards prior to loss. Carrier inspections focus mostly on fire peril. Recommendations are made in the report based on criticality to reduce risk.
Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS), Enterprise Resource Planning (Pre- Disaster)		X		DAS OIT administers the OAKS enterprise computer system. Asset Management, a module contained within OAKS, lists all state-owned buildings, assets and land that are required to be included in an annually certified physical inventory. Asset data provides important planning information to the State and local jurisdictions.

<p>Insured Building and Asset Inventory (Pre-Disaster)</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>DAS ORM maintains a statement of values (insurance inventory of buildings, contents and equipment of all property insured, which assists other state agencies in locating specific assets and identifying potential hazards and prevention. ORM is implementing an additional computer program to house site specific details for enhanced modeling capabilities for total cost of risk and probable maximum loss projections including specific hazard exposure.</p>
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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

The mission of the Ohio Department of Agriculture is to protect Ohio citizens by ensuring the safety of the state’s food supply and the health of Ohio’s food animals and plant life, and to create economic opportunities for Ohio’s farmers, food processors and agribusinesses.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture provides leadership for Ohio’s No. 1 industry – food and agriculture – to create greater economic opportunity for Ohio’s farmers and processors; to preserve and enhance Ohio’s bountiful resources; and to partner with Ohio’s research institutions to further the development of new agricultural products and services.

The department administers numerous regulatory, food safety and consumer protection programs for the benefit of all Ohioans and helps build marketing opportunities for Ohio farmers and food processors. The department’s workload is divided among the following divisions and programs: Administration, Amusement Ride Safety, Animal Health, Consumer Protection Laboratory, Dairy, Enforcement, Farmland Preservation, Food Safety, Livestock Environmental Permitting, Markets, Meat Inspection, Ohio Grape Industries, Plant Health, Soil and Water Conservation and Weights and Measures

**Table 3.3.c**

**Ohio Department of Agriculture – Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC)**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Division of Soil and Water Conservation	X			<p>The DSWC provides leadership and services that enable Ohioans to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water, and land resources. The DSWC was established beginning January 2016 through a transfer of programs from the Department of Natural Resources. The DSWC provides leadership and services that enable Ohioans to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water, and land resources. The DSWC was established beginning January 2016 through a transfer of programs from the Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p>The DSWC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides administrative guidance, training, program development support and financial assistance to Ohio's 88 SWCDs, their 440 elected board members and over 430 staff;</li> <li>• Provides administrative and organizational support to the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission;</li> <li>• Implements agricultural and non-point source water pollution control programs - a regulatory component enforces agricultural sediment and</li> </ul>



			<p>livestock manure application and runoff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports and helps fund local development of watershed-based planning and implementation;</li> <li>• Implements a comprehensive statewide soils information program, and assists private and public sectors in using soils and natural resource information.</li> </ul>
Urban Stormwater Program, Watershed Programs (Pre- and Post Disaster)		<b>X</b>	<p>ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation develops model regulations for urban stormwater management; provides assistance with stream morphology assessments; funds/administers Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program.</p>
Protection from Bio-terrorism, Zoonotic, Plant and Animal Diseases and Other Disasters (Pre-Disaster)			<p>ODA utilizes technology, and expert resources to meet the ever growing, ever changing needs of local communities and the agriculture industry in Ohio. ODA teams with ODH, OEPA, FDA, USDA, CDC, and Local Health Departments to help ensure Ohio is prepared and protected from bio-terrorism, plant diseases, animal diseases and foodborne outbreaks as well as other disasters. ODA also participates in preparedness drills and mock disaster mitigation and recovery exercises.</p>

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (ODC)**

The Ohio Department of Commerce is the State’s chief regulatory agency. The mission of ODC is to assist businesses to operate lawfully so they can succeed as jobs-creators and we can safeguard Ohioans. The Department of Commerce is self-supporting, through fees. They issue nearly 600,000 licenses, permits, registrations and certifications each year in various professions, industries and commercial enterprises. The Department is made of up 7 Divisions: Financial Institutions, Industrial Compliance, Liquor Control, Real Estate and Professional Licensing, Securities, State Fire Marshal and Unclaimed Funds.

**Table 3.3d**

**Ohio Department of Commerce Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Ohio Building Code Flood Regulations (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			The Industrial Compliance, Board of Building Standards administers the OBC, which is based on the International Code Council (ICC) International Building Code (IBC). IBC is a model code governing building regulations for the protection of public health, safety and welfare. The Code includes mitigation methods for hazard reduction. Flood hazard mitigation is accounted for in OBC Section 1612.1 “Flood Resistant Construction” of the OBC. If local authorities determine a building or structure requires flood resistant construction, they must comply with the OBC.
Site, Building and Community Profiles (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		Provides a catalog of businesses and industrial sites in Ohio, and assists the State and local jurisdictions with identification of hazardous material locations as part of the planning process.
Education and Outreach (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		The office of the State Fire Marshal provides information on Fire Prevention as well as Severe Weather Awareness.
Firefighter Training Grant (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			This grant provides funding to pay for the costs of providing Firefighter I or Firefighter I Transition certification courses free of charge to select students by SFM approved class providers. By partnering with eligible class providers, it is the goal of the SFM to ease the costs to local governments, promote shared services and broaden the availability of these courses throughout the state.

