



SECTION 5. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

2024 HMP Changes

- In the 2019 HMP, the capability assessment section was presented as part of the mitigation strategy. For the 2024 HMP update, the capability assessment has been expanded and presented as a stand-alone section, with capabilities expanded in each jurisdictional annex as well (Volume II).

According to FEMA, a capability assessment is an inventory of a community's missions, programs, and policies and an analysis of its capacity to carry them out. Each jurisdiction has a unique set of capabilities available to accomplish mitigation and reduce long-term vulnerability to future hazard events. Capabilities include authorities, policies, programs, staff, and funding. Reviewing existing capabilities helps identify how a community currently implements mitigation to reduce losses or has the potential to implement mitigation in the future.

This assessment includes identification, review, and analysis of current federal, state, and local programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that could either facilitate or hinder mitigation.

During the original planning process, the county and all jurisdictions assessed their capabilities in the areas of planning and regulatory, administrative, and technical, and fiscal to determine the following:

- Limitations on undertaking actions
- Local and state resources available to assist in implementing mitigation actions
- Mitigation actions that are not feasible because they are currently outside the scope of capabilities
- Mitigation actions that could be challenging or infeasible due to technical, legal (regulatory), administrative, political, or fiscal limitations
- Opportunities to enhance local capabilities to support long term mitigation and risk reduction

During the 2024 plan update process, all participating jurisdictions were tasked with developing or updating their capability assessment, paying particular attention to evaluating the effectiveness of their capabilities in supporting hazard mitigation and identifying opportunities to enhance local capabilities to integrate hazard mitigation into their plans, programs, and day-to-day operations. The contracted consultant met virtually with Burlington County and each municipality to review the capability assessment from the 2019 HMP and update accordingly. In addition, the consultant reviewed plans, codes, and ordinances to enhance the information provided by the jurisdictions.

This section describes federal, state, and County capabilities available to support mitigation in Burlington County, as well as general types of municipal capabilities. Further specific information on County and municipal capabilities is presented in the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II.



5.1 PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY

Planning and regulatory capabilities are based on the implementation of ordinances, policies, local laws and state statutes, as well as plans and programs that relate to guiding and managing growth and development. Planning and regulatory capabilities refer not only to the current plans and regulations, but also to a jurisdiction's ability to change and improve those plans and regulations as needed. The following sections provide a review of planning and regulatory capabilities available within Burlington County.

5.1.1 Federal

Several national programs incentivize or support mitigation activities. These programs are a key component of hazard mitigation capabilities. The following sections discuss the administration and application of these programs in Burlington County.

National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program that was established to allow property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance against losses from flooding. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government in which the community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risks to new construction and substantial improvements in special flood hazard areas (SFHA), and the federal government makes flood insurance available within the community (FEMA 2020).

The NFIP is administered by the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) and the Mitigation Directorate, components of the FEMA. The NJDEP provides floodplain management assistance to local communities throughout the state through the NFIP Community Assistance Program. NJDEP currently carries out its responsibilities under the Community Assistance Program with its floodplain staff within the Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control (NJDEP 2023). As of October 2023, there are 2,543 flood insurance policies in force within Burlington County (National Flood Insurance Program 2023).

Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action

Since the 2019 HMP, FEMA introduced "Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action" to provide more modern, individualized, and equitable flood insurance rates by considering specific characteristics of each insured building. The new rating methodology considers frequency of flooding, multiple flood types, proximity to flood sources, and building characteristics such as first floor heights and costs to rebuilt. The update was rolled out from October 2021 through April 2022, and was fully implemented as of April 1, 2023 (FEMA 2022). According to a July 10, 2023, article by NJ Spotlight News, 12,000 NFIP flood insurance policies in the State of New Jersey have been dropped since Risk Rating 2.0 became effective. The drop in flood insurance coverage has been attributed to rising flood insurance costs based on Risk Rating 2.0's new flood insurance calculations (NJ Spotlight News 2023). Homeowners that elect to drop NFIP insurance policies will no longer have access to Flood Mitigation Assistance funding for future mitigation



efforts. At the time of this HMP update, it is difficult to determine what the aggregate cost increase through Risk Rating 2.0 will be on post-mitigation properties.

