

SECTION 3: STATE MITIGATION STRATEGY

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 2024 revision. During the update of hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and actions, the Ohio EMA 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 all local hazard mitigation plans that have been developed and approved by FEMA. 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 2019 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 utilizes the following terminology, found in 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 2019 GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ACTIONS; CHANGES IN 2019 UPDATE

The format used to report the goals, objectives, and mitigation actions in the 2024 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 2019 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 2019 Enhanced plan update.

STATE OF OHIO 2024 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN MITIGATION STRATEGY

Finally, the goals/objectives/actions items in this update are informed by local plans that have been approved by 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 2024 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 19th and early 20th 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 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 2019 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: ODA to work with Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch to include animal disease in risk assessment for 2029 plan update.
- 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.
- Action: Continue use of the Origami system to capture structure specific risk data.

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

- Action: Install sensors in shoulders or video detection to monitor flooding
- Action: Continue development of the VAST system. VAST evaluates risks to roads and bridges to hazards such as flooding, landslide, and rockfall. VAST is intended to be an improvement over TOAST.
- Action: Work with USGS, NOAA, and other partners to promote flood warning systems and the importance of stream and rain gauges.
- Action: 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.

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 flooded 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.
- Action: Conduct 4 yearly Dam Safety Workshops in conjunction with annual dam inspections targeting counties where inspections are during the inspection cycle.
- Action: Develop DSS-WISE Inundation Shapefiles for Class I dams without EAPs.
- Action: Annually apply for High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Funding to repair, rehabilitate, or remove eligible dams.
- Action: Support USACE & FEMA National Levee Safety Program Rollout - Review and comment on draft levee documents, participate in pilot inspection process, and provide input to Federal partners for State involvement in program

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: 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.
- Action: Support communities who choose to adopt standards beyond NFIP minimums for flood loss reduction.
- Action: Emergency Response Training for ODOT Staff
- Action: Requirements for building facilities above the 100-year flood plain

- Action: Continue partnership through H2Ohio to fund a variety of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements including: lead service line mapping, inventory and replacement, home septic system repair and replacement, reducing harmful algal blooms, as well as dam removal projects
- Action: Requirements for community public water systems to have an emergency generator or alternate source of power.

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: Grants for emergency generators
- Action: Work with Ohio EMA to document a process to be followed if CDBG-DR funds are ever available in the state.
- Action: Formalize a state level hazard mitigation grant program for Ohio communities.
- Action: Grants for distribution system equipment
- Action: State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program

Objective 4: Promote sustainable communities and hazard resilient development

- Action: Partner with ODNR Floodplain Management Program to develop educational information for floodplain managers and the manufactured home community on the Manufactured Homes Program.
- Action: 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.
- 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.
- Action: Addressing Equity in Floodplain Management: ODNR's FPM will develop and initiate a new plan to engage and assist underserved communities with floodplain management needs by collecting additional data from external State and Local resources. This plan would identify more specific needs for assistance and better ascertain how Ohio's fpm might better meet those needs.
- Action: State Assessment of NFIP Requirements for State-Owned Properties and Development - Support State Agencies in establishing policies and procedures to ensure development is compliant with state and federal regulations
- Action: Meet and maintain metrics for Proficient Status outlined in federal Tiered State Framework (TSF). TSF evaluations due every three years. Next submission is 2026.

- Action: OPWC will continue to incorporate hazard mitigation principles into emergency projects whenever possible.
- Action: Limit construction or assist with relocation of electrical substations, distribution, and transmission lines in flood prone areas that serve critical infrastructure customers
- Action: Continue to administer the Brownfield Grant Program to clean up hazardous materials at brownfields throughout the state.
- Action: Continue to administer the Welcome Home Ohio which provides grants for the purchase of residential properties, the cost of construction or rehabilitation, or a nonrefundable tax credit for qualifying activities.
- Action: Continue to develop and administer the Energy Efficiency Programs to provide consumer rebates for the purchases of electric appliances and support energy efficiency upgrades to residential properties.
- Action: Continue to administer the Water/Wastewater Grant Program to offer grants for water projects. The funds can pay for design, construction, materials and administrative costs associated with the water program.
- Action: Continue to administer the Demolition Grant Program to remove dilapidated and blighted buildings throughout the state.

Objective 5: Promote Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Hazard Risk

- Action: Support dialogue between stakeholders about utilization of quality building components to mitigate damage.

Objective 6: Monitor Natural Hazards and Assess Mitigation Opportunities

- Action: Implement earthwork erosion control vegetation management program
- Action: Plant pest program surveys, contains, and works to eradicate threats to plants
- Action: Provide ongoing tests, inspections, and surveillance to verify the absence of animal diseases.
- Action: Enforce Ohio's Dangerous Wild Animal laws
- Action: Implement comprehensive erosion/slope failure risk assessment and monitoring program for Ohio History Connection historic sites.
- Action: Implement comprehensive treefall risk assessment & monitoring program for Ohio History Connection historic sites.

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: Ensure continual and effective operation of the State Hazard Mitigation Team

- Action: The Board of Building Standards will partner with the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch to implement the Building Code Plus-up BRIC grant.
- Action: OPWC will continue participation on the State Hazard Mitigation Team.
- Action: Invite and facilitate participation of partners needed to ensure effective operation of the State Hazard Mitigation Team.

Objective 2: Work with partners to better align programs and policies to facilitate hazard mitigation

- Action: Develop statewide procedures providing guidance to state agency fiscal officers on disaster cost tracking policy.
- Action: Explore the integration of mitigation such as the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation plan, into ODOT capabilities and other planning mechanisms. Potential candidates include the Resiliency Improvement Plan, Transportation Asset Management Plan, and the Access Ohio 2045 State Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Action: Review the OBOA Substantial Damage mutual aid process and incorporate recent Stafford Act changes.
- Action: Continue inter-agency participation on the USACE Silver Jackets Initiative.
- Action: Work with Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to build more environmentally friendly schools under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

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

- Action: Continuation of the Public Health and Extreme Weather Workgroup
- Action: Explore collaboration with ODA to re-institute state and local veterinary response groups.
- Action: Develop and implement strong state incentives for maintaining local mitigation plans.
- Action: Cross-reference State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan in relevant Ohio History Connection site management plans

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

- Action: Continue participation in the FEMA PAS program that enables Ohio to review and approve local hazard mitigation plans.
- Action: 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 #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: Provide media releases to the public when open burning is prohibited within the state
- Action: Create Ohio version of mitigation project development courses.
- Action: Develop success stories in wind resistant construction codes and mitigation techniques.
- Action: Ohio EMA will continue to actively participate on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.
- Action: Continue to update the Debris Management Course, and deliver the course in conjunction with Ohio EMA.
- Action: Continue to develop Project WET (Water Education Today)- Award winning national curriculum for educating about water.
- Action: Continue administration of the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)

Objective 2: Utilize the Mitigation Information Portal to promote hazard mitigation

- Action: Update the 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 3 years using the MIP.
- Action: Continue to maintain, populate, and enhance the Mitigation Information Portal.