Fire Department Training Reimbursement Grant (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			Fire Departments that provide primary fire protection to an area with a permanent population of 25,000 or less qualify for the grant. Reimbursement is available for specific fire training classes, including the cost of training manuals and student workbooks up to the maximum amount that is authorized.
Revolving Loan (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			The Small Government Fire Department Services Revolving Loan Program was created by the General Assembly to assist local governments in funding certain fire department major related expenses. A revolving loan can be used to expedite the purchase of major firefighting, rescue or EMS equipment. It can also be used for the construction or renovation of fire department buildings.
Fire Department Equipment Grant (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			The Division of State Fire Marshal makes the Fire Department Equipment Grant available to qualifying fire departments. Allowable equipment within the grant includes protective clothing, SCBA, communications equipment and other miscellaneous equipment. Eligible fire departments must serve a population of less than 25,000, be in compliance with the Volunteer Firefighter Dependents Fund outlined in Ohio Revised Code 146, and have submitted incident fire reports for the designated year.
Fire Prevention Bureau	X			The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for the promotion of rural and urban fire prevention and protection through public information and education programs (R.C. 3737.22(E)), maintaining a record of all fires occurring in the state (R.C. 3737.23), and issuing Public Safety Vehicle Decals to volunteer firefighters (R.C. 4511.01(E)(3)).
BUSTR	X			The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) regulates the installation, operation, maintenance and removal of underground storage tank systems. It also regulates the cleanup of releases of petroleum from underground storage tanks into the environment and enforces regulations through field inspections and litigation.
Code Enforcement Bureau	X			The Code Enforcement Bureau is responsible for the development of the Ohio Fire Code and the statewide enforcement program of the Ohio Fire Code and related statutes. The Assistant Fire Marshals assigned to this bureau are responsible for conducting fire safety inspections and enforcing the state fire code. Fire safety inspections are mandated by statute or administrative rule for various occupancies in accordance with associated licensure programs.

Ohio Fire Academy	X		<p>The Ohio Fire Academy provides basic and advance level training for Ohio’s Firefighters and Emergency Responders. In addition to structural fire training and EMS programs, the OFA trains first responders on water rescue, structural, trench and machinery extrication, wildland firefighting and hazardous materials incident response. This training is offered both on campus and off campus through the Direct Delivery program.</p>
State Fire Marshal/ ODNR Forestry Wildland Fire Program	X		<p>A joint program between ODNR Forestry and the Ohio Fire Academy, addresses wildland fire risk and mitigation across Ohio. The wildland fire program trains hundreds of wildland firefighters for deployment across Ohio as well as across the nation via the Interagency Fire Crew program. Wildland gear and apparatus are stored on site at the Ohio Fire Academy for training and deployment.</p>
Ohio Fire Code	X		<p>The State Fire Marshal promulgates the Ohio Fire Code which is based on a recent version of the International Fire Code. The 2017 Ohio Fire Code was adopted in December 2017. The OFC addresses a variety of mitigation strategies for various fire hazards across Ohio, including most structures and premises. The goal of the Fire Code is to reduce the incidence of structure, wildland and other fires, enhance safety of Ohioans, and to improve safety for first responders.</p>
Local Building Department Certification	X		<p>The Board of Building Standards certifies local residential and commercial building departments to accept construction documents and to exercise enforcement authority.</p>
Manufactured Homes Program	X		<p>The Divisions of Real Estate &amp; Professional Licensing and Industrial Compliance share responsibility for ensuring the proper licensing of those who sell, install and inspect manufactured housing, and the communities in which they operate, as well as the safety of the residents who live there.</p>

**OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA)**

The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) was established in 2012 to administer state and federal funds for infrastructure development, provide energy assistance to companies and municipalities and assist with housing support and home energy assistance to low-income families.

The Agency is also committed to assisting small and disadvantaged businesses to grow and create jobs, oversee public incentives for job creation and increase Ohio’s economic impact through tourism. ODSA also supports JobsOhio, a private, nonprofit entity in its efforts to attract and retain major employers for Ohio.

**Table 3.3.e**

**Ohio Development Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		Provides a flexible community development resource to address locally identified needs that are eligible CDBG activities and qualify under the national objective of Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) Benefit or Elimination of Slum and Blight. Ohio's non-entitlement counties and cities are eligible to apply and can use the CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation, economic development and public works improvements. CDBG funds can assist with the rebuilding process that occurs after disasters. Local communities may also utilize CDBG funds as part of the match for HMGP projects. The HMGP program is an effective mitigation initiative since it reduces or eliminates flood damage by elevating, acquiring or retrofitting repetitively flooded structures.
Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) (Pre- and Post- Disaster)		X		Offers funding to improve and provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income people. Eligible activities include private owner rehabilitation; rental rehabilitation; homeownership assistance; home repair; new housing construction through Habitat for Humanity; and tenant-based rental assistance. The program may be used as match for HMGP projects.

<p>Alternative Stormwater Infrastructure Loan Program</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>		<p>The Alternative Stormwater Infrastructure Loan Program offers below-market rate loans for the design and construction of green infrastructure as part of economic development projects. Up to \$5,000,000 in loan funds per project are available to governmental entities through the program. Development partners are encouraged to partner with the governmental entity for their projects. The funds can pay for design, demolition, construction, materials and administrative costs associated with the green infrastructure project. This program targets a specific challenge of redevelopment projects by reducing the cost to businesses and communities that need to minimize both the financial and environmental impact of their stormwater runoff.</p>
<p>Governor’s Office of Appalachia</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>Works to coordinate economic and community development and partnership endeavors to improve lives in Ohio’s 32 county Appalachian Region. Through its partnership with the Ohio Developments Services Agency, funds a wide variety of activities including planning, community and economic development, and infrastructure projects.</p>

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (ODH)**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is a cabinet-level agency, meaning the director reports to the governor and serves as a member of the Executive Branch of Ohio's government. The ODH executive team helps the Director of Health formulate the agency's strategic policy goals and objectives. The team is composed of the Chief of Staff, the Medical Director and the General Counsel. These leaders, along with agency senior-level managers and supervisors, work in tandem to ensure the state health department is responsive to the needs of Ohio's 11.6 million residents.

ODH's mission is to protect and improve the health of all Ohioans by preventing disease, promoting good health and assuring access to quality care.

**Table 3.3.f****Ohio Department of Health Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Private Water Supply System Standards	X			ODH does not allow private water supply systems to be located in FEMA identified 100-year floodplain areas.
Protection from Bio-terrorism and Other Disasters (Pre-Disaster)	X			ODH utilizes new technology and scientific and medical discoveries to meet the ever growing, ever changing needs of the communities. In addition to research, ODH teams with public safety and the public health and medical partners to ensure that Ohio is prepared and is protected from bio-terrorism, as well as other disasters. ODH also offers grants relating to a variety of public health programs to organizations in Ohio, including county and local health departments.
Bathing Beach and Recreational Water Monitoring		X		The Bathing Beach Monitoring Program is a cooperative effort of the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, local health departments with public beaches within their jurisdictions and private and public organizations along the Lake Erie border and throughout Ohio. The goal of the program is to assure a safe and healthy aquatic recreational environment by protecting the bathing public from risks of contracting waterborne diseases from exposure to contaminated waters or public health exposure to toxins found in Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB).

**OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY (OHS)**

Ohio Homeland Security’s mission is to analyze and share information, increase awareness, reduce vulnerabilities, and develop strategies in order to prevent, prepare for and protect against acts of terrorism and other threats to public safety

**Table 3.3.g**

**Ohio Homeland Security Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource Protection and Security		X		Gather information on critical infrastructure in Ohio and share the information with partners. Identify vulnerabilities and develop protective programs. This data has been used in the past to supplement the state owned/leased critical facility in this plan.



**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE (ODI)**

The mission of the Ohio Department of Insurance is to provide consumer protection through education and fair but vigilant regulation while promoting a stable and competitive environment for insurers. As an agency with multiple functions, ODI carries out its mission through a number of divisions. These are organized by function and are as follows: agent licensing, captive insurance, customer service, fraud and enforcement, liquidation, market conduct, Medicare (OSHIIP) Services, Ombudsman, Product Regulation and Actuarial Services, and Risk Assessment.

**Table 3.3.h**

**Ohio Department of Insurance Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Education and Outreach (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			ODI supports loss reduction through educational outreach provided pre- and post-disaster. The information includes tips about how to prevent and reduce damage from hazard events. Taking appropriate pre- and post-disaster mitigation actions can reduce damage and the number of policy claims filed.
Severe Weather and Disaster Preparation and Recovery Toolkit		X		Toolkit created by ODI to help Ohioans prepare for severe weather and recover from damage following an event. The toolkit kit contains information on flood insurance and other mitigation related messaging.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)**

A department of incredible diversity, ODNR owns and manages more than 590,000 acres of land, including 74 state parks, 21 state forests, 136 state nature preserves, and 117 wildlife areas. The department also has jurisdiction over more than 120,000 acres of inland waters; 7,000 miles of streams; 481 miles of the Ohio River; and 2-1/4 million acres of Lake Erie.

ODNR licenses all hunting, fishing, and watercraft in the state and is responsible for overseeing and permitting all mineral extraction, monitoring dam safety, managing water resources, mapping the state's major geologic structures and mineral resources, and promoting recycling and litter prevention through grant programs in local communities. As an umbrella organization for such diverse interests, the department pulls all these activities into four fundamental mission components:

- Resource management by sustained productivity of Ohio's renewable natural resources, promoting the wise use of non-renewable natural resources, and protecting Ohio's invaluable threatened and endangered natural resources.
- Economic development through job creation/expansion/retention, stimulating local economies, developing industry and tourism opportunities, and supporting the present and future economic health of the state.
- Recreation by providing leisure services and recreation opportunities for the public at all levels.
- Health and safety through fair and consistent law enforcement participating in regulatory matters and identifying and responding to environmental hazards

**Table 3.3.i**

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Ohio Floodplain Management Program ORC 1521.13-14;.18 (Pre- and Post- Disaster)	X			<p>ODNR-Division of Water Resources (DOWR) Floodplain Management Program coordinates the NFIP in Ohio and monitors compliance with state and local floodplain management standards; serves as the state repository for flood hazard data; coordinates efforts of federal, state, and local agencies involved in flood loss reduction programs. Assists Ohio communities with adopting flood loss reduction standards that meet NFIP minimums and assists communities interested in adopting standards beyond NFIP minimums.</p> <p>Coordinates the FEMA RISK Map Program. Risk MAP provides high quality flood maps and information, tools to better assess the risk from flooding and planning and outreach support to communities to help them take action to reduce (or mitigate) flood risk. Each Risk MAP flood risk project is tailored to the needs of each community and may involve different products and services.</p>
Ohio Coastal Management Act, Ohio Coastal Erosion Management Program ORC 1506. (Pre- and Post- Disaster)	X			<p>ODNR, Office of Coastal Management identifies coastal erosion areas, enforces rules regulating new structures in coastal erosion areas, and issues permits for coastal erosion control structures. Provides Coastal Management Assistance Grants and Erosion Control Loans.</p>
Ohio Dam Safety Program ORC 1521 (Pre- and Post- Disaster)	X			<p>ODNR-DOWR DS has inspection and permitting programs for dams and levees, classifies hazards, and develops standards for dams and levees. They have authority for emergency drawdown of water and other remedial measures.</p>
Ohio Conservancy District ORC 6101 (Pre-Disaster)		X		<p>ODNR-DOWR enables organization of conservancy districts for the purposes of preventing floods, modifying stream channels, and regulating flow of streams and erosion along the shoreline of Lake Erie. Mitigation funding occurs when a conservancy district assesses property owners.</p>

Ohio Petition Ditch enabling authority ORC 6131 (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		ODNR-DOWR allows counties to dispose or remove surplus water, for controlled drainage of any land, for irrigation, and storage of water to regulate stream flow or to prevent the overflow of any land in the county.
Abandoned Mine Lands Program (Pre- Disaster)	X			ODNR, Division of Mineral Resources Management administers mine lands programs to reclaim those areas disturbed by coal mining operations. Types of problems addressed include: mine openings, landslides, highwalls, erosion and subsidence.
Ohio Mine Subsidence Insurance (Pre- Disaster)	X			Ohio FAIR Plan, Mine Subsidence Insurance Underwriting Association pays insurance claims as a result of mine subsidence. The insurance is mandatory as part of homeowners insurance in 26 Ohio counties and optional for 11 counties.
Ohio Seismic Network (Pre- Disaster)		X		ODNR, Division of Geological Survey is a cooperative effort consisting of 29 seismic stations coordinated by the Division and managed from the Ohio Earthquake Information Center. The stations provide historical and current information to Ohio.
Firewise Program (Pre- Disaster)		X		ODNR, Division of Forestry heads a multi-organizational initiative designed to include fire safety professionals, homeowners, and community leaders in localizing efforts to lessen the risk of wildfires. The goal is to reduce susceptibility to wildfires through a cooperative effort.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT)**

Ohio’s transportation system is essential to keeping and creating jobs. With a mission to facilitate the movement of people and goods from place to place, the Ohio Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining one of the largest transportation networks in the nation. Guided by ethical principles and accountability, ODOT works to improve safety, enhance travel and advance economic development. As a \$3.2 billion enterprise, the department wisely invests in its core services of snow and ice removal, annual construction program and highway maintenance operation.