Across the country, officials are finding it to be increasingly difficult to communicate the benefits of mitigation to some property owners where insurance rates are likely to stay high even after mitigation due to factors such as proximity to flood sources and frequency of flooding. Continued shifts in flood insurance costs and, coverage, impacts of mitigation for flood prone properties, and potential updates to Risk Rating 2.0 will be monitored by Burlington County throughout the period of performance of the 2024 HMP.

Community Rating System

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program within the NFIP that encourages floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. For participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5 percent. For example, a Class 1 community would receive a 45 percent premium discount, and a Class 9 community would receive a 5 percent discount. Class 10 communities are those that do not participate in the CRS; they receive no discount. CRS activities can help to save lives and reduce property damage. Communities participating in the CRS represent a significant portion of the nation's flood risk; over 66 percent of the NFIP's policy base is located in these communities. As of April 2023, two municipalities in Burlington County participate in the CRS program as Class 7 communities: the Borough of Palmyra and the City of Burlington (FEMA 2023).

Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning

FEMA works with federal, state, tribal, and local partners across the nation to identify flood risk and promote informed planning and development practices to help reduce that risk through the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (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.

According to the Risk MAP Progress interactive map available online at the time of this plan update, there are numerous active Risk MAP projects taking place throughout New Jersey (FEMA n.d.). FEMA coordinates and works directly with municipal floodplain managers during the Risk MAP project process. The State NFIP Coordinator is kept apprised of project activities and consults as needed.

Since 2006, the NJDEP and FEMA have maintained a Cooperating Technical Partnership Agreement (CTP) to perform map production together to build the next generation of FEMA and state flood mapping. New Jersey will continue to take the lead in prioritizing projects, coordinating available data sources, conducting outreach, and all essential components of data production and map adoption. Moving forward, NJDEP will be developing new floodplain data, producing digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and post-preliminary processing (NJDEP Bureau of Flood Engineering 2023).



New Jersey will integrate its mapping program with the FEMA program. This integration hinges on creating FEMA FIRMs for New Jersey, which delineate the New Jersey Flood Hazard Area Design Flood (NJFHADF) on the mapping and plots the NJFHADF water levels on the stream profiles, the state’s regulatory standard. The NJFHADF is based on the 100-year flood discharge plus 25 percent. The state is obligated to compare the state flood elevations and floodway with the FEMA data for higher flood levels and wider floodways. By including the NJFHADF on the FIRM, the state would be able to use the FEMA FIRMs as the single source for both federal and state floodplain management, freeing up staff resources and reducing errors (NJDEP Bureau of Flood Engineering 2023).

Summary

Table 5-1 summarizes the planning and regulatory capabilities available to Burlington County at the federal level.

Table 5-1. Federal Planning and Regulatory Capabilities in Burlington County

Agency, Program, or Regulation		Details
Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) Public Law 106-390	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All natural hazards
<p>The DMA is the current federal legislation addressing hazard mitigation planning. DMA 2000 provides an opportunity for states, tribes, and local governments to take a new and revitalized approach to mitigation planning. DMA 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act) by repealing the previous mitigation planning provisions (Section 409) and replacing them with a new set of mitigation plan requirements (Section 322). This new section emphasizes the need for state, tribal, and local entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts. It emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. It specifically addresses planning at the local level, requiring plans to be in place before Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funds are available to communities. HMPs designed to meet the requirements of DMA will remain eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds. This plan is designed to meet the requirements of DMA, improving eligibility for future hazard mitigation funds.</p> <p>The law sets forth a more granular review of mitigation planning. Once approved, the applicant is eligible to apply for federal funds for mitigation of hazards. The rules provide detailed guidance on what applicants should include in a plan. The NJOEM Mitigation Unit is the lead agency within New Jersey to promote mitigation planning.</p>		
Code of Federal Regulations, Local Mitigation Plans (44 CFR PART 201.6)	Responsible Agency	FEMA
	Hazard	All natural hazards
<p>FEMA has prepared policies and procedures for FEMA’s review and approval of state and local hazard mitigation plans.</p> <p>The local mitigation plan is the representation of the jurisdiction’s commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards. Local plans will also serve as the basis for the State to provide technical assistance and to prioritize project funding.</p>		
Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act)	Responsible Agency	FEMA
	Hazard	All natural hazards