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.
- Action: Explore opportunities to integrate climate and risk data from State Climate of Ohio into local and state hazard mitigation plans where applicable.

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

- Action: Drinking Water community system contingency plan requirement
- Action: Asset management requirements for public water systems

- Action: Update of the Carbon Reduction Plan
- Action: Update of the Resiliency Improvement Plan

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

- Action: ODH BID ZIP will continue providing resources to local jurisdictions for yearly mosquito surveillance activities to implement public health actions.
- Action: Educate potential applicants on how OPWC programs can be used to assist with mitigation.
- Action: Continue to support efforts to comply with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).
- Action: Continue participation on emergency management and floodplain association workgroups.

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 1: 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.

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.

MITIGATION PRIORITIZATION

Mitigation actions were prioritized by ranking based on a scoring methodology based on the Pre-2024 Prioritization method (Table 3.2.a), and the current LHMP MIP Hazard Cumulative Scores (Table 3.2.b).

- The Pre-2024 Prioritization method captured the intended outcome, as well as the capabilities and individual priorities of each state agency as determined by correspondence during the meetings of plan update process.
- The LHMP MIP Hazard Cumulative Scores were results from an assessment of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans as entered onto the MIP, and reflects the sentiment of local counties and their risk assessments.

$$2024 \text{ SOHMP Action Plan Prioritization Score} = (\text{Old Priority Categorized Score}) \times (\text{Cumulative Score of Hazards Mitigated by Action})$$

All prior mitigation actions that are ongoing or still in progress were reprioritized with this methodology and reincorporated into the 2024 SOHMP Action Plan. See Appendix E for a complete list of the 2019 SOHMP Action Plan and their current statuses.

Table 3.2.a

Pre-2024 Priority	Description and Categorized Score
A	Projects or activities that permanently eliminate damages or deaths and injuries across the state from any hazard: 1.00
B	Projects or activities that reduce the probability of damages, deaths, and injuries across the state from any hazard: 0.80
C	Projects or activities that educate the public on the subjects of hazard mitigation, hazard research, and disaster preparedness: 0.60
D	Projects or activities that warn the public to approaching natural hazard threats: 0.40

Table 3.2.b

Hazard	Cumulative Score
Flooding	22.13
Tornado	20.41
Winter Storms	19.14
Severe Summer Storm	18.78
Earthquake	16.13
Dam/Levee Failure	15.92
Drought	15.30
Wildfire	14.32
Mud/Landslide	13.85
Invasive Species	13.71
Land Subsidence	12.71
Coastal Erosion	7.87

Table 3.2.c — 2024 SOHMP Action Plan

2024 Action #	Action	Goal / Objective	Hazard	Lead Agency	Mitigation Priority Ranking	Potential Funding Source	Status	% Complete
1	Conduct HAZUS Level 2 flood analyses for all counties in the state using the best available data.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Flood	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	71	Silver Jackets Funding	HAZUS Level 2 analysis for planning region 2 completed with help of Silver Jackets in 2018 and 2023. Planning to update in 2027.	Ongoing, if available.
2	Continue to update and improve the vulnerability analysis for state-owned buildings and critical facilities.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	44	GRF	Ongoing.	Ongoing
3	Work with Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch to include animal disease in risk assessment for 2029 plan update.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Animal Diseases (For 2029 SOHMP)	ODA	88	GRF and/or FEMA HMA Grants	New mitigation action.	New
4	Perform on site appraisals of all state buildings valued at \$500,000 or more.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DAS - ORM	5	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
5	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	6	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
6	Continue use of the Origami system to capture structure specific risk data.	Goal 1, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DAS - ORM	7	GRF	Revised action. Ongoing.	Ongoing
7	Install sensors in shoulders or video detection to monitor flooding	Goal 1, Obj. 2	Flood	ODOT	92	ODOT	Ongoing	Ongoing

8	Continue development of the VAST system. VAST evaluates risks to roads and bridges to hazards such as flooding, landslide, and rockfall. VAST is intended to be an improvement over TOAST.	Goal 1, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	ODOT	45	ODOT	Previous action regarding TOAST system is now redirecting to VAST system.	New action item.
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	72	USGS, HMA	Secured HMGP 5% funds to replace 160 rain gauges in the STORMS system. Partners provided input on the priority gauges to replace. Project implementation is expected to be complete in 2025. Additional funds will be needed to update remaining gauges.	Ongoing
10	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	93	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
11	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	2	HMA	Ongoing	Ongoing

12	Inspect all Class I-III dams once every 5 years.	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DoWR, DSP	78	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	ODNR Dam Safety Program continues to inspect on a 5-yr cycle, but this is an ongoing effort.	Ongoing
13	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-DoWR, DSP	79	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	ODNR Dam Safety Program continues to take enforcement actions on violations of state law. Currently 136 efforts are active.	Ongoing
14	Increase the number of Emergency Action Plans through compliance and education efforts.	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DoWR, DSP	80	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	ODNR Dam Safety Program continues to review and approve EAPs and takes enforcement actions as needed.	Ongoing
15	Conduct 4 yearly Dam Safety Workshops in conjunction with annual dam inspections targeting counties where inspections are during the inspection cycle.	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DoWR, DSP	87	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	New action item.	New action item.
16	Develop DSS-WISE Inundation Shapefiles for Class I dams without EAPs.	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DoWR, DSP	81	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	New action item.	New action item.
17	Annually apply for High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Funding to repair, rehabilitate, or remove eligible dams.	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Dam Failure	ODNR-DoWR, DSP	82	Dam annual fees, GRF, FEMA National Dam Safety Grant Program.	New action item.	New action item.

18	Support USACE & FEMA National Levee Safety Program Rollout - Review and comment on draft levee documents, participate in pilot inspection process, and provide input to Federal partners for State involvement in program	Goal 1, Obj. 4	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM and DSP	36	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	New action item.	New action item.
19	Continue to implement and improve the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program.	Goal 1, Obj. 5	Tornado	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	42	HMA	Ohio EMA recently applied for a BRIC grant in 2024 to fund construction of residential safe rooms.	Ongoing
20	Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Commercial Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.	Goal 2, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DOC – Industrial Compliance	9	DIC Operating Fund	Ongoing	Ongoing
21	Review and consider the most recent version of the ICC Residential Codes for incorporation into the Ohio Building Code.	Goal 2, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DOC – Industrial Compliance	10	DIC Operating Fund	Ongoing	Ongoing
22	Support communities who choose to adopt standards beyond NFIP minimums for flood loss reduction.	Goal 2, Obj. 1	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM	37	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	Ongoing - steady-state activity by FPM The majority of these initiatives include flood plain regulation, map modification & higher standards workshops.	Ongoing
23	Emergency Response Training for ODOT Staff	Goal 2, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	ODOT, OEMA	46	ODOT	New action item.	0%

24	Requirements for building facilities above the 100-year flood plain	Goal 2, Obj. 1, 4 Goal 3, Obj. 2 Goal 4, Obj. 2 Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	11	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
25	Continue partnership through H2Ohio to fund a variety of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements including: lead service line mapping, inventory and replacement, home septic system repair and replacement, reducing harmful algal blooms, as well as dam removal projects	Goal 2, Obj. 1, 4 Goal 3, Obj. 2 Goal 4, Obj. 2 Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	12	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
26	Requirements for community public water systems to have an emergency generator or alternate source of power.	Goal 2, Obj. 1, 4, 6 Goal 3, Obj. 2 Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	13	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
27	Continue to participate in the public/private partnership effort between Ohio EMA and the business community.	Goal 2, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch, and OHS	47	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
28	Grants for emergency generators	Goal 2, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	14	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.

29	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	Ohio Department of Development and Ohio EMA	48	CDBG-DR	Utilized CDBG-DR for tornado impact in Dayton Area	Ongoing
30	Formalize a state level hazard mitigation grant program for Ohio communities.	Goal 2, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA, DPS, and Governor's Office	15	GRF	Program was approved by Governor's office for including in the state budget but ultimately removed by legislature. Efforts will continue to formalize the program.	Ongoing
31	Grants for distribution system equipment	Goal 2, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	16	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
32	State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program	Goal 2, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	17	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
33	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	73	DIC Operating Fund	Manufactured Homes Program presented at the statewide floodplain conference and is planning to develop educational materials that highlight their responsibilities.	Ongoing
34	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	Ohio Department of Development	74	GRF	Always work to adhere to requirements	Ongoing

35	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. 4	Multi-hazard	ODI	49	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
36	Monitor the uptake of flood insurance on the private insurance market.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODI	50	GRF	Information on uptake of private flood insurance policies in Ohio shared with Ohio EMA in late 2023.	Ongoing
37	Support insurers offering hazard mitigation discounts to customers	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODI	51	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
38	Support dialogue between the National Flood Insurance Program, insurance companies and the lending community	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODI	52	GRF	Ongoing. Recently messaged change that private flood insurance policies can be accepted by banks to meet mandatory purchase requirements.	Ongoing
39	Empower Ohioans with educational toolkits that will help them better understand hazard risks, insurance needs, and disaster preparedness.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODI	53	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing

40	Addressing Equity in Floodplain Management: ODNR's FPM will develop and initiate a new plan to engage and assist underserved communities with floodplain management needs by collecting additional data from external State and Local resources. This plan would identify more specific needs for assistance and better ascertain how Ohio's fpm might better meet those needs.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM	75	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	New action item. Will become ongoing - steady-state activity by FPM	New action item.
41	State Assessment of NFIP Requirements for State-Owned Properties and Development - Support State Agencies in establishing policies and procedures to ensure development is compliant with state and federal regulations	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM	38	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	New action item.	New action item.
42	Meet and maintain metrics for Proficient Status outlined in federal Tiered State Framework (TSF). TSF evaluations due every three years. Next submission is 2026.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM	39	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	New action item. Will become ongoing - steady-state activity by FPM	New action item.

43	OPWC will continue to incorporate hazard mitigation principles into emergency projects whenever possible.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	OPWC	18	GRF	OPWC continues to incorporate hazard mitigation principles into emergency projects whenever possible.	Ongoing
44	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-hazard	PUCO	19	PUCO approval for electric infrastructure improvement rider(s)	Ongoing	Ongoing
45	Continue to administer the Brownfield Grant Program to clean up hazardous materials at brownfields throughout the state.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio Department of Development	20	GRF	New Action Item-Existing program at Development	New Action Item
46	Continue to administer the Demolition Grant Program to remove dilapidated and blighted buildings throughout the state.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio Department of Development	21	GRF	New Action Item-Existing program at Development	New Action Item
47	Continue to administer the Welcome Home Ohio which provides grants for the purchase of residential properties, the cost of construction or rehabilitation, or a nonrefundable tax credit for qualifying activities.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio Department of Development	22	GRF	New Action Item-Existing program at Development	New Action Item

48	Continue to develop and administer the Energy Efficiency Programs to provide consumer rebates for the purchases of electric appliances and support energy efficiency upgrades to residential properties.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio Department of Development	23	GRF	New Action Item-Existing program at Development	New Action Item
49	Continue to administer the Water/Wastewater Grant Program to offer grants for water projects. The funds can pay for design, construction, materials and administrative costs associated with the water program.	Goal 2, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio Department of Development	24	ARPA - State Fiscal Recovery	New Action Item-Existing program at Development	New Action Item
50	Support dialogue between stakeholders about utilization of quality building components to mitigate damage.	Goal 2, Obj. 5	Multi-hazard	OPWC	25	GRF	OPWC supports dialogue between stakeholders about utilization of quality building components to mitigate damage.	Ongoing
51	Implement earthwork erosion control vegetation management program	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Severe summer storms	Ohio History Connection	43	Ohio History Connection general revenue funds	New action item.	0%

52	Plant pest program surveys, contains, and works to eradicate threats to plants	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Invasive Species	ODA-Plant Health	86	USDA	New mitigation action. The program is focused on the detection and control of new insect and disease issues effecting crops and natural resources, such as Asian longhorned beetle, spongy moth and spotted lanternfly	Ongoing
53	Provide ongoing tests, inspections, and surveillance to verify the absence of animal diseases.	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Animal Diseases (For 2029 SOHMP)	ODA-Animal Health	83	GRF, USDA and fees	New mitigation action. This work is critical to control and eradicate animal disease and to ensure a safe food supply.	Ongoing
54	Enforce Ohio's Dangerous Wild Animal laws	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Animal Diseases (For 2029 SOHMP)	ODA-Animal Health	84	GRF	New Mitigation action. Regulating dangerous wild animals is important to public safety and animal health.	Ongoing
55	Implement comprehensive erosion/slope failure risk assessment and monitoring program for Ohio History Connection historic sites.	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Multi-hazard	Ohio History Connection	26	Ohio History Connection general revenue funds	New action item.	0%
56	Implement comprehensive treefall risk assessment & monitoring program for Ohio History Connection historic sites.	Goal 2, Obj. 6	Multi-hazard	Ohio History Connection	27	Ohio History Connection general revenue funds	New action item.	0%

57	The Board of Building Standards will partner with the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch to implement the Building Code Plus-up BRIC grant.	Goal 3, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	DOC - Industrial Compliance - Board of Building Standards	28	FEMA BRIC and DIC Operating Fund	New mitigation action. Project application submitted to FEMA in February 2024	5%
58	OPWC will continue participation on the State Hazard Mitigation Team.	Goal 3, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	OPWC	29	GRF	OPWC is proud to participation on the State Hazard Mitigation Team.	Ongoing
59	Invite and facilitate participation of partners needed to ensure effective operation of the State Hazard Mitigation Team.	Goal 3, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	SHMT	54	GRF	Revised action. Ongoing.	Ongoing
60	Develop statewide procedures providing guidance to state agency fiscal officers on disaster cost tracking policy.	Goal 3, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	OBM	55	GRF	This action was carried over from the 2019 plan. Implementation was delayed due to COVID.	0%
61	Explore the integration of mitigation such as the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation plan, into ODOT capabilities and other planning mechanisms. Potential candidates include the Resiliency Improvement Plan, Transportation Asset Management Plan, and the Access Ohio 2045 State Long Range Transportation Plan.	Goal 3, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	ODOT, OEMA	30	ODOT	New action item.	0%

62	Review the OBOA Substantial Damage mutual aid process and incorporate recent Stafford Act changes.	Goal 3, Obj. 2	Flood	Ohio EMA, ODNR, and OBOA	40	GRF	New action item.	0%
63	Continue inter-agency participation on the USACE Silver Jackets Initiative.	Goal 3, Obj. 2	Flood	SHMT	76	GRF	The Ohio Silver Jackets team meets quarterly and continues to implement a range of mitigation projects statewide.	Ongoing
64	Work with Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to build more environmentally friendly schools under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.	Goal 3, Obj. 2 Goal 2, Obj. 4	Future Areas, Multi	DAS - Properties and Facilities	94	GRF	New action in plan, ongoing action at DAS. Received Leadership Award for Organizational Excellence from the U.S. Green Building Council for building more environmentally friendly schools (621 LEED-certified schools) than anyone in the world during the Greenbuild International Conference in Washington D.C. This reduces energy consumption by 35% and water consumption by 30%.	Ongoing
65	Continuation of the Public Health and Extreme Weather Workgroup	Goal 3, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	ODH	91	GRF	New action item in SOHMP, Existing action at ODH)	New action item.
66	Explore collaboration with ODA to re-institute state and local veterinary response groups.	Goal 3, Obj. 3	Animal Diseases (For 2029 SOHMP)	ODH	89	GRF	New action item.	New action item.

67	Develop and implement strong state incentives for maintaining local mitigation plans.	Goal 3, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA	56	GRF	Mitigation action item carried over from 2019 plan.	0%
68	Cross-reference State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan in relevant Ohio History Connection site management plans	Goal 3, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio History Connection	31	Ohio History Connection general revenue and capital (planning) funds	New action item.	0%
69	Continue participation in the FEMA PAS program that enables Ohio to review and approve local hazard mitigation plans.	Goal 3, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA	57	HMA and GRF	Ohio continues to review and approve 90% of local hazard mitigation plans.	Ongoing
70	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	Flood	Ohio EMA	77	HMA	Mitigation action item carried over from 2019 plan.	0%
71	Conduct training and/or post-disaster briefings for appropriate audiences on substantial damage assessments	Goal 4, Obj. 1	Flood	ODNR-DoWR, FPM	4	FEMA CAP-SSSE Program and State GRF	Ongoing - steady-state activity by FPM Workshops are conducted as needed or requested. Post-event briefings are ready for deployment.	Ongoing
72	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	41	HMA and GRF	Ohio EMA will continue to utilize FMA technical assistance grants to implement repetitive loss outreach to property owners.	Ongoing

73	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	1	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 the MIP, 1595 properties have been mitigated in Ohio using HMA programs.	Ongoing
74	Provide media releases to the public when open burning is prohibited within the state	Goal 5, Obj. 1	Wildfire	ODNR-DoF, FMP	95	GRF	New action item. Existing item at ODNR-ODNR has notified media outlets educating the public on open burning prohibited times. ODNR officers have issued citations for violating the open burning prohibition. Ongoing in nature	Ongoing
75	Create Ohio version of mitigation project development courses.	Goal 5, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA	58	GRF	New mitigation action	0%
76	Develop success stories in wind resistant construction codes and mitigation techniques.	Goal 5, Obj. 1	Tornado	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	85	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
77	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	59	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
78	Continue to update the Debris Management Course, and deliver the course in conjunction with Ohio EMA.	Goal 5, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA and Ohio EMA	60	GRF	New action item.	New action item.

79	Project WET (Water Education Today)- Award winning national curriculum for educating about water.	Goal 5, Obj. 1/3/5	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA, OEE	61	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA. Recently, Project WET developed Climate Water and Resilience as a secondary curriculum to teach people about climate change and the issues that come with these changes.	New action item.
80	Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)	Goal 5, Obj. 1/3/5	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA, OEE	62	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
81	Update the interactive digital summary of the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Goal 5, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA	63	BRIC and State GRF	New action item.	0%
82	Conduct open space monitoring of properties purchased with HMA funds and report to FEMA every 3 years using the MIP.	Goal 5, Obj. 2	Flood	Ohio EMA	3	GRF	Ongoing	Ongoing
83	Continue to maintain, populate, and enhance the Mitigation Information Portal	Goal 5, Obj. 2	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	64	GRF	Ohio EMA will work with DAS and DPS IT to upgrade outdated portions of site.	Ongoing
84	Sustain the Mitigation Branch internship program.	Goal 5, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA	32	HMA and GRF	Ongoing. OSU Intern employed by Mitigation Branch as of March 2024.	Ongoing

85	Continue the local mitigation planning studio course with The Ohio State University.	Goal 5, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA and OSU	33	HMA and GRF	Studio projects have been conducted once every two years. Resulted in the Federally Approved LHMPs for: Fayette County (2014/5) Perry County (2016/7) Guernsey County (2018/9) Richland County (2020/1) Delaware County (2023) Pike County (2024/5)	Ongoing, if available.
86	Explore opportunities to integrate climate and risk data from State Climate of Ohio into local and state hazard mitigation plans where applicable.	Goal 5, Obj. 3	Multi-hazard	SCOO and Ohio EMA	65	FEMA HMA Grants, GRF	New action item.	New action item.
87	Drinking Water community system contingency plan requirement	Goal 5, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	34	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
88	Asset management requirements for public water systems	Goal 5, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	Ohio EPA	35	GRF	New action item in SOHMP. Ongoing function at OEPA	New action item.
89	Update of the Carbon Reduction Plan	Goal 5, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODOT	66	ODOT	New item in the SOHMP, existing plan at ODOT with ongoing updates.	New action item.
90	Update of the Resiliency Improvement Plan	Goal 5, Obj. 4	Multi-hazard	ODOT	67	ODOT	New item in the SOHMP, existing plan at ODOT with ongoing updates.	New action item.

91	ODH BID ZIP will continue providing resources to local jurisdictions for yearly mosquito surveillance activities to implement public health actions.	Goal 5, Obj. 5	Animal Diseases (For 2029 SOHMP)	ODH	90	GRF	New action item.	New action item.
92	Educate potential applicants on how OPWC programs can be used to assist with mitigation.	Goal 5, Obj. 5	Multi-hazard	OPWC	68	GRF	OPWC is continues to expand our educational outreach to potential applicants on how our programs can be used to assist with mitigation.	Ongoing
93	Continue to support efforts to comply with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).	Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	69	GRF	Ohio EMAP re-accreditation is due in 2024.	Ongoing
94	Continue participation on emergency management and floodplain association workgroups.	Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	70	FEMA HMA Grants, GRF	Mitigation Branch staff participate in multiple associations and work groups.	Ongoing
95	Conduct outreach to promote hazard mitigation capability improvements and hazard mitigation planning integration into other local planning and policy mechanisms.	Goal 3, Obj. 3 Goal 5, Obj. 5 Goal 6, Obj. 1	Multi-hazard	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	8	FEMA HMA Grants, GRF	New action item.	New action item.

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, a separate document known as a “comprehensive plan” is 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. One way 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
- Encourage 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, 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 flood risk data exists. Another example would be requiring Stormwater management measures for a subdivision 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 and HHPD – see below). The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers pre- and post-disaster HMGP, FMA, and BRIC 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, OHIO RESIDENTIAL CODE (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*. Schools were exempted from the requirement to have a tornado safe room by House Bill No. 45 passed by the 134th General Assembly. As a result, FEMA has determined that Ohio's building codes are less hazard resistant and score 0% in the Building Code Adoption Tracking System (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat>).

In addition, FEMA has recently began emphasizing the importance of adopting recent versions of international building codes by penalizing grant applications from states with older versions. This brought to light other obstacles created by current regulations in Ohio law. Ohio Revised Code 121.95 was passed by the state legislature in October 2019. This law requires state agencies to review and prepare an inventory of rules that are considered to contain regulatory restrictions. This law also restricted state agencies from adopting new regulatory restrictions until June 30, 2025 unless the agency simultaneously removed two or more other existing regulatory restrictions. Since each individual phrase with words like "shall," "must," "require," "shall not," "may not," and "prohibit" was considered to be a separate regulatory restriction, it was not clear how the building codes could be updated to ensure these health and safety standards remained current.

After a review of other state building codes, Ohio found that it was the only state in the country that adopted the entirety of the model codes into its administrative code. Instead, states incorporate model code by reference with modifications or just adopt the model code in its entirety. The most recent Ohio building code based on the 2021 IBC effective March 1, 2024 was adopted by Ohio by incorporation by reference, therefore it was unaffected by Revised Code 121.95 except for the Ohio changes to model code. This method of adoption also aligns Ohio's code adoption practice with that of most other states. As of 2024, Ohio has adopted the 2021 version of the IBC, and the 2018 version of the IRC and is not subject to penalties based on the current FEMA criteria.

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 AND LEVEE 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 dam safety program has been effective; there have not been any significant dam failures since the creation of the program. The levee safety program is currently an unfunded mandate in the ORC.

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 Capabilities Summary

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments Support
	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 Grants Partnership	X			The OGP was created by OBM to provide support to Ohio's grant management community. This site is intended to be utilized as a resource for state agencies and sub-recipients of the state to access training, best practice resources, funding opportunities, guidance, and links to other beneficial grants information.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STATE PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

The Office of Properties and Facilities provides comprehensive administrative and technical services, including facility management, preventative maintenance, custodial and security services, to support the state's largest and most complex office facilities.

STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Office of Information Technology delivers statewide information technology and telecommunication infrastructure, services, and systems to all 88 state government agencies, boards, and commissions.

STATE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

The State Human Resources Division provides services and information to state employees and assists state agencies in conducting their human resource functions. Services are offered in the areas of policy development, DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), payroll administration, benefits administration, classification and compensation, drug testing, central recruiting, training and development, workforce planning, process improvement and employee records maintenance.

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.

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.

Data from the Ohio Department of Administrative services was deeply integrated into the 2024 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan. The State-owned and State-leased critical facilities data was obtained from DAS, then and utilized to perform the state-owned and state-leased critical facility vulnerability assessments for each profiled hazard.

Table 3.3.b — Ohio Department of Administrative Services Capabilities 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.
Insured Building and Asset Inventory (Pre-Disaster)	X			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 uses a risk management system to house site specific details for enhanced modeling capabilities for total cost of risk and probable maximum loss projections including specific hazard exposure.
Owner Controlled Insurance Program	X			The ORM has been working with multiple agencies to place owner-controlled insurance programs (OCIP) for state construction projects. The consolidated master insurance and claim management program for each project is structured in accordance with the type of project and associated exposures. Types of coverage may include general liability, workers' compensation, excess liability, pollution liability, professional liability, builders' risk, railroad protective liability, subcontractor default insurance, and completed operations coverage. We are also considering options for an enterprise-wide builders risk program that would allow agencies to cover their projects on a rolling basis, which would further reduce the risk by eliminating the reliance on the contractor to purchase and maintain appropriate coverage.

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 Capabilities Summary

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 Division of Soil and Water Conservation, 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. Other functions of the division include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides administrative guidance, training, program development support and financial assistance to Ohio's 88 SWCDs, their 440 elected board members and over 430 staff; • Provides administrative and organizational support to the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; • Implements agricultural and non-point source water pollution control programs - a regulatory component enforces agricultural sediment and livestock manure application and runoff. • Supports and helps fund local development of watershed-based planning and implementation; • Implements a comprehensive statewide soils information program, and assists private and public sectors in using soils and natural resource information.
Urban Stormwater Program, Watershed Programs (Pre- and Post-Disaster)		X		<p>ODA, 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)		X		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, radiologic events, 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.
Division of Animal Health		X		The Division of Animal Health is charged with protecting and promoting the health of Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. Responsibilities include livestock and poultry testing and inspection, licensing, controlling animal diseases in Ohio, and providing diagnostic services through the Animal Disease
The Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting		X		The Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP) is charged with regulating the construction and operation of Ohio's largest livestock and poultry facilities using science-based guidelines that protect the environment while allowing the facility to be productive.
Division of Plant Health		X		<p>The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Health houses the Grain Warehouse, Feed & Seed, Pesticide & Fertilizer Regulation, and Plant Pest Control sections, which are responsible for many consumer- and farmer-protections regulations. The Grain, feed and seed program examines records and inspects to verify feeds are manufactured properly and are safe. Regulating commodity handlers and monitoring animal feed ensures claims are accurate, and farmers harvests are protected from financial insolvency.</p> <p>Staff members' duties include registering pesticides, licensing pesticide applicators, investigating pesticide use complaints, verifying label statements on feed and fertilizers, monitoring the financial stability of grain elevators, testing germination of packaged seeds, inspecting honey bee colonies, regulating plant nursery stock, and working with USDA-APHIS and the U.S. Forest Service to control invasive pest species. Our goal is to hold businesses which produce, process, and distribute plant-based agricultural products to high standards of integrity and safety.</p>
Division of Food Safety.		X		The Division of Food Safety helps assure consumers are provided foods, over-the-counter drugs, dietary supplements and cosmetics that are safe, unadulterated and honestly presented. Division staff members work toward this goal through regulatory oversight of the wholesale and retail industry and through contracts, partnerships and educational activities with federal, state and local food regulatory agencies.

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 Capabilities 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			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.
State Fire Marshal/ ODNR Forestry Wildland Fire Program	X			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.
Ohio Fire Code	X			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.
Local Building Department Certification	X			The Board of Building Standards certifies local residential and commercial building departments to accept construction documents and to exercise enforcement authority.
Manufactured Homes Program	X			The Divisions of Real Estate & 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.

OHIO DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Previously known as the Ohio Development Services Agency, the Ohio Department of Development 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. The Department of Development also supports JobsOhio, a private, nonprofit entity in its efforts to attract and retain major employers for Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Development also provides data and analysis on the economic, industrial, demographic, and program trends of the state of Ohio, its businesses, and its people. This data is deeply integrated into the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan where data was needed to assess demographic and development changes.

Table 3.3.e — Ohio Department of Development Capabilities 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.
Water and Wastewater Grant Program	X			The Water and Wastewater Grant Program offers grants for water. Development can award up to \$10 million. The funds can pay for design, construction, materials and administrative costs associated with the water program. This program targets a specific challenge of redevelopment projects by reducing the cost to communities that need to minimize both the financial and environmental impact of their water projects.

Governor's Office of Appalachia		X		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.
Brownfield Grant Program	X			Program cleans up hazardous materials at brownfields throughout the state. Development partners with the land banks and other entities at the local level to identify sites and the local awardee administers the funding. The program is \$350 million with a \$1 million per county set-aside.
Demolition Grant Program	X			Program removes dilapidated and blighted buildings throughout the state. Development partners with the land banks and other entities at the local level to identify sites and the local awardee administers the funding. The \$150 million program has a \$500,000 per county set-aside.
Welcome Home Ohio	X			Program provides grants for the purchase of residential properties, the cost of construction or rehabilitation, or a nonrefundable tax credit for qualifying activities. Development partners with the land banks and other entities at the local level to identify sites and the local awardee administers the funding. The program is \$150 million.
Energy Efficiency programs	X			Various programs to provide consumer rebates for the purchases of electric appliances and support energy efficiency upgrades to residential properties. Development received funding from the US Department of Energy. The program is \$250 million.

OHIO FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION (OFCC)

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) oversees capital projects undertaken by state agencies and state-supported institutions of higher education; manages Ohio's school facility programs which provide support for the construction and renovation of public K-12 schools; and administers the funding for community-based cultural and sports facilities projects. The Commission consists of three voting members: the Director of Ohio Office of Budget and Management, the Director of Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and a Cabinet member appointed by the Governor. There are also four non-voting legislative members: two from each chamber, who each represent either the majority or minority caucus.

The Commission sets uniform rules, procedures and standardized documents for state construction under Chapter 153. The legislature established the Commission in 2012 with the merger of the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) and the former Office of State Architect. In 2013, the Commission undertook oversight of the cultural facilities grants program. In 2017, the legislature further folded all OSFC duties and responsibilities into the Commission, thereby consolidating guidance and oversight for its various programs into one entity.

Table 3.3.f — Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Capabilities Summary

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
ORC Chapter 153	X			Sets uniform rules, procedures and standardized documents for state construction.
Smart School Siting Resource Guide	X			Guide for communities considering site selection for future school construction. The guide emphasizes that school buildings are not only for education, but become integrated into the fabric of the community and have longer lifespans than most building types.
Emergency Assistance Program		X		EAP, a part of ENP, provides assistance to districts that experience damage resulting from “acts of God.” Funding from the program supplements actual cost of repairs and renovations as well as monies received from insurance and other state or private assistance.
Ohio School Design Manual		X		<p>The OSDM is an extensive document that sets construction standards for all OFCC projects to ensure statewide equity and a core level of quality for all school facilities. The manual was developed by OFCC staff in cooperation with architects and nationally recognized educational planners. The classrooms and other instructional spaces are anticipated to be flexible, expandable, and adaptable to the curricula of the future. Specifications for square footage allowances, technology needs, and building systems such as HVAC and security are currently included in the manual.</p> <p>Staff update the OSDM standards annually. This is a process by which all interested parties (including school districts, vendors, private citizens, and others) provide input on desired changes or additions to the OSDM</p>
Facilities Assessment		X		A facilities assessment will reveal the condition of existing buildings. Assessors examine every aspect of the structure including, but not limited to, mechanical and electrical systems, educational adequacy, and hazardous material abatement.
Green Schools Initiative		X		OFCC has adopted the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Schools rating system as a roadmap for documenting and measuring the progress of the Green Schools Initiative for high performing, energy-efficient buildings. Goal: New owned facilities after 2030 to be completely carbon neutral and 50% carbon reduction for renovated facilities.
Energy Performance		X		OFCC uses energy performance contracts to audit buildings/projects to determine if an energy reduction project is feasible. Projects can be financed through the sale of bonds or capital bill appropriations.

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.

In the 2024 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Planning process, the OEMA mitigation branch and ODH met to discuss the various capabilities and projects. There was discussion to include Ohio EMA Mitigation staff to the ODH Public Health and Extreme Weather Workgroup in an effort to promote integration between the two agencies and their mechanisms.

Table 3.3.g — Ohio Department of Health Capabilities 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.
Ohio Public Health Advisory Board (OPHAB)		X		In 2012, the Ohio legislature created an eleven-member board Ohio public Health Advisory Board (OPHAB), for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations to the Director of Health on the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and adopting proposed rules under Chapters 3701 and 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC); • Prescribing proposed fees for services provided by the office of vital statistics and the bureau of environmental health; Any proposed policy changes that pertain to entities serving or seeking to serve as vendors under the Women, Infants Children (WIC) program;
Office of the Medical Director		X		The Medical Director serves as medical authority for the Ohio Department of Health. The Office of the Medical Director serves as the lead clinician for the Ohio Department of Health and advises the director and agency in all matters related to public health and the development and implementation of statewide public health policies and programs. The office provides leadership for all core public health functions as established by National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHSP) and Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The Office of the Medical Director routinely coordinates with ODH programs, other state agencies and stakeholders regarding emerging and ongoing public health concerns including infant mortality, opioid abuse, emergency preparedness and infectious disease outbreaks. The Office of the Medical Director also oversees the following programs: Health Equity, Primary Care, Rural Health

Office of Health Opportunity		X	The mission of the Ohio Department of Health is to advance the health and well-being of all Ohioans by transforming the state's public health system through unique partnerships and funding streams; addressing the community conditions and inequities that lead to disparities in health outcomes; and implementing data-driven, evidence-based solutions. The Office of Health Opportunity focuses on systems changes to eliminate population level disparities in Ohio.
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.h — Ohio Homeland Security Capabilities 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 (ODI) 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. Those functions include serving and protecting Ohio insurance consumers, licensing and monitoring the business conduct of insurance agents and companies, reviewing insurance products and rates, fighting insurance fraud and insurance professional misconduct, and monitoring the financial solvency of insurance companies.

Table 3.3.i — Ohio Department of Insurance Capabilities 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

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Branch coordinated closely in the development of the 2024 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan. Multiple divisions at ODNR provided assistance in the review and drafting of multiple sections- especially within the hazard risk assessments that utilized their data and technical expertise. This high-level coordination between the two state agencies exemplifies high-level integration of technical and programmatic functions to minimize damage, and reduce loss of life and injuries from hazard events.

Table 3.3.j — Ohio Department of Natural Resources Capabilities 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.</p> <p>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			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.
Ohio Dam Safety Program ORC 1521 (Pre- and Post- Disaster)	X			ODNR-DOWR Dam Safety Program does inspections 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.
High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program (HHPD)	X			ODNR, DOWR, DSP administers the FEMA HHPD grant program for Ohio. This program provides a funding for to address high hazard dams that pose an unacceptable risk to the public. This program to reduce risk from, and rehabilitate high-hazard potential dams requires close coordination between the ODNR DSP, and the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch as a pre-requisite for HHPD funding requires all recipients have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan that addresses all-dam risk(s).
Ohio Conservancy District ORC 6101 (Pre- Disaster)		X		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.
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.

ODOT technical data and platforms, particularly the Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) and Geohazards dashboards, were utilized and integrated into the State of Ohio 2024 Hazard Mitigation plan- particularly in the hazard risk assessments where their inventory of road assets was most applicable.

Table 3.3.k — Department of Transportation Capabilities 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 Information Mapping System (TIMS)				TIMS is ODOT's web-mapping portal where you can discover information about Ohio's transportation system, create maps, and share information.
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.I — Ohio Emergency Management Agency Capabilities 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.
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program–(Pre- Disaster)	X			Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch administers funds from this annual, nationally competitive program. BRIC 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 conduct 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.m — Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Capabilities 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 and are not encroaching into the floodway (unless adequately mitigated). Funding is also available to help install back-up power sources for critical components. Upgrading wastewater facilities help to improve overall system resiliency. Incentives for green infrastructure, energy efficiency and resiliency are available for eligible borrowers.
Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP)	X			Provides funding for restoration and preservation of high-quality streams and wetlands. This may involve reconnecting streams with their floodplains, thereby helping provide additional flood flow storage. Protection of functional stream corridors and wetland complexes can also help lessen downstream impacts from flooding. The program also provides funding for dam removal projects, including low-head dams (also referred to as "drowning machines") and those dams in a state of disrepair or that may otherwise be prone to failure, thus eliminating a potentially significant threat to life and property.

Project WET (Water Education Today)		X		Award winning national curriculum for educating about water. Contains several chapters on flood mitigation and awareness. Recently, Project WET developed Climate Water and Resilience as a secondary curriculum to teach people about climate change and the issues that come with these changes.
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. Source water wells are to be properly encased and sealed to help prevent impacts from flooding or other threats. Funding is also available to help install back-up power sources for critical components, as well as for development of Asset Management Plans to help communities identify and address system problems before they become major issues.
Office of Emergency Response	X			Ohio EPA's Office of Emergency Response (OER) Unit is a specialized group of On-Scene Coordinators and Response Managers stationed throughout Ohio who work with first responders and other Federal, State, and local response partners 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, mitigate, and abate the impact these releases cause to the environment. OER responds 24 hours a day, seven days a week and On-Scene Coordinators are fully trained in the Incident Command System.
H2Ohio	X			Ohio EPA provides funding through the H2Ohio program for a variety of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements including lead service line mapping, inventory and replacement, as well as home septic system repair and replacement. Additionally, Ohio EPA is utilizing H2Ohio funding for dam removal projects, including low-head dams (also referred to as "drowning machines") and those dams in a state of disrepair or that may otherwise be prone to failure, thus eliminating a potentially significant threat to life and property.
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.
Drinking Water community system contingency plan requirement		X		Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Water (DDAGW) requires all community public water systems to have a contingency plan which covers circumstances such as power outages, natural disasters and contamination. The plan spells out actions to take in each type of circumstance and requires systems to identify appropriate sources of backup water if necessary. Plans are required to be exercised and updated annually.

Asset management requirements for public water systems		X		Ohio EPA DDAGW has requirements that all community and non-transient non community public water systems have asset management programs. As part of the asset management program for non-transient non community systems portions of the contingency plan requirements are to be included. This program ensures utilities are taking care of assets and ensures resiliency through appropriate planning for maintenance and replacement of equipment.
Rule requirements for building facilities above the 100-year flood plain		X		Provisions in DDAGWs plan approval rules for public water systems ensure that for any newly built systems, equipment critical to the operation of facilities is built above the 100-year flood plain.
Requirements for community public water systems to have an emergency generator or alternate source of power.		X		Provisions in Ohio EPA DDAGWs plan approval rules require community public water systems being built to either install an emergency generator or have an alternate leg of power to ensure systems are able to operate in an emergency.
Grants for emergency generators		X		Ohio EPA DDAGW has an emergency generator grant program for smaller systems that will reimburse small system owners for the purchase of emergency generators and equipment necessary to add alternate power to a system.
Grants for distribution system equipment		X		Ohio EPA DDAGW has a grant program that provides funds for utilities to purchase equipment necessary to maintain their distribution system. This equipment allows systems to increase their resiliency by ensuring their distribution system functions at peak performance.

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.n — Ohio History Connection and State Historic Preservation Office Mitigation Summary

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments Support
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Historic Site Management Planning	X			OHC includes environmental risk assessment and mitigation planning in management planning for its historic sites & museums and shares this information publicly to model best practices.
National Historic Preservation Act (Pre- and Post-Disaster)	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.o — Ohio Public Works Commission Capabilities 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.
Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP), (Pre-Disaster)	X			Provides funding to assist Ohio jurisdictions in repairing/replacing roads, bridges, and culverts.
Small Government (Pre-Disaster)	X			Provides funding to assist smaller communities in repairing/replacing public infrastructure. This program is specifically aimed at smaller communities which often are in economically disadvantaged regions. 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.

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 Capabilities 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.
Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Circuits and Equipment OAC 4901:1-10-27	X			The PUCO supports mitigation measures and requires that each electric distribution utility (EDU) file annual maintenance programs with the Commission. Progress is verified through the annual field verifications performed by PUCO field inspectors.

STATE CLIMATE OFFICE OF OHIO (SCOO)

Accessing accurate climate information, education, and interpretation is critical for policy makers and all sectors of Ohio’s economy and will enhance the quality of life, health, food and water security, and economic prosperity of all Ohioans. The State Climate Office of Ohio (SCOO) is a new team based at The Ohio State University (OSU) that connects Ohioans with transformative climate information.

SCOO embodies four core mission activities focused on connecting people and climate: Communication, Information Services, Education & Outreach, and Research. The office has already forged many partnerships that should yield positive impacts with regard to climate-related engagement and communication, including connections with OSU Extension in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Science (CFAES) and its associated instrumental observation network, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) Weather Network; the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA); and the Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC).

Though historically housed within the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences Program since the termination of the federal climate program in 1973, the rebranded SCOO is a primary level partnership between the Department of Geography and the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center (BPCRC) at OSU. The SCOO is a timely convergence of scientific research, educational skills, technical expertise, and professional interconnectedness.

Until the early 1970s, state climatologists and their staff were supported by the federal government. After the state climatologist program was abolished at the Federal level many attempts were made to continue funding at the individual State level. Ohio is one of the few states where this funding has never been realized. Over 75% of the funded state climatologists are affiliated with a department or center at a university while the remainder are associated with some branch of state government. Since the mid-1980s the federal government has supported regional climate centers, but it has not returned to state-level support. In states with no support, the state climatologist is the person who, in written agreement with the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), maintains the state’s climatic archive and who is the recipient of all current state climatic data. Currently, Aaron Wilson maintains efforts to archive and disseminate climate information about the state of Ohio in addition to his duties as Assistant Professor - Ag Weather and Climate Field Specialist, Department of Extension, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

Table 3.3.q — State Climate Office of Ohio Capabilities Summary

Programs, Plans, Policies, Regulations, Funding or Practices	Effect on Loss Reduction (X)			Comments
	Support	Facilitate	Hinder	
Climate Maps for Ohio Monthly Climate Reports		X		The SCOO produces and issues climate maps and reports for Ohio in 7-, 30-, and 90-day intervals that displays conditions such as precipitation and temperature.
OSU Campus Weather Stations		X		The SCOO monitors and report weather and atmospheric conditions from 18 weather stations on OSU campus and around the state.

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.

3.4 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 projects 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 G) and Mitigation Strategy for the event.

BRIC AND FMA

The statute, CFR, Notice of Funding Opportunity, 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 BRIC 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 BRIC 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 Mitigation Information Portal (MIP) 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.

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 multiple versions of FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plans. 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 of Ohio Mitigation Information Portal (MIP). The MIP houses every county mitigation plan, as well as a summary of the local risk assessment 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:

- Franklin-Carlisle Flood Inundation Mapping
- HAZUS Level 2 Analysis
- The Flood of 1959 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 \$29.7 million over a 33-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 in 2023 and effective 3/1/2024. 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 2021 International Building Code.

The current residential building code for Ohio is known as the 2019 Residential Code of Ohio, passed in 2018, effective 1/1/2019. 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 2018 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 March 2024, the program has leveraged \$697,093 in property owner funds with \$1,767,323 in federal HMA funds to complete 328 residential safe rooms across the state.

INTEGRATION OF MITIGATION IN RECENT POST DISASTER 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 most events.

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.

FEMA DR-4424 was a flood event in southern and eastern Ohio in 2019. Recovery Branch staff participated in the review of HMGP projects as part of the SHMT.

FEMA DR-4447 was a tornado and severe storm event in southwest Ohio. Recovery Branch staff participated in the review of HMGP projects as part of the SHMT.

FEMA DR-4507 was the COVID-19 disaster declaration in Ohio. The opportunity to integrate mitigation into the recovery from this event was limited due to the cause of the disaster event and timing of the HMGP funds that were made available.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS ANNEX

<https://ema.ohio.gov/prepare-respond/state-plans/01-ohio-emergency-operations-plan>

The Ohio Emergency Operations Plan or EOP is structured on 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) that correspond to the format of the National Response Framework. Each ESF is headed by a Primary Agency that coordinates activity under that function. The Primary Agency is supported by a number of Support Agencies, which are selected based upon their legislative authorities, knowledge, resources, and capabilities. The ESF is the primary mechanism through which state assistance to local governments is managed during emergencies. State assistance can include the allocation of state resources and technical assistance and the coordination of federal, interstate, intra-state, local government and non-government agencies in response to emergency events or incidents.

The ESFs detail the roles and responsibilities of state, federal and other public and private agencies that are charged with carrying-out functional missions to assist local jurisdictions in response to emergency events or incidents. Each primary and support agency has internal plans and procedures that detail how it will address responsibilities during state-level emergencies. Support agencies are not required to address any emergency responsibilities that are contrary to the laws or policies that govern their organizations. Primary and support agencies will be activated and notified for Ohio Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation by Ohio EMA. Activation will be based upon the requirements for emergency response and recovery and the agencies that are activated will vary depending on those requirements.

- ESF #1 Transportation
- ESF #2 Communications and Information Technology
- ESF #3 Engineering and Public Works
- ESF #4 Firefighting
- ESF #5 Information and Planning
- ESF #6 Mass Care
- ESF #7 Resource Support and Logistics
- ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF #9 Search and Rescue
- ESF #10 Oil, Gas and Hazardous Materials
- ESF #11 Agriculture
- ESF #12 Energy
- ESF #13 Law Enforcement
- ESF #14 Recovery and Mitigation
- ESF #15 Emergency Public Information and External/Public Affairs

ESF #14 RECOVERY AND MITIGATION

https://ema.ohio.gov/static/Documents/Ohio_EOP/ESF-14-Recovery-and-Mitigation.pdf

ESF #14 will prepare to supplement community recovery and mitigation actions. Should the disaster or event require implementation of state, federal, or non-governmental agency programs, the State of Ohio has established Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) in alignment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) to address the specific topics of housing recovery, community assistance, economic recovery, infrastructure systems recovery, health and social services recovery, and natural and cultural resources recovery