**Table 3.3.j**

**Department of Transportation Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Engineering and Design Practices (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		Ensures that land use and re-use laws and regulations are adhered to, which reduces loss from future events.
Disaster Recovery and Repair (Post-Disaster)			X	Clear and repair roadways interrupted by flooding, tornados and landslides. Promotes and utilizes mitigation measures throughout engineering and design process to prevent future damage. Performs small-scale bank stabilization.
Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		Established by ORC in 1997 at ODOT's request, the TRAC is a permanent body of predominantly non-ODOT personnel that develops and modifies the Major New Project Selection process and approves major new capacity by adding projects for funding. Mitigation objectives are taken into consideration as part of the process.
Education and Outreach (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		The DOT provides information to citizens on safety and prevention techniques and promotes severe weather awareness.
Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP)		X		ODOT has a process for developing a risk management plan (23 CFR 515.7(c)). This process must identify risks that can affect the NHS condition and performance, including risks associated with current and future environmental conditions, such as extreme weather events, climate change, seismic activity, and a summary of the evaluations of facilities repeatedly damaged by emergency events, as defined in 23 CFR Part 667.

**OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (OHIO EMA)**

Established under Chapter 5502 of the ORC, the Ohio EMA is the central point of coordination within the state for all hazard preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Ohio EMA coordinates all situation and damage assessment operations in a disaster area. The agency routinely cooperates with federal, state, and local governments to maintain and develop disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation plans. Ohio EMA establishes and maintains a state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide coordination and public information during emergencies and disasters. It is the State Coordinating Agency responsible for the administration of federal disaster assistance programs under The Robert T. Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288, which requires mitigation plans as a condition of federal financial assistance.

The primary focus of the agency, when not in a response or recovery mode, is to ensure that the state, and the 11 million citizens residing in it, is prepared to respond to an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters. It is critical that Ohio EMA’s staff interfaces regularly with their local and federal counterparts to ensure preparedness and the capability to respond at all levels.

**Table 3.3.k**

**Ohio Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Manages the State Hazard Mitigation Program (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			The mission of the Mitigation Branch is to integrate hazard mitigation principles in a variety of ways to make Ohio communities more sustainable and citizens more resilient in the face of future disaster events.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (Post-Disaster)	X			Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers this program, which is available after a Presidential Disaster Declaration. HMGP funds hazard mitigation plans and cost-effective projects that reduce or eliminate the effects of hazards and/or vulnerability to future disaster damage. Typically, the state provides a portion of the required non-federal match.
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM - Pre-Disaster)	X			Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers funds from this annual, nationally competitive program. PDM funds hazard mitigation plans and cost-effective projects that reduce or eliminate the effects of hazards and/or vulnerability to future disaster damage.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA – Pre - Disaster)	X			Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers this program, which funds flood mitigation plans, provides technical assistance, and funds construction projects that reduce flood risk to insured, repetitive loss properties.
Mitigation Post-Disaster PDA (Post-Disaster)	X			Mitigation Staff accompanies PDA teams to evaluate the disaster in its early stages and determine which communities could benefit from mitigation actions. It also presents an opportunity to highlight potential success stories.
Education and Outreach (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			Mitigation Staff conducts education and outreach activities focused on promoting pre- and post-disaster mitigation techniques, developing effective mitigation projects, benefit- cost analysis, mitigation planning, and other mitigation related topics.
Ongoing Technical Assistance (TA)		X		If a community requests technical assistance at any time, the Mitigation Branch will facilitate the request, if possible.
Mitigation Planning Coordination (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		Mitigation Planner assists with the update of the SHMP, as well as facilitates and reviews local plans that are developed. Assists communities with integrating local mitigation plans into other plans/functions; assists with plan implementation.
Public Assistance	X			Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB) administers Stafford Act recovery programs including Public Assistance (PA). The PA program provides mitigation funding for certain public facilities that are damaged in a declared disaster event and PA funds are also available to mitigate these facilities (Section 406 mitigation). The Recovery Branch is responsible for this program and Mitigation Branch assists when needed.
Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program	X			The Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program provides a rebate for the purchase and installation of tornado safe rooms for homeowners. Homeowners apply online and are selected to participate through a random lottery. Funding for the program is made available through the FEMA HMA programs (75%) and is matched with homeowner contributions (25%). Ohio EMA plans to offer this program on an annual basis, contingent upon funding.

**OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPA)**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is a trusted leader and environmental steward using innovation, quality service and public involvement to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all Ohioans. Ohio EPA's goal is to protect the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship. Those laws and related rules outline Ohio EPA's authority and what things can be considered when making decisions about regulated activities.

Ohio EPA establishes and enforces standards for air, water, waste management and cleanup of sites contaminated with hazardous substances. They also provide financial assistance to businesses and communities; environmental education programs for businesses and the public; and pollution prevention assistance to help businesses minimize their waste at the source.

**Table 3.3.I**

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Regulation of Waste Streams (Pre- and Post- Disaster)	X			Defines regulated waste streams; outlines requirements for proper management and disposal. Includes flood reduction criteria.
Public Outreach Materials (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			Provide clarification of regulatory requirements, including flood reduction criteria.
Debris Management Course (Pre- and Post- Disaster)		X		Co-presented with Ohio EMA; provides guidance/training for anyone involved in disaster preparedness and response/recovery activities. Provides an opportunity to outline mitigation goals and objectives for flood reduction.
Technical Assistance (Pre- and Post- Disaster)		X		Provide guidance to local officials regarding regulatory requirements for managing and disposing of various waste streams without making them hazard-prone.
Project Development (Pre- Disaster)	X			Provide clearance for any mitigation project actions that would alter the natural environment as part of the development process.
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)		X		Provides funding for wastewater treatment facilities, storm water projects, and non-point source project improvements. Funded WWTPs must ensure that upgrades and facility are protected to 500-year flood or 2 feet above 100- year flood.



Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)		X		Award winning national curriculum for educating teachers about water. Contains several chapters on flood mitigation and awareness.
Emergency Loan Fund	X			Provides loans to public water supply systems for emergency remediation of a “threat of contamination”.
Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA)	X			Provides funding for drinking water facilities. Other than surface water intakes, all funded water system components shall be protected to at least 3 feet above the 100 year flood elevation or maximum flood of record, whichever is higher.
Environmental Response Unit	X			Ohio EPA’s Environmental Response (ER) Unit is a specialized group of staff stationed throughout Ohio who coordinate with first responders and other Federal, State and local responders and support entities on environmental emergencies such as train wrecks, facility malfunctions, highway crashes, fish kills, oil and gas releases, natural disasters, etc., to minimize and abate the impact these releases cause to the environment. ER is capable of responding 24 hours a day, seven days a week and responders are fully trained in the Incident Command System.
Urban Stormwater Program, Watershed Programs (Pre- and Post Disaster)		X		ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation develops model regulations for urban stormwater management; provides assistance with stream morphology assessments; funds/administers Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program.

**OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION (OHC)**

The Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio’s stories. As a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state’s history. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the official state archives, local history office and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio. For more information on programs and events, visit ohiohistory.org.

The State Historic Preservation Office is the official historic preservation agency of the State of Ohio. It has developed since 1967 when the Ohio Historical Society (now the Ohio History Connection) was designated to manage responsibilities delegated to the state by Congress in National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of federally assisted undertakings on historic properties. Review of these undertakings is conducted by the SHPO.

**Table 3.3.m**

**State Historic Preservation Office Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
National Historic Preservation Act (Pre- and Post-	X			OHC, ensures all historic and archeological laws and statutes are addressed and adhered to.
Project Application Review Process (Pre-Disaster)	X			OHC, ensures the archeological integrity of lands and structures are addressed and reviewed for environmental applicability during project ranking process.
Provide Technical Assistance and Training (Pre-Disaster)		X		If the structure is protected under the National Historic Preservation Act, the OHC works with the property owner and State to provide a mitigation solution that considers the historic integrity of the structure.
Programmatic Agreements (Pre-Disaster and Post-Disaster)		X		OHC coordinates, reviews, and negotiates programmatic agreements that help expedite the historic review requirements for mitigation projects funded before and after disasters.

**OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC)**

The OPWC was created initially in 1987 to administer the State Capital Improvement Program which was soon joined by the Local Transportation Improvement Program. These programs, which run concurrently, are solicited, scored and selected by the 19 District Integrating Committees according to each district’s schedule. In 2000, the OPWC became responsible for the administration of the Clean Ohio Conservation Green Space Program in which applications are solicited, scored, and selected by the 19 Natural Resource Assistance Councils (NRACs).

The OPWC staff is accountable to the legislatively appointed twelve-member Commission who provides oversight to the Director and adopts the bylaws governing the conduct of OPWC’s business. The Commission’s staff works with the district committees to ensure that the programs are administered in a fair and objective manner. On a daily basis staff maintain ongoing contact with local communities, providing technical assistance through each project's completion.

**Table 3.3.n**

**Ohio Public Works Commission Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	X			Provides funding to assist Ohio jurisdictions in repairing/replacing public infrastructure, including emergency projects. Mitigation objectives are incorporated into project development.
Clean Ohio Fund (Pre- Disaster)	X			This program is dedicated to environmental conservation including acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. Grant recipients agree to maintain the properties in perpetuity so that they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO (PUCO)**

The PUCO was created to assure Ohioans adequate, safe and reliable public utility services at a fair price. Monitoring and enforcing PUCO rules and state laws against unfair, inadequate and unsafe public utility and transportation services achieve this. More recently, the PUCO gained responsibility for facilitating competitive utility choices for Ohio consumers. The PUCO regulates providers of multiple utility services including electric and natural gas companies, local and long distance telephone companies, water and wastewater companies, and rail and trucking companies.

**Table 3.3.p**

**Public Utilities Commission Mitigation Summary**

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Technical Assistance for Program Development (Pre-Disaster)	X			The PUCO supports mitigation measures and provides imperative information to Ohio EMA, during project development, regarding the safety of property before demolition of homes, including the locations of buried power lines.
Identify Projects Post- Disaster (Post-Disaster)	X			Work with utility companies post- disaster to identify projects and utilize 406 mitigation funds through the PA program, if possible.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES FOR HAZARD-PRONE AREAS

State development policies for hazard areas are generally manifested through the programs identified in the previous section. As a home rule state, Ohio does not have comprehensive or overarching standards for development in hazard-prone areas. At the same time, Ohio communities have significant freedom to adopt and enforce policies for these areas. For example, any Ohio community could adopt zoning standards that apply to hazard-prone areas because such standards have a direct tie to public health and safety. As was stated earlier, Ohio does not have a requirement for comprehensive planning nor hazards planning other than the requirements found in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Most Ohio policies are targeted and limited to the hazard of flooding or coastal erosion. A few examples follow:

- Under Section 1521 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), development in 100-year floodplains that is funded by state and state-administered federal monies must comply with the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria.
- Infectious waste treatment facilities permitted under Section 3734 of the ORC are prohibited in all special flood hazard areas.
- The Ohio Basic Building Code and the Ohio Fire Code are now based on the International Code Council codes. The OBC contains minimum standards for flood resistant construction and the construction of community and residential safe rooms.

The Ohio EMA has prioritized hazard mitigation planning and the acquisition/demolition of hazard-prone structures as a mitigation action for many years. Acquiring and demolishing high risk structures and deed restricting the land as open space in perpetuity is the only way to mitigate all risk to people and the built environment. This priority is supported by the State Hazard Mitigation Team, and the grant application review process.

## STATE FUNDING CAPABILITY FOR HAZARD MITIGATION

Ohio has been aggressive in pursuing hazard mitigation projects available through FEMA programs. Appendix F: FEMA Mitigation Programs Funding Summary shows that since 1990, the date of the first Federal disaster declaration, which resulted in mitigation funding, over \$26.2 million of state funds have been spent on FEMA's hazard mitigation programs (this does not include state match assistance for 406 mitigation accomplished through the Public Assistance program). Typically, the State of Ohio provides a cost share for the HMGP that varies from disaster to disaster. The State of Ohio will provide 12.5% of the mitigation project cost for the most recent disaster declared in April 2018 (DR- 4360). Ohio has provided anywhere from matching Federal mitigation funds dollar-for-dollar, to providing a portion of the non-Federal matching funds required to only providing funds to match the state management costs of the program. It has generally been a policy of the state, even when Federal mitigation funds were matched dollar-for-dollar, that there be some amount of local match contributed so a community would have some vested interest in the project.

In addition to providing matching funds for FEMA HMA programs, the state has also committed to building / maintaining state staffing to provide technical assistance to Ohio communities and citizens in the state Floodplain Management Program, Dam Safety Program, Industrial Compliance and Mitigation Branch.

These programs, along with the multitude of other state programs, policies, plans, regulations and funding practices clearly demonstrate Ohio's commitment to hazard mitigation.

An example of a mitigation project funded recently by the State of Ohio is the re-construction of Buckeye Lake Dam in Licking and Fairfield Counties. The earthen dam was constructed from 1825 to 1832 and measures approximately 4.1 miles long. The lake surface area at normal summer pool is 2,800 acres and is designated as a Class I high-hazard potential dam. In March 2015, a report produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concluded that the likelihood of embankment failure was high and posed significant risk to the public. As the dam owner, ODNR oversaw the three year project to reconstruct the dam at a cost of \$107 million. The identified safety issues with the dam have been addressed and the surrounding communities are looking forward to future boating, fishing and other recreational opportunities provided by the lake. Additional information on this project can be found on ODNR's website: <http://engineering.ohiodnr.gov/buckeyelake#overview>.

The State of Ohio has also recently provided mitigation funds to communities in the Blanchard River Watershed to help reduce damage caused by repeated flooding. Since 2007, the state has appropriated close to \$30 million in for various flood mitigation projects in the watershed including: bridge modifications, acquisition/demolition of repetitively flooded structures, flood control diversion channel, engineering reports and studies, and dry dams. These projects are in various stages of completion but are expected to significantly reduce flood impacts to communities in Hancock and Putnam Counties.

In an effort to address unmet local funding needs and ensure an effectively coordinated state level program, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency has developed a proposal for a state funded mitigation grant program. The mitigation grant program proposal is part of the agency's strategic plan and creation of the program is being pursued with the Department of Public Safety and Governor's Office

### **3.5 COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE STATE MITIGATION PROGRAM**

The State of Ohio has had a long-standing commitment to a comprehensive mitigation program. Certainly, the action items in Section 3.2 reflect this commitment. This commitment has been exhibited through past, existing and future initiatives. This section provides a thorough discussion of different dimensions of the state's commitment, how each aspect has been implemented in the past and the state's plan to continue said implementation.

#### **LOCAL MITIGATION PLANNING SUPPORT**

Local mitigation planning has been and will continue to be supported significantly. All 88 counties in Ohio have had a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan at some point. Ongoing training on developing/updating a local mitigation plan is provided by the Mitigation Branch through the training program at Ohio EMA. In addition, Ohio EMA has developed and maintains the State Hazard Analysis Resource Planning Portal (SHARPP). The SHARPP houses every county mitigation plan, as well as a summary of the HIRA and mitigation action items.

#### **SHMT IMPROVEMENT**

The collaborative power of the SHMT is understood. Invitations were sent to additional organizations with the intent to expand the SHMT to allow for better program integration/utility.

#### **OHIO SILVER JACKETS TEAM**

The Ohio EMA is the state coordinator of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets program. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team is an interagency team dedicated to creating a collaborative environment to bring together Federal, State, local, and other stakeholders to develop and implement solutions to natural hazards and mitigation by combining available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team was the first state team in the Silver Jackets program. A team charter was signed in May 2005 and the team continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Some recent projects involving Silver Jackets funding and state match resources include:

- Marion County Floodplain Mapping
- HAZUS Level 2 Analysis
- The Great Ohio Flood of 1913 Awareness Campaign

#### **PROVIDING NON-FEDERAL MATCH**

Ohio has consistently provided state match for local HMGP projects, HMA funded state mitigation projects, and match to HMA management cost grants that support Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch staff salaries (see Appendix F). The current estimate of state funds spent to support HMA related mitigation efforts is \$26 million over a 28 year period.

#### **USE AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL BUILDING CODES**

The current commercial building code for Ohio known as the Ohio Building Code (OBC) was adopted 9/30/2016, effective 1/1/2017 and then Amended 7/13/2018, effective 8/1/2018. This code is mandatory statewide for the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of buildings under its purview. The OBC

is generally applicable to construction that is not detached one-, two-, or three-family dwellings. This current code is based upon the 2015 International Building Code.

The current residential building code for Ohio is known as the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio, passed 5/28/2012, effective 1/1/2013. This code is mandatory statewide for the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every one-, two-, or three-family dwelling. This current code is based upon the 2009 International Residential Code. These building codes include provisions to meet flood and wind requirements, and simultaneously allow communities to adopt and enforce higher standards for floodplain management should they choose to do so.

### **SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM**

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch created the Safe Room Rebate Program to help property owners off-set the cost of constructing/installing residential tornado safe rooms. As of December 2018, the program has leveraged \$349,235 in property owner funds with \$1,008,474 in federal HMA funds to complete 184 residential safe rooms across the state.

### **INTEGRATION OF MITIGATION IN RECENT POST DIASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS**

Ohio EMA works cooperatively with FEMA after a disaster event in the state to ensure that post-disaster mitigation opportunities are incorporated into the recovery. There is comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy that is prepared by FEMA and the state after every event.

During FEMA DR-1805-OH, the Mitigation Branch was co-located in the JFO Mitigation Section with federal counterparts. As a result, this joint team crafted the hazard mitigation strategy for 1805 that included the following objectives and priorities: promotion of local mitigation planning, mitigation project application outreach, promotion of best practices and NFIP coordination with FEMA and ODNR.

FEMA DR-4077-OH included severe storms and straight-line winds which impacted many parts of Ohio. The Joint Field Office helped develop the hazard mitigation strategy for this event. The strategy identified the different activities that are to be conducted as a result of the disaster declaration. The Joint Hazard Mitigation Strategy for this event included deployment of a 406 specialist to the Joint Field Office that worked with state and local staff to maximize mitigation opportunities for public assistance projects.

FEMA DR-4098-OH was declared because of the impacts of super storm Sandy and the impacts were felt primarily in Northeast Ohio. The Joint Field Office again helped develop the hazard mitigation strategy.

FEMA DR-4360-OH was a flood event in southern and eastern Ohio. The greatest impact from this event was to infrastructure, specifically roads and bridges. The Ohio EMA Recovery Branch worked with FEMA Public Assistance staff to fund 406 mitigation through the new Public Assistance delivery model.



### **3.4 FEMA MITIGATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

Effective hazard mitigation programs require strong partnerships between Federal-state-local government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations. States have a responsibility for maintaining competency in the ability to manage and implement a robust state hazard mitigation program. Effective state mitigation programs not only administer FEMA mitigation programs, but assist in the administration or promotion of other entities mitigation programs. For example, many local mitigation plans identify structural flood control as a possible mitigation measure. A competent state mitigation program is aware of possible USACE programs that could be utilized, and could facilitate project initiation.

Overall, Ohio has been a leader in implementing FEMA mitigation programs for many years. FEMA has recognized Ohio as an “Enhanced Plan” state, which is an acknowledgement of the states mitigation planning and grant management capability. Recently, Ohio signed a Program Administration by State agreement with FEMA that allows the state to review and approve local hazard mitigation plans. Section 3.3 describes the myriad of state programs that contribute to hazard vulnerability and loss reduction.

State mitigation planning criteria under the Stafford Act focuses on state competency delivering FEMA mitigation programs. The following sections describe the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch’s capability in this regard.

#### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITY**

Title 44 Part 201 Section 5(b) (2) (i) and (ii) of the CFR states that an enhanced SHMP must document the state’s project implementation capability, identifying and demonstrating the ability to implement the plan, including:

- Established eligibility criteria for multi-hazard mitigation measures;
- A system to determine the cost effectiveness of mitigation measures, consistent with OMB Circular A-94, Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Federal Programs; and
- a system to rank the measures according to the state’s eligibility criteria (Evaluation criteria).

For the purposes of this section, eligibility criteria are those that either allow or disallow a mitigation project to be considered further. Evaluation criteria are those that allow for a comparison of different mitigation projects.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES**

The CFR and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance identifies eligibility requirements for projects under the HMA programs. Generally, the State of Ohio does not establish eligibility criteria for hazard mitigation measures that exceed those found in the CFR or specific program guidance. The main exception to this is under HMGP, where the state requires that the sub-applicant is participating and in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program. The HMGP criteria for Ohio are listed below.

1. Applicants can only be state and local governments or certain non-profit entities (Ohio does not have any federally recognized Indian tribes). Conservancy districts and sewer districts are also eligible applicants if they meet local mitigation plan requirements.
2. Projects must be in conformance with the state and local mitigation plans approved under 44 CFR 201.

3. Projects that have a beneficial impact on the disaster area are prioritized over other project statewide. (HMGP only).
4. Projects must be in conformance with Federal environmental regulations, including 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands and DHS Directive Number: 023-01, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act.
5. Projects must solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution, where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed.
6. Projects must be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster (see Cost-Effectiveness of Mitigation Measures section below).
7. Projects must be an eligible activity for the specific HMA grant program.
8. Sub-applicants must commit to required non-Federal cost share.

In Ohio, competition for HMGP funds is tremendous. On average, project applications will exceed available funding by 3-10 times. As a result, both eligibility criteria and evaluation criteria have been developed to fairly distribute these post-disaster funds. These criteria, and modifications needed if necessary, are found in the Administrative Plan (see Appendix H) and Mitigation Strategy for the event.

#### **PDM AND FMA**

The statute, CFR, and specific program guidance identifies eligibility criteria for these programs that are slightly different from the ones described for HMGP. Ohio follows the federal eligibility criteria for PDM and FMA.

#### **DETERMINING COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION MEASURES**

A key criterion for mitigation projects to be eligible for funding is that they must be cost-effective according to OMB Circular A-94, Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost analysis of Federal Programs. If the project benefits are higher than the project costs, then the project is cost-effective.

In order to ensure a consistent approach in determining the cost-effectiveness of all mitigation projects, the state uses the FEMA benefit-cost analysis (BCA) software. Since this is also the method used by FEMA to determine the cost-effectiveness of a project, it is only reasonable that the state use the same method. The BCA is an assessment of the mitigation project to determine whether the cost of investing federal/state/local funds in a hazard mitigation project is justified by the prevented or reduced damages from future disasters.

It is understood that a positive benefit cost ratio ( $BCR > 1$ ) does not necessarily guarantee that a hazard mitigation project will be approved – but it does ensure that it meets the cost-effectiveness eligibility requirement. By applying project specific information to the benefit cost analysis module, we can get a good initial look at the mitigation potentials associated with that project. The results of this analysis can also help communities evaluate current and future mitigation projects and adjust their overall mitigation strategy accordingly.

The Mitigation Branch coordinates with FEMA Region V to provide BCA training every year. This training coincides with the release of the HMA Guidance and start of the non-disaster application cycle. Mitigation Branch staff also periodically conduct BCA training workshops. Information on BCA training and

instructions for downloading the most current version of the BCA tool can be found on the Mitigation Branch website.

### **SYSTEM TO RANK MITIGATION MEASURES ACCORDING TO THE STATE'S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (EVALUATION CRITERIA)**

For HMGP projects, evaluation and ranking is a two-step process. First, pre-applications are submitted to Ohio EMA, usually within 10 weeks of the disaster declaration. The SHMT will meet and evaluate the project pre-applications based on the state and federal mitigation priorities and discussion of the limited data available in the pre-applications using the scoring forms (see example in Appendix G) provided by Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch. After the pre-applications are reviewed, enough sub-applicants are invited to develop full applications to ensure that the projected amount of HMGP funds will be expended.

The SHMT will meet again after the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch has fully processed the full project applications (conducted environmental review and benefit-cost analysis), to review and discuss all eligible projects. The SHMT will score the projects using the project application scoring sheet (see Appendix G). These forms combine basic criteria found in the CFR, criteria for the nationally competitive mitigation programs, and criteria based on Ohio's priorities. The scores are then used to make a recommendation to the Executive Director of Ohio EMA as to which projects to forward to FEMA for funding. In cases where a good, eligible project does not receive funding, Mitigation Branch staff work with the applicant to submit the application for funding under other FEMA mitigation programs, if applicable.

The SHMT also reviews project applications for PDM and FMA. The evaluation criteria are similar to those used in the national competition (see Appendix G). The SHMT evaluates these projects based on the full project applications rather than the pre-applications and only reviews them once.

### **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY**

A comprehensive state mitigation program should have effective program management capability. In 1998, Ohio was selected as one of the three "pilot" states to test the Managing State concept, which was to provide the state with more responsibility and autonomy in managing the FEMA mitigation programs. Selection was based on program management ability, well-documented fiscal controls and a strong, well-developed SHMT. In 2006, FEMA terminated the managing state program, not only for Ohio but for all states in the nation. The stated reason was that the DMA 2000 law established a mechanism for a "delegated state" program, and it was FEMA's opinion that such legislation superseded the managing state concept.

The benefits associated with Managing State status included: quicker project approval, ability to review, rank and select projects, pre-approval of environmental reviews and pre-certification of local hazard mitigation plans. An approved project had to include a completion of a benefit cost analysis and environmental clearances from ODNR Division of Real Estate and Land Management, US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Services, and Ohio Historical Preservation Office. Managing States performed the benefit cost analysis and approved the environmental review for each project prior to submitting the selected applications for FEMA's approval. The certified applications enabled FEMA to process the applications quickly.

Environmental Reviews are conducted at the State level in conjunction with all applicable state and federal agencies. The State ensures that the local applicants are aware of the environmental review process and

encourages them to provide as much information as possible before the review and contact of applicable agencies begins. The state then reviews each applicant's project for environmental information, prepares letters of review request to each applicable agency, prepares the REC (HMGP Only), and forwards it to FEMA for concurrence and signature. A more detailed explanation of the process is located in the current HMGP Administrative Plan.

A detailed breakdown of the benefit cost capabilities of the State Mitigation staff is located earlier in this section. Benefit cost runs and copies of each type of analysis is kept with each approved project.

The State of Ohio has a good record of providing timely, complete and accurate quarterly progress reports and financial reports. In each grant agreement, regardless of the program, applicants are required to submit quarterly progress reports within 15 days of the end of the quarter. The Mitigation Branch compiles a comprehensive narrative and financial quarterly report to the Region V Office within 30 days of the end of the quarter. A more detailed explanation of the quarterly report is located in the HMGP Administrative Plan. All HMA grant program projects are required to adhere to the same quarterly reporting process.

HMA project closeout and financial reconciliation are also described in detail in Administrative Plan and closeouts have been a Mitigation Branch strategic priority for several years. Mitigation staff conduct explicit reviews of the project or program close-out. The terms of the grant agreements and quarterly reports provided by the project applicant give a detailed summary of the project or program. On-site visits are conducted prior to the projects closeout and fiscal reconciliation.

Ohio EMA actively supports ongoing mitigation planning throughout the state. The Mitigation Branch has one staff position dedicated to mitigation planning. The Mitigation Branch staff and Ohio EMA Regional Staff provide educational visits, technical assistance visits and planning presentations to facilitate the planning process in Ohio. The Mitigation Branches SHARPP website is very heavily focused on promoting mitigation planning activities.

The final aspect of a comprehensive state mitigation program is to develop and present mitigation educational materials and conduct outreach relative to mitigation. Ohio EMA mitigation branch staff conducts mitigation planning courses, natural hazard planning workshops, technical assistance visits, program and project development meetings, and participates in public meetings. As changes occur in FEMA and Ohio EMA mitigation programs, the Mitigation Branch develops new presentations and courses to provide educational opportunities to the emergency management community in Ohio.

#### **EFFECTIVE USE OF AVAILABLE MITIGATION FUNDING**

Appendix F shows that the State of Ohio has been very effective, and aggressive in pursuing available mitigation funding. Ohio has successfully obtained funding in all of FEMA's mitigation programs. The Mitigation Branch has also developed mechanisms to ensure that funds are effectively used:

- Under HMGP, full project applications are developed based on 200% of the available funding. This ensures that there will be enough complete, eligible project applications to submit for funding before the application deadline has passed. If an application is developed and eligible, but not funded, Mitigation Branch staff will work to find another program under which it can be funded.
- The Mitigation Branch will keep HMA projects that are eligible but not funded as "shelf" projects to be submitted under another program or subsequent HMA funding cycles.

- The Mitigation Branch and SHMT leverage other (non-FEMA) sources to fund mitigation projects. USACE's Planning Assistance to States, Floodplain Management Services, and HUD Disaster Supplemental funds have been used for mitigation planning and projects.
- "Zero-Funded Projects" are those actions that are currently prepared for implementation once funding becomes available. These projects have complete information and are prioritized.