



# SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a living document that communities use to reduce their vulnerability to hazards. It forms the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and creates a framework for decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters. Examples of mitigation projects include home acquisitions or elevations to remove structures from high risk areas, upgrades to critical public facilities, and infrastructure improvements. Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters. Cape May County has demonstrated its commitment to reducing disaster losses by initially developing its multi-jurisdictional HMP in 2010 and updating information upon which to base a successful mitigation strategy to reduce the impacts of natural disasters and to increase the resiliency of its communities.

**Hazard Mitigation** is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk and effects that can result from specific hazards.

FEMA defines a **Hazard Mitigation Plan** as the documentation of a state or local government evaluation of natural hazards and the strategies to mitigate such hazards.

In response to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), Cape May County and the municipalities located therein have developed this Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which represents a regulatory update to the 2016 Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The DMA 2000 amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) and is designed to improve planning for, response to, and recovery from disasters by requiring state and local entities to implement pre-disaster mitigation planning and develop HMPs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued guidelines

for HMPs. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), also supports plan development for jurisdictions in New Jersey.

Specifically, the DMA 2000 requires that states, with support from local governmental agencies, develop and update HMPs on a five-year basis to prepare for and reduce the potential impacts of natural hazards. The DMA 2000 is intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities, prompting them to work together. This enhanced planning better enables local and state governments to articulate accurate needs for mitigation, resulting in faster allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects.

Cape May County has been included in 30 FEMA (major and emergency) declarations.

During the course of the planning process, Cape May County and its participating jurisdictions updated the plan to examine changes in vulnerability due to hazard events with the intent of developing an updated mitigation strategy with the goal of continually increasing the resilience of the County and its jurisdictions.

### 1.1.1 DMA 2000 Origins – The Stafford Act

In the early 1990s, a new federal policy regarding disasters began to evolve. Rather than reacting whenever disasters strike communities, the federal government began encouraging communities to first assess their vulnerability to various disasters and proceed to take actions to reduce or eliminate potential risks. The logic is that a disaster-resistant community can rebound from a natural disaster with less loss of property or human



injury, at much lower cost, and, consequently, more quickly. Moreover, these communities minimize other costs associated with disasters, such as the time lost from productive activity by business and industries.

The DMA 2000 provides an opportunity for states, tribes, and local governments to take a new and revitalized approach to mitigation planning. The DMA 2000 amended the Stafford Act by repealing the previous mitigation planning provisions (Section 409) and replacing them with a new set of requirements (Section 322). Section 322 sets forth the requirements that communities evaluate natural hazards within their respective jurisdictions and develop an appropriate plan of action to mitigate those hazards, while emphasizing the need for state, tribal and local governments to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts.

The amended Stafford Act requires that each local jurisdiction identify potential natural hazards to the health, safety, and well-being of its residents and identify and prioritize actions that the community can take to mitigate those hazards—before disaster strikes. To remain eligible for hazard mitigation assistance from the federal government, communities must first prepare and then maintain and update an HMP (this plan).

Responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of Section 322 of the Stafford Act and administering the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program has been delegated to the State of New Jersey, specifically to NJOEM. FEMA also provides support through guidance, resources, and plan reviews.

### 1.1.2 Benefits of Mitigation Planning

Mitigation planning forms the foundation for Cape May County’s long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Mitigation planning also allows Cape May County, as a whole and with participating jurisdictions, to remain eligible for mitigation grant funding for mitigation projects that will reduce the impact of future disaster events. The long-term benefits of mitigation planning include the following:

	ADOPT CODE	ABOVE CODE	BUILDING RETROFIT	LIFELINE RETROFIT	FEDERAL GRANTS
<b>Overall Benefit-Cost Ratio</b>	<b>11:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>6:1</b>
<b>Cost (\$ billion)</b>	<b>\$1<sub>year</sub></b>	<b>\$4<sub>year</sub></b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$0.6</b>	<b>\$27</b>
<b>Benefit (\$ billion)</b>	<b>\$13<sub>year</sub></b>	<b>\$16<sub>year</sub></b>	<b>\$2200</b>	<b>\$2.5</b>	<b>\$160</b>
Riverine Flood	6:1	5:1	6:1	8:1	7:1
Hurricane Surge	not applicable	7:1	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Wind	10:1	5:1	6:1	7:1	5:1
Earthquake	12:1	4:1	13:1	3:1	3:1
Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	not applicable	4:1	2:1	not applicable	3:1

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Source: Sciences 2019  
 Note: Natural hazard mitigation saves \$6 on average for every \$1 spent on federal mitigation grants.

- An increased understanding of hazards faced by Cape May County and their inclusive jurisdictions.
- Building more sustainable and disaster-resistant communities.
- Increasing education and awareness of hazards and their threats, as well as their risks.
- Developing implementable and achievable actions for risk reduction in the County and its jurisdictions.
- Building relationships by involving residents, organizations, and businesses.
- Identify implementation approaches that focus resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities.
- Financial savings through partnerships that support planning and mitigation efforts.
- Focused use of limited resources on hazards that have the biggest impact on the community.
- Reduced long-term impacts and damages to human health and structures.
- Reduced repair costs.

### 1.1.3 Organizations Involved in the Mitigation Planning Effort

Cape May County and the participating jurisdictions intend to implement this HMP with full coordination and participation of County and local departments, organizations and groups, and relevant state and federal entities. Coordination helps to ensure that stakeholders have established communication channels and relationships



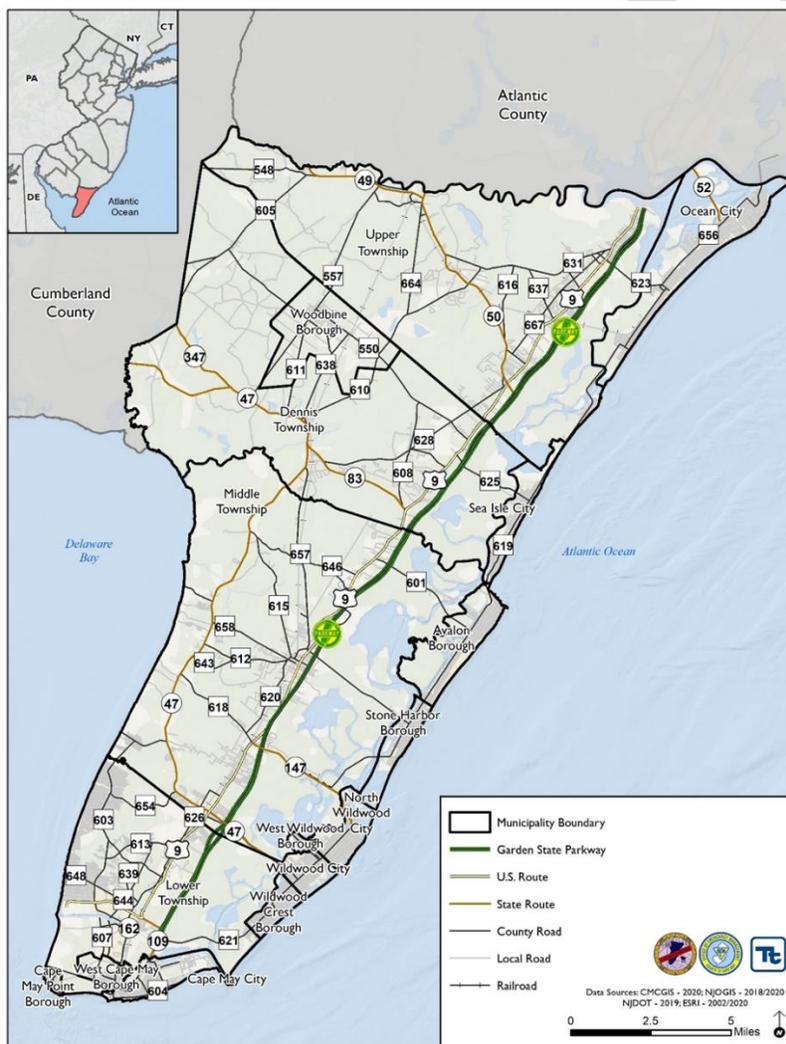
necessary to support mitigation planning and mitigation actions included in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) and in the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

In addition to Cape May County, all 16 municipal governments in the County have participated in the 2021 planning process as indicated in Table 1-1 below. A map of the Cape May County HMP planning area is provided in Figure 1-1 following the table.

**Table 1-1. Participating Jurisdictions**

Jurisdictions		
Cape May County	Middle Township	West Cape May Borough
Avalon Borough	North Wildwood City	West Wildwood Borough
Cape May City	Ocean City	Wildwood City
Cape May Point Borough	Sea Isle City	Wildwood Crest Borough
Dennis Township	Stone Harbor Borough	Woodbine Borough
Lower Township	Upper Township	

**Figure 1-1. Cape May County New Jersey**





### Multiple Agency Support for Hazard Mitigation

Primary responsibility for the development and implementation of mitigation strategies and policies lies with local governments. However, local governments are not alone; various partners and resources at the regional, state, and federal levels are available to assist communities in the development and implementation of mitigation strategies. Within the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) is the lead agency providing hazard mitigation planning assistance to local jurisdictions. NJOEM provides guidance to support mitigation planning. In addition, FEMA provides grants, tools, guidance, and training to support mitigation planning.

Additional input and support for this planning effort was obtained from a range of agencies and through public involvement (as discussed in Section 3). Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, with support from the Steering Committee, provided project management and oversight of the planning process. While participating municipalities were asked to identify a primary and alternate local Point of Contact (POC), broad participation by municipal representatives was encouraged and supported throughout the planning process. A list of Steering Committee and municipal POCs is provided in Section 3 (Planning Process), while Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further documentation of the broader level of municipal involvement.

This HMP was prepared in accordance with the following regulations and guidance:

- FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook*, March 2013.
- FEMA *Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning*, March 1, 2013.
- FEMA *Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts*, July 2015.
- *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*, October 1, 2011.
- DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000).
- 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 201 and 206 (including: Feb. 26, 2002, Oct. 1, 2002, Oct. 28, 2003, and Sept. 13, 2004 Interim Final Rules).
- FEMA *How-To Guide for Using HAZUS-MH for Risk Assessment* FEMA Document No. 433, February 2004.
- FEMA *Mitigation Planning How-to Series* (FEMA 386-1 through 4, 2002), available at: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/planhowto.shtm>.
- FEMA *Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards*, January 2013.

Table 1-2 summarizes the requirements outlined in the DMA 2000 Interim Final Rule and provides the section where each is addressed in the HMP.

**Table 1-2. FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool**

Plan Criteria	Primary Location in Plan
<b>Prerequisites</b>	
Adoption by the Local Governing Body: §201.6(c)(5)	Section 2.0; Appendix A
<b>Planning Process</b>	
Documentation of the Planning Process: §201.6(b) and §201.6(c)(1)	Section 3.0
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	
Identifying Hazards: §201.6(c)(2)(i)	Section 5.2
Profiling Hazards: §201.6(c)(2)(i)	Section 5.4
Assessing Vulnerability: Overview: §201.6(c)(2)(ii)	Section 5.4
Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Structures: §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(A)	Section 4.0; Section 5.4



Plan Criteria	Primary Location in Plan
Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses: §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(B)	Section 5.4
Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends: §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(C)	Section 4.0; Section 9 Annexes
<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>	
Local Hazard Mitigation Goals: §201.6(c)(3)(i)	Section 6.0; Section 9 Annexes
Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions: §201.6(c)(3)(ii)	Section 6.0; Section 9 Annexes
Implementation of Mitigation Actions: §201.6(c)(3)(iii)	Section 6.0; Section 9 Annexes
Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Actions: §201.6(c)(3)(iv)	Section 6.0; Section 9 Annexes
<b>Plan Maintenance Process</b>	
Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan: §201.6(c)(4)(i)	Section 7.0
Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms: §201.6(c)(4)(ii)	Section 7.0; Section 9 Annexes
Continued Public Involvement: §201.6(c)(4)(iii)	Section 7.0

## 1.2 PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Cape May County and the participating jurisdictions intend to implement this HMP with full coordination and participation of County and local departments, organizations and groups, and relevant state and federal entities. Coordination helps to ensure that stakeholders have established communication channels and relationships necessary to support mitigation planning and mitigation actions included in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) and Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

During the Cape May County HMP planning process, the nation, the State of New Jersey and Cape May County were facing the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic was declared a major disaster on March 25, 2020 (DR-4488). The Governor and local governments issued various orders requiring masks and social distancing based upon different infection levels in the State, County, and local governments. Cape May County has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, Steering Committee members and the planning partners (County departments, municipalities and municipal utility authorities) were facing the COVID-19 pandemic concurrent with completing the update to the HMP. Cape May County and all planning partners made their best effort to work through this unprecedented time to complete the HMP update and meet FEMA and State requirements. The public and stakeholder engagement strategy was modified to eliminate in-person engagement and meetings. All meetings were held virtually, including the Steering Committee draft review meeting and the draft plan presentation to the public.

The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management website was updated, and social media and email was utilized to advertise the draft plan posting to residents and stakeholders. Additionally, the website created for the HMP update (<https://www.capemaycounty2020hmp.com/>) was maintained throughout the planning process and included the draft plan and a link to provide comments and input. All planning partners were notified that the draft plan was posted for public and stakeholder review, were provided social media posts/images, and were asked to distribute these notifications in their jurisdictions. Lastly, stakeholders that were distributed the stakeholder surveys were notified via email that the draft plan was posted for public review and comment. Public and stakeholder comments received on the draft plan were shared with the planning partners via email. To complete the update to the draft plan prior to submission to NJOEM, teleconference meetings were held in a best effort to complete jurisdictional annexes given staffing constraints during the active pandemic.



### 1.3 MULTIPLE AGENCY SUPPORT FOR HAZARD MITIGATION

Primary responsibility for the development and implementation of mitigation strategies and policies lies with local governments. However, local governments are not alone; various partners and resources at the regional, state, and federal levels are available to assist communities in the development and implementation of mitigation strategies. Within New Jersey, NJOEM is the lead agency providing hazard mitigation planning assistance to local jurisdictions. NJOEM provides guidance to support mitigation planning. In addition, FEMA provides grants, tools, guidance, and training to support mitigation planning.

The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management and the Steering Committee provided project management and oversight of the planning process. Participating jurisdictions were asked to identify a primary and alternate local point of contact (POC) to be members of the Planning Committee and lead the planning process update on behalf of the jurisdiction. At the start of the planning process, each municipality identified their Floodplain Administrator and requested their involvement. Further, each jurisdiction was encouraged to form a ‘mitigation team’ comprised of representatives across departments to ensure broad participation, share the work of the update process and ensure accurate information was captured in their chapter, or annex. The mitigation team worked directly with the primary and alternate POCs and contributed to the jurisdictional annexes presented in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annex). Together, the Steering Committee and Planning Committee are referred to as the Planning Partnership for the Cape May County HMP update. A list of Steering Committee and jurisdiction POCs is provided in Section 2 (Planning Process), while Appendices B (Meeting Documentation) and Appendix C (Participation Documentation) provide further documentation of the broader level of municipal involvement. Additional input and support for this planning effort was obtained from a range of agencies and through public and stakeholder involvement (as discussed in Section 2 and presented in Appendix D – Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

**Steering Committee (SC)** is comprised of County and municipal representatives that guide and lead the HMP update process on behalf of the Planning Partnership.

**Planning Committee (PC)** is comprised of representatives from each participating jurisdiction (County and municipalities).

**Planning Partnership = SC + PC**

### 1.4 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The planning process included a review and update of the prior mitigation goals and objectives as a basis for the planning process and selection of appropriate mitigation actions addressing all hazards of concern. Further, the goal development process considered the mitigation goals expressed in the 2019 State of New Jersey HMP, as well as other relevant county and local planning documents, as discussed in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy).

### 1.5 HAZARDS OF CONCERN

Cape May County and participating jurisdictions reviewed the hazards that caused measurable impacts based on events, losses, and information available since the development of the 2016 Cape May County HMP and the 2019 State of New Jersey HMP. A list of potential hazards of concern was reviewed by the Planning Partnership, and each was evaluated to identify the hazards of concern for the 2021 update planning process. The list was presented to each of the participating jurisdictions where they evaluated their risk and vulnerability from each hazard of concern. While the overall hazard rankings were calculated for the County and each participating jurisdiction, the specific hazard rankings displayed in each annex reflect jurisdictional input. The hazard risk rankings were used to focus and prioritize individual jurisdictional mitigation strategies.



## 1.6 PLAN INTEGRATION INTO OTHER PLANNING MECHANISMS

Plan integration is the process by which jurisdictions look at their existing planning framework and align efforts with the goal of building a safer, smarter, and more resilient community. It is specific to each community and depends on the vulnerability of the built environment. Community-wide plan integration supports risk reduction through various planning and development measures, both before and after a disaster. Plan integration involves a community's plans, policies, codes, and programs that guide development and the roles of people and government in implementing these capabilities. Successful integration occurs through collaboration among a diverse set of stakeholders in the community (FEMA 2015).

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies are integrated into local planning mechanisms and become an integral part of public activities and decision making. Within Cape May County, there are numerous existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management and reduction, and thus, it is critical that the 2021 HMP update integrates, coordinates with, and complements those mechanisms.

Section 5 (Capability Assessment) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes), the County and each participating jurisdiction identified how they have integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework ("existing integration"), and how they intend to promote this integration ("opportunities for future integration").

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

## 1.7 IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIOR AND EXISTING LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) and Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) of the plan present the status of the mitigation projects identified in the 2016 Cape May County HMP. Numerous projects and programs have been implemented that have reduced hazard vulnerability to assets in the planning area. The County and jurisdictional annexes, as well as plan maintenance procedures in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance), were developed to encourage specific activities. Future actions including integrating hazard mitigation goals into Master Plan updates; reviewing the HMP during updates of codes, ordinances, zoning, and development; and ensuring a more thorough integration of hazard mitigation, with its related benefits into municipal operations, will be completed within the upcoming five-year planning period.

## 1.8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process and findings are required to be documented in local HMPs. To support the planning process in developing this HMP, Cape May County and the participating jurisdictions have accomplished the following:

- Developed a Steering Committee and countywide planning partnership with jurisdictions and stakeholders.
- Reviewed the 2016 Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Identified and reviewed those hazards that are of greatest concern to Cape May County and its jurisdictions (hazards of concern) to be included in the plan.
- Profiled the relevant hazards.
- Estimated the inventory at risk and potential losses associated with the relevant hazards.
- Reviewed and updated the hazard mitigation goals and objectives.



- Reviewed mitigation strategies identified in the 2016 Cape May County HMP.
- Developed new mitigation actions to address reduction of vulnerability of hazards of concern.
- Involved a wide range of stakeholders and the public in the plan process.
- Developed mitigation plan maintenance procedures to be executed after obtaining approval of the plan from NJOEM and FEMA.

As required by the DMA 2000, Cape May County and its participating jurisdictions have informed the public and provided opportunities for public comment and input. Numerous agencies and stakeholders were invited to participate in the planning process by providing input and expertise. Refer to Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation) for copies of public service announcements, social media posts and other forms of public and stakeholder outreach conducted.

## **1.9 ADOPTION**

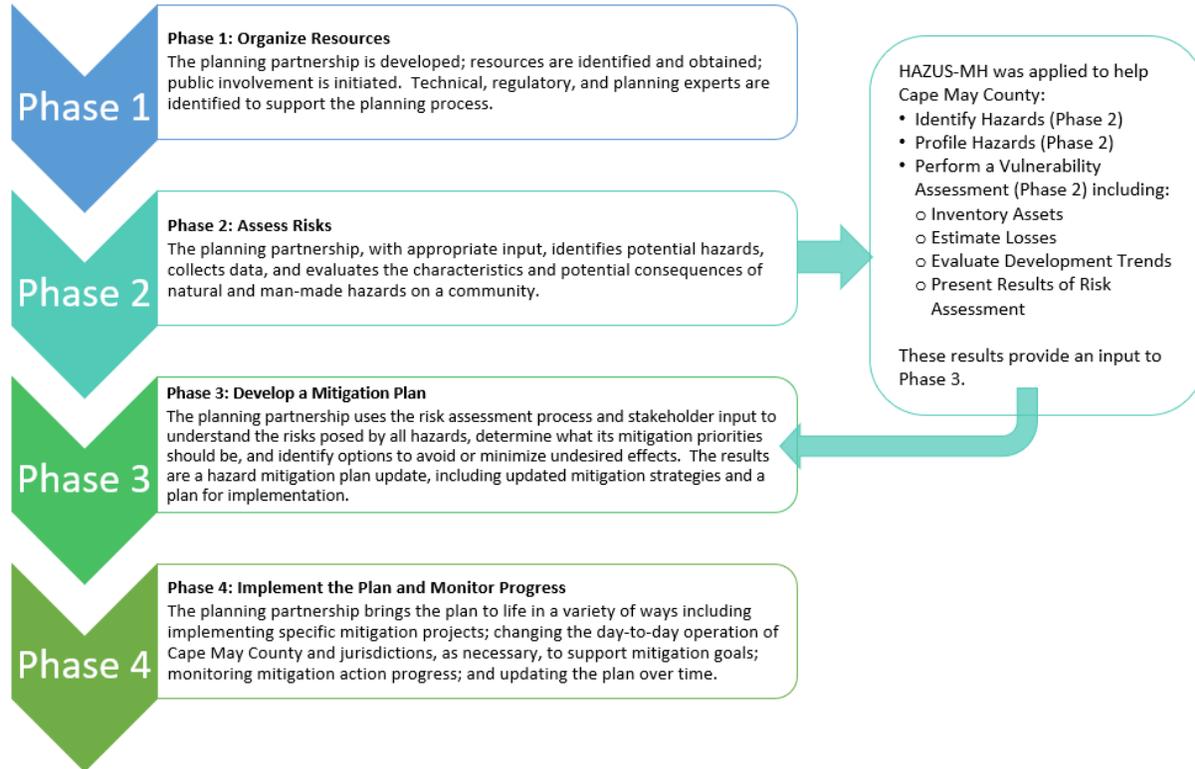
Upon FEMA Approval Pending Adoption (APA) status of the 2021 HMP update, Cape May County and each municipality will adopt the plan by resolution of local governing body. An example resolution authorizing adoption of the 2021 Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan may be found in Appendix A (Plan Adoption). The Cape May County and jurisdiction adoption resolutions will be included in Appendix A upon receipt of the FEMA APA status. Please refer to Section 8 (Planning Partnership) for additional information on plan adoption procedures.

## **1.10 ORGANIZATION OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

The Cape May County HMP update is organized as a two-volume plan. Volume I provides information on the overall planning process and hazard profiling and vulnerability assessments, which serves as a basis for understanding risk and identifying mitigation actions. As such, Volume I is intended for use as a resource for on-going mitigation analysis. Volume II provides an annex dedicated to each participating jurisdiction. Each annex summarizes the jurisdiction's legal, regulatory, and fiscal capabilities; identifies vulnerabilities to hazards; documents mitigation plan integration with other planning efforts; records status of past mitigation actions; and presents an individualized mitigation strategy. The annexes are intended to provide a useful resource for each jurisdiction for implementation of mitigation projects and future grant opportunities, as well as a place for each jurisdiction to record and maintain their local aspect of the countywide plan.



Figure 1-2. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Planning Process



Volume I of this HMP includes the following sections:

- Section 1:** Introduction: Overview of participants, planning process and information regarding adoption of the HMP by Cape May County and each participating jurisdiction.
- Section 2:** Plan Adoption: Information regarding the adoption of the HMP by Cape May County and each participating jurisdiction.
- Section 3:** Planning Process: Description of the HMP methodology and development process; Steering Committee, Planning Committee, Planning Partnership, and stakeholder involvement efforts; and a description of how this HMP will be incorporated into existing programs.
- Section 4:** County Profile: Overview of Cape May County, including: (1) physical setting, (2) land use, (3) land use trends, (4) population and demographics, (5) general building stock and (6) critical facilities and lifelines.
- Section 5:** Risk Assessment: Documentation of the hazard identification and hazard risk ranking process, hazard profiles, and findings of the vulnerability assessment (estimates of the impact of hazard events on life, safety, health, general building stock, critical facilities, the economy); description of the status of local data; and planned steps to improve local data to support mitigation planning.
- Section 5:** Capability Assessment and Mitigation Strategy: A summary and description of the existing plans, programs and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. The mitigation strategy portion of this



section provides information regarding the mitigation goals and objectives in response to priority hazards of concern and the process by which Cape May County and local mitigation strategies have been developed or updated.

**Section 7:** Plan Maintenance Procedures: System established to continue to monitor, evaluate, maintain, and update the HMP.

Volume II of this plan includes the following sections:

**Section 8:** Planning Partnership: Description of the planning partnership, their responsibilities, and description of jurisdictional annexes.

**Section 9:** Jurisdictional Annexes: Jurisdiction-specific annexes for Cape May County and each participating jurisdiction containing their hazards of concern, hazard ranking, capability assessment, mitigation actions, action prioritization specific only to Cape May County or that jurisdiction, progress on prior mitigation activities (as applicable), and a discussion of prior local hazard mitigation plan integration into local planning processes.

Appendices include the following:

**Appendix A:** Plan Adoption: Resolutions from the County and each jurisdiction included as each formally adopts the HMP update.

**Appendix B:** Participation Documentation: A matrix to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided to the HMP update, as well as Letters of Intent to Participate described in Section 2 (Planning Process), annex sign-off sheets discussed in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) and additional worksheets submitted during workshops conducted throughout the planning process.

**Appendix C:** Meeting Documentation: Agendas, attendance sheets, minutes, and other documentation (as available and applicable) of planning meetings convened during the development of the plan.

**Appendix D:** Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation: Documentation of the public and stakeholder outreach effort including webpages, informational materials, public and stakeholder meetings and presentations, surveys, and other methods used to receive and incorporate public and stakeholder comment and input to the plan process.

**Appendix E:** Risk Assessment Supplementary Data: Expanded explanation of community lifelines; critical facility storm surge exposure results by municipality; and the previous hazard events from the 2016 HMP.

**Appendix F:** Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Data: Documentation of the broad range of actions identified during the mitigation process; types of mitigation actions; the mitigation catalog developed using jurisdiction input and potential mitigation funding sources.

**Appendix G:** CRS Resources

**Appendix H:** Plan Maintenance Tools: Examples of plan review tools and templates available to support annual plan review.

**Appendix I:** Linkage Procedures: Procedures for non-participating local governments to "link" to the plan within the period of performance to gain eligibility for programs under the DMA 2000.



**Appendix J:** Critical Facilities: Includes a full list of critical facilities identified for the update of the HMP. Due to the sensitive nature of the information, critical facility details have been redacted.

## 1.11 THE UPDATED PLAN – WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

Both the planning process and the 2021 HMP have been enhanced for this update. An increased effort to actively engage stakeholders and the public was a focus of the update, as well as the continued education of the Planning Partnership of mitigation and available grant funding opportunities. The mitigation strategy was updated to only contain detailed actions that are considered priority to each jurisdiction (i.e., quality not quantity). Further, the sections in the 2021 HMP have been realigned to increase the readability of the plan. The following summarizes process and plan changes that differ from the 2016 process and HMP:

- Section 5 (Risk Assessment) has been streamlined and updated.
  - Two new hazards of concern, Disease Outbreak and Drought, were added to the plan.
  - The updated plan is based on new inventory data and hazard data.
  - The topic of FEMA lifelines is included. All jurisdictions identified critical facilities considered lifelines in accordance with FEMA’s community lifeline definition.
  - The flood hazard was expanded to include urban flooding or flooding outside of the floodplain. The Planning Partnership identified locations of urban flooding which was developed into a spatial layer to inform the mitigation strategy.
  - The 2015 preliminary DFIRMs for Cape May County used in the 2016 HMP were used to compare changes in flood hazard risk area and building exposure to the most current 2017 effective DFIRMs used in the HMP update.
  - The hazard ranking methodology was expanded to include adaptive capacity and climate change.
- Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) has an expanded capability assessment to include additional planning mechanisms in New Jersey as well as information regarding plan integration in the Planning, Legal and Regulatory table.
- The jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 have been enhanced to include the following:
  - Identification of the NFIP Floodplain Administrator as part of the hazard mitigation planning team.
  - Identification of municipal staff who supported the annex update.
  - Expanded capability assessment including the identification of additional administrative and technical capabilities and catalog of adaptive capacity for each hazard of concern for each jurisdiction.
  - Expansion of the critical facility and lifeline flood hazard exposure table to include a mitigation action, if appropriate.
  - A user-friendly presentation of the hazard ranking results.
  - A revised 2016 previous mitigation strategy status table to more clearly identify if the action is to be included in the 2021 HMP update.
  - An increased focus on actionable projects has been applied; removing actions that are ongoing capabilities and focusing on high-ranked hazards.
  - A more detailed proposed mitigation action table that now specifies the problem statement and the proposed solution (mitigation action). The more detailed mitigation strategy is also reflected in the mitigation action worksheets that also include additional details.
  - A table that summarizes the actions across the ranked hazards and their mitigation action types.
  - Individuals that contributed to the annex are specifically listed at the end of the section.
  - Mitigation action worksheets have only been developed for FEMA-eligible projects, per NJOEM guidance.
- To increase public engagement, the following efforts were made:
  - All Planning Partnership meetings were made open to the public.



- Social media (Facebook) was used to inform the public of meetings and to take the citizen survey.
- A website was developed for the HMP update to provide project update, resources, links to the draft plan, and information on upcoming and previous meetings.
- Public events were attended to engage residents and business owners, and survey the mitigation actions they would like implemented in the County.
- A user-friendly tone was used to cater to the strong desire for this plan to be understandable to the general public and not overly technical. This includes limiting the hazard profile section to brief summaries and providing an increased number of graphical summaries throughout the risk assessment.
- An enhanced mitigation strategy process was utilized to develop a robust and actionable plan.
  - A mitigation toolbox, containing the 2021 goals and objectives, mitigation actions types, funding sources, and a mitigation catalog, was built to assist with mitigation action identification.
  - Utilizing the risk assessment and capability assessment results, problem statements were drafted by each municipality and used to inform the mitigation action development.
  - Actions are identified, rather than strategies. Strategies provide direction, but actions are fundable under grant programs. The identified actions are designed to meet multiple measurable objectives, so that each planning partner can measure the effectiveness of their mitigation actions.
- The plan maintenance strategy is more clearly defined to provide a roadmap for the annual monitoring of the plan.

Table 1-3 indicates the major changes between the two plans as they relate to 44 CFR planning requirements.

**Table 1-3. HMP Changes Crosswalk**

44 CFR Requirement	2016 HMP	2021 Updated HMP
<p>Requirement §201.6(b): In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval;</li> <li>(2) An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process; and</li> <li>(3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information.</li> </ol>	<p>The 2016 plan followed an outreach strategy utilizing multiple media developed and approved by the Steering Committee. This strategy involved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public participation on an oversight Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Establishment of a plan informational website.</li> <li>• Press release</li> <li>• Use of public and stakeholder information surveys.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders were identified and coordinated with throughout the process. A comprehensive review of relevant plans and programs was performed by the planning team.</p>	<p>Building upon the success of the 2016 plan, the 2021 planning effort deployed an enhanced public engagement methodology which aligned with CRS 510 to support creditable activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Planning Partnership meetings were made open to the public.</li> <li>• Social media (Facebook) was used to inform the public of meetings and to take the citizen survey.</li> <li>• A website was developed for the HMP update to provide project update, resources, links to the draft plan, and information on upcoming and previous meetings.</li> <li>• Public events were attended to engage residents and business owners, and survey the mitigation actions they would like implemented in the County.</li> </ul> <p>As with the 2016 plan, the 2021 planning process identified key stakeholders and coordinated with them throughout the process. A comprehensive review of relevant plans and programs was performed by the planning team.</p>



44 CFR Requirement	2016 HMP	2021 Updated HMP
<p>§201.6(c)(2): The plan shall include a risk assessment that provides the factual basis for activities proposed in the strategy to reduce losses from identified hazards. Local risk assessments must provide sufficient information to enable the jurisdiction to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation actions to reduce losses from identified hazards.</p>	<p>The 2016 plan included a comprehensive risk assessment of hazards of concern. Risk was defined as (probability x impact), where impact is the impact on people, property, and economy of the planning area. All planning partners ranked hazard risk as it pertains to their jurisdiction. The potential impacts of climate change are discussed for each hazard.</p>	<p>The same methodology, using new, updated data, was deployed for the 2021 plan update. Disease Outbreak and Drought were added as a new hazard of concern. The flood hazard was expanded to include urban flooding (or flooding outside of the floodplain). The hazard ranking methodology was expanded to include adaptive capacity and climate change. Jurisdiction-specific risk assessment results are summarized in Section 5 (Risk Assessment) and in each jurisdictional annex (Section 9).</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(i): [The risk assessment] shall include a] description of the ... location and extent of all-natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction. The plan shall include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events.</p>	<p>The 2016 plan presented a risk assessment of each hazard of concern. Each section included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard profile, including maps of extent and location, previous occurrences, and probability of future events.</li> <li>• Climate change impacts on future probability.</li> <li>• Impact and vulnerability on life, health, safety, general building stock, critical facilities, and economy.</li> <li>• Future growth and development.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, climate change and sea level rise was presented as a standalone hazard profile.</p>	<p>The same format, using new and updated data, was used for the 2021 plan update. Each section of the risk assessment includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard profile, including maps of extent and location, previous occurrences, and probability of future events.</li> <li>• Climate change impacts on future probability using the best available data for New Jersey.</li> <li>• Vulnerability assessment includes: impact on life, safety, and health, general building stock, critical facilities/lifelines, and the economy, as well as future changes that could impact vulnerability (population, development and climate).</li> <li>• The vulnerability assessment also includes changes in vulnerability since the 2016 plan.</li> </ul>
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment] shall include a] description of the jurisdiction’s vulnerability to the hazards described in paragraph (c)(2)(i). This description shall include an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community.</p>	<p>Vulnerability was assessed for all hazards of concern. The HAZUS-MH-MH computer model was used for the wind, earthquake, and flood hazards. These were Level 2 analyses using County data. Site-specific data on County-identified critical facilities were entered into the HAZUS-MH model. HAZUS-MH outputs were generated for other hazards by applying an estimated damage function to an asset inventory extracted from HAZUS-MH-MH.</p>	<p>A robust vulnerability assessment was conducted for the 2021 plan update, using new and updated asset and hazard data. Volume 1, Section 5.3 summarizes countywide and municipal-specific vulnerability for each hazard of concern. The jurisdictional annexes (Section 9) include a summary table of impacts on each community.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment] must also address National Flood Insurance Program insured structures that have been repetitively damaged floods.</p>	<p>A summary of NFIP insured properties including an analysis of repetitive loss property locations was included in the plan.</p>	<p>Updated NFIP statistics, as well as Write-Your-Own statistics were presented in the 2021 plan update using best available data.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(A): The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of the types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities located in the identified hazard area.</p>	<p>A complete inventory of the numbers and types of buildings exposed was generated for each hazard of concern. The Steering Committee defined “critical facilities” for the planning area, and these were inventoried by exposure. Each hazard chapter</p>	<p>Quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted using the updated hazard and inventory data as presented in Section 5 (Risk Assessment). In addition, critical facilities considered lifelines in accordance with FEMA’s definition were identified.</p>



44 CFR Requirement	2016 HMP	2021 Updated HMP
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(B): [The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of an] estimate of the potential dollar losses to vulnerable structures identified in paragraph (c)(2)(i)(A) and a description of the methodology used to prepare the estimate.</p>	<p>provides a discussion on future development trends.</p> <p>Loss estimates were generated for all hazards of concern. These were generated by HAZUS-MH-MH for the wind, earthquake, and flood hazards. For the other hazards, loss estimates were generated by applying a regionally relevant damage function to the exposed inventory. In all cases, a damage function was applied to an asset inventory. The asset inventory was the same for all hazards and was generated in HAZUS-MH.</p>	<p>Quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted using the updated hazard and inventory data as presented in Section 5 (Risk Assessment). Estimated potential losses are reported in both Volume 1, Section 5.3 and Volume II Section 9 for each jurisdiction.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii)(C): [The plan should describe vulnerability in terms of] providing a general description of land uses and development trends within the community so that mitigation options can be considered in future land use decisions.</p>	<p>There is a summary of anticipated development in the County profile, as well as in each individual annex.</p>	<p>In Volume I, Section 4.3, projected changes in population and development are discussed in each hazard section and how these projected changes may lead to increased vulnerability, or plans/regulations/ordinances in place to implement mitigation to protect the development.</p>
<p>§201.6(c)(3):[ The plan shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction’s blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.]</p>	<p>The 2016 plan contained goals, objectives and actions. Each planning partner identified actions that could be implemented within their capabilities. The actions were jurisdiction-specific and strove to meet multiple objectives. All objectives met multiple goals and stand alone as components of the plan. Each planning partner completed an assessment of its regulatory, technical, and financial capabilities.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee reviewed and updated the goals, and objectives and they were approved by the Planning Committee. A mitigation strategy workshop with associated tools and guidance on problem statement development was deployed to inform the identification of mitigation actions. Actions that were completed or no longer considered to be feasible were removed; and actions considered general or capabilities were moved to the capability and integration sections. The balance of the actions were carried over to the 2021 plan, and in all cases, new actions were added to the action plan.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i): [The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a] description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee identified goals, and objectives targeted specifically for this hazard mitigation plan. These planning components supported the actions identified in the plan.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee reviewed and updated goals, and objectives and they were approved by the Planning Committee. One new goal and several new objectives were identified to align with updated County and municipal mitigation priorities.</p>
<p>Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii): [The mitigation strategy shall include a] section that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure.</p>	<p>The 2016 plan included mitigation action worksheets that evaluated alternative actions considered for the final mitigation strategy.</p>	<p>For the 2021 update, a mitigation catalog (refer to Appendix F) was developed to provide a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions to be considered. A table with the analysis of mitigation actions by type and hazard was used in jurisdictional annexes to the plan. Mitigation action worksheets with an alternatives evaluation were prepared for FEMA-eligible projects.</p>



44 CFR Requirement	2016 HMP	2021 Updated HMP
Requirement: §201.6(c)(3)(ii): [The mitigation strategy] must also address the jurisdiction’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, and continued compliance with the program’s requirements, as appropriate.	All municipal planning partners that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program indicated their commitment to maintain compliance and good standing under the program.	An analysis of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties was conducted and is summarized in Section 5.4.5 (Flood) and in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes). Municipalities with repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties included an action to mitigate those properties.
Requirement: §201.6(c)(3)(iii): [The mitigation strategy shall describe] how the actions identified in section (c)(3)(ii) will be prioritized, implemented and administered by the local jurisdiction. Prioritization shall include a special emphasis on the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs.	Each recommended action was prioritized using a revised methodology based on the STAPLEE criteria was used to prioritize projects.	A revised methodology based on the STAPLEE criteria and using new and updated data was used for the 2021 plan update. The 14 criteria were used to evaluate each potential mitigation action. The evaluation included a qualitative benefits and cost review. The results of the evaluation were used to identify the actions to include in the plan and assist with the prioritization. An emphasis was placed on benefits and costs (quantified where possible and listed in the mitigation action worksheets), as well as timeline for implementation (also documented in the mitigation action worksheets for FEMA-eligible projects).
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.	The 2016 plan outlined a detailed maintenance strategy.	The 2021 plan an enhanced plan maintenance strategy. The update provides a roadmap for the annual monitoring of the plan. This includes the inclusion of a summary plan maintenance matrix that provides an overview of the planning partner responsibilities for monitoring, evaluation, and update of the plan.
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii): [The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.	The 2016 plan details recommendations for incorporating the plan into other planning mechanisms.	The 2021 plan (Section 9 [Annexes]) details recommendations for incorporating the plan into other planning mechanisms such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan</li> <li>• Emergency Response Plan</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Programs</li> <li>• Municipal Code</li> </ul>
Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.	The 2016 plan details a strategy for continuing public involvement.	The 2016 plan maintenance strategy was enhanced for the 2021 plan. In addition, the County will use a proprietary online tool to support the annual progress reporting of mitigation actions. Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) also details the continued public participation in the plan maintenance process.
Requirement §201.6(c)(5): [The local hazard mitigation plan shall include] documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the	Cape May County and all jurisdictions participated in the 2016 HMP.	The 2021 plan achieves DMA compliance for Cape May County and all jurisdictions. Resolutions for each partner adopting the plan can be found in Appendix A of this volume.



<b>44 CFR Requirement</b>	<b>2016 HMP</b>	<b>2021 Updated HMP</b>
plan (e.g., City Council, County Commissioner, Tribal Council).		

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