Agency, Program, or Regulation	Details	
<p>The Stafford Act provides an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the federal government to state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage that results from disasters. The provisions of the Act include (1) revising and broadening the scope of existing disaster relief programs; (2) encouraging the development of comprehensive disaster preparedness and assistance plans, programs, capabilities, and organizations by state and local governments; (3) achieving greater coordination and responsiveness of disaster preparedness and relief programs; (4) encouraging individuals, and state and local governments to protect themselves by obtaining insurance coverage to supplement or replace governmental assistance; (5) encouraging hazard mitigation measures to reduce losses from disasters, including development of land-use and construction regulations; and (6) providing federal assistance programs for both public and private losses sustained in disasters.</p> <p>The NJOEM Mitigation Unit is the lead agency that reviews, submits, and administers federal funding to programs that mitigate hazards in New Jersey. These programs help fund projects that are cost beneficial to help reduce damage from hazards.</p>		
<p>Disaster Recovery Reform Act</p>	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>FEMA</p>
	<p>Hazard:</p>	<p>All natural hazards</p>
<p>This bill amends the Stafford Act to modify the Pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to permit the use of technical and financial assistance to establish and carry out enforcement activities to implement codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs; direct the President to establish a National Public Infrastructure Pre-disaster Mitigation Fund; authorize the President’s contribution to the cost of hazard mitigation measures to be used to increase resilience in any area affected by a major disaster; and direct FEMA to issue a final rulemaking that defines the terms “resilient” and “resiliency.”</p> <p>The NJOEM Mitigation Unit is the lead agency that reviews, submits, and administers federal funding to programs that mitigate hazards in New Jersey. These programs help fund projects that are cost beneficial to help reduce damage from hazards.</p>		
<p>Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8)</p>	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>Department of Homeland Security and New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness</p>
	<p>Hazard:</p>	<p>All hazards</p>
<p>PPD-8 requires that a Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) be developed for a state to remain eligible for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) funding.</p> <p>The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness is the lead agency in preparing the state’s THIRA.</p>		
<p>National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)</p>	<p>Responsible Agency:</p>	<p>FEMA</p>
	<p>Hazard</p>	<p>Flood</p>
<p>The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for state and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages. Full compliance and good standing under the NFIP are application prerequisites for all FEMA grant programs for which participating jurisdictions are eligible under this plan.</p>		
<p>Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004</p>	<p>Responsible Agency</p>	<p>FEMA, NJDEP and NJOEM at state level.</p>
	<p>Hazard</p>	<p>Flood</p>
<p>The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 amended the 1994 National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1968 to reduce losses to properties for which repetitive flood insurance claim payments have been made. This Act established a program for mitigation of severe repetitive loss properties and gave FEMA the authority to fund mitigation activities for individual repetitive loss claims properties. The Act provides additional coverage for compliance with land-use and control measures.</p> <p>The NJDEP Flood Control Division is the lead coordinator of New Jersey’s NFIP efforts. NJOEM Mitigation Unit is the agency working with New Jersey communities with severe repetitive loss properties. This statute helps New Jersey residents with affordable flood insurance and gives additional tools to the states and communities to mitigate severe repetitive loss properties.</p>		



Agency, Program, or Regulation		Details
Biggert Waters National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>Under the Biggert-Waters National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, long-term changes to the National Flood Insurance Program have been adopted that have increased rates overall to reflect the flood risk more accurately to buildings in flood hazard areas. This has significantly influenced construction and reconstruction within flood hazard areas.</p> <p>Property owners are encouraged to consider long-term insurance costs when undertaking reconstruction or elevation of damaged buildings. An investment to reconstruct the lowest floor of a building an additional foot or two higher may translate into significant future flood insurance savings.</p>		
Homeowner's Flood Insurance Affordability Act	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>This 2014 law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, which was enacted in 2012, and makes additional program changes to other aspects of the program not covered by that Act. The new law lowers the recent rate increases on some policies, prevents some future rate increases, and implements a surcharge on all policyholders. The Act also repeals certain rate increases that have already gone into effect and provides for refunds to those policyholders. The Act also authorizes additional resources for the National Academy of Sciences to complete the affordability study.</p> <p>FEMA, Congress, private insurance companies, and other stakeholders work together to implement these Congressionally mandated reforms and to work toward shared goals of helping families maintain affordable flood insurance, ensuring the financial stability of the NFIP, and reducing the risks and consequences of flooding nationwide.</p>		
NFIP Community Rating System (CRS)	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>As an additional component of the NFIP, CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses, (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating, and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. Municipalities could expect significant cost savings on premiums if enrolled in the CRS program. CRS premium discounts on flood insurance range from 5 percent for Class 9 communities up to 45 percent for Class 1 communities.</p> <p>As of April 2023, 2 communities in Burlington County participate in the CRS program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough of Palmyra, Class 7 • City of Burlington, Class 7 		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Dam Safety Program	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Dam Failure
<p>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for safety inspections of federal and non-federal dams in the United States that meet the size and storage limitations specified in the National Dam Safety Act. USACE has inventoried dams and has surveyed each state and federal agency's capabilities, practices, and regulations regarding design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the dams. USACE has also developed guidelines for inspection and evaluation of dam safety (USACE 1997).</p>		
Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14, Long-Term Recovery Planning	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards



Agency, Program, or Regulation		Details
<p>Long-Term Community Recovery provides a mechanism for coordinating federal support to state, tribal, regional, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to enable community recovery from the long-term consequences of extraordinary disasters. ESF #14 accomplishes this by identifying and facilitating availability and use of sources of recovery funding and providing technical assistance (such as impact analyses) for community recovery and recovery planning (FEMA 2008).</p> <p>ESF #14 may be activated for incidents that require a coordinated federal response to address significant long-term impacts (e.g., impacts on housing, government operations, agriculture, businesses, employment, community infrastructure, the environment, human health, and social services) to foster sustainable recovery (FEMA 2008).</p> <p>Actions coordinated under ESF #14 include pre-incident planning and coordination immediately prior to an incident, post-event planning, and operations (FEMA 2008).</p> <p>Through ESF 14, NJOEM works with the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to have a plan for long-term planning and recovery prior to a disaster or emergency. One of the areas of planning includes mitigation. This coordination allows for another statewide plan to incorporate mitigation principles and planning.</p>		
Post-Hurricane Sandy Transportation Resilience Study of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut	Responsible Agency:	Federal Highway Administration
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>This study was part of a series of research projects funded by FHWA with a goal of mainstreaming the consideration of climate vulnerability and risk in transportation decision making. The study was intended to inform the collective understanding of how to integrate climate resilience at multiple levels: in planning, during project development, and as part of operations and maintenance strategies, including asset management and emergency management.</p>		

5.1.2 State

Table 5-2 summarizes the planning and regulatory capabilities available to Burlington County at the state level.

Table 5-2. State Planning and Regulatory Capabilities in Burlington County

Capability		Details
Municipal Land Use Law	Responsible Agency:	State of New Jersey
	Hazard	All hazards
<p>The State of New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, MLUL (L.1975, c. 291, s. 1, effective August 1, 1976) is the legislative foundation for the land use process in the State of New Jersey, including decisions by planning boards and zoning boards of adjustment. It defines the powers and responsibilities of boards and is essential to their functions and decisions. It also provides the required components of a municipal master plan.</p> <p>Every municipal agency must adopt and can amend reasonable rules and regulations consistent with this act or with any applicable ordinance for the administration of its functions, powers, and duties. These plans help jurisdictions review their land use plans and policies with public participation.</p> <p>In 2017 the MLUL was amended to add a new subparagraph (f) to NJSA (New Jersey Statutes Annotated) 40-55D-28.b.(2), which requires that any land use plan element adopted after the amendment include a statement of strategy concerning smart growth, storm resiliency, and environmental sustainability. This section of the MLUL was further amended on February 4, 2021, to require that any land use plan element of the master plan adopted or amended after that date must include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment, which shall include an analysis of current and future threats to and vulnerabilities of the municipality associated with climate change-related hazards, including many of those identified in this HMP update. The MLUL requires that each municipality prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 10 years.</p>		



Capability	Details	
New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act (NJSA 4:24)	Responsible Agency:	Soil Conservation Districts
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>New Jersey has 15 soil conservation districts, following county boundaries, that implement the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act (NJSA 4:24), which governs certain aspects of new development.</p>		
Uniform Construction Code (UCC)	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Building codes mandate best practices and technology, largely designed to reduce or prevent damage when structures are under stress. The UCC adopts up-to-date building codes as its Building Subcode and One- and Two-Family Subcode. These Subcodes contain requirements that address construction in both A and V flood zones. Also, all new construction is required to comply with the UCC for flood zone construction.</p> <p>New Jersey has enacted legislation directing the Department of Community Affairs to adopt a radon hazard code or revise the state building code to establish “adequate and appropriate standards to ensure that schools and residential buildings within tier one areas [as defined by the state]... are constructed in a manner that minimizes radon gas and radon progeny entry and facilitates any subsequent remediation that might prove necessary.” See N.J. Stat. Ann. 52:27D-123a.</p> <p>The Department adopted a radon hazard sub-code that does not reference existing model standards or guidance but sets forth the basic requirements for a passive sub-slab or sub-membrane depressurization system. See N.J. Admin. Code 5:23-10.4. The radon control standards and procedures apply to new residential construction (and school construction) in “tier one” areas, as defined by the state, and Appendix 10-A of the sub-code lists the specific municipalities that are designated as tier one areas.</p> <p>All of incorporated New Jersey has adopted standardized building codes (IBC 2021 New Jersey edition (as of 2022)).</p>		
Growth Management Policy	Responsible Agency:	State Planning Commission
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>Land preservation and recreation comprise one of the cornerstones of New Jersey’s smart growth policy. The New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides statewide policy direction to the state, local governments, and conservation organizations in the preservation of open space and the provision of public recreation opportunities.</p> <p>The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (The State Plan) was prepared and adopted by the State Planning Commission according to the requirements of the State Planning Act of 1985 as amended (NJSA 52:18A-196 et seq.) to serve as an instrument of state policy to guide state agencies and local government in the exercise of governmental powers regarding planning, infrastructure investment and other public actions and initiatives that affect and support economic growth and development in the state.</p> <p>The State Planning Act has enhanced the traditionally limited role of county land-use planning and control. The Act also provides tools for municipalities when preparing their master land use plans and better opportunity for a comprehensive approach to planning so not to harm or be in conflict with neighboring municipalities’ plans.</p> <p>New Jersey’s smart growth is growth that serves the environment, the economy, and the community equally. It attempts to concentrate development into already-existing communities when possible, and it addresses the inherent interconnections between environmental protection, social equity, public health, and economic sustainability.</p>		



Capability		Details
Flood Hazard Area Control Act (NJSA 58:16A-52) Flood Hazard Area Control Regulation (N.J.A.C. 7:13)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>New Jersey enacted this law to delineate and mark flood hazard areas; authorize NJDEP to adopt land-use regulations for the flood hazard area; control stream encroachments; coordinate effectively the development, dissemination, and use of information on floods and flood damage that may be available; authorize the delegation of certain administrative and enforcement functions to county governing bodies; and integrate the flood control activities of the municipal, county, state, and federal governments. The intent of the regulations is to minimize potential on- and off-site damage to public or private property caused by development that, at times of flood, subject structures to flooding and increase flood heights and/or velocities both upstream and downstream. These rules are intended to safeguard the public from the dangers and damage caused by materials being swept onto nearby or downstream lands, to protect and enhance the public's health and welfare by minimizing the degradation of water quality from point and non-point pollution sources, and to protect wildlife and fisheries by preserving and enhancing water quality and the environment associated with the floodplain and the watercourses that create them.</p>		
Inland Flood Protection Rule	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>The Inland Flood Protection Rule became effective July 17, 2023. The Rule ensures that areas at most significant risk are better defined and that new and reconstructed assets in these areas are designed and constructed using the best available climate-informed precipitation data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new design flood elevation (DFE) raises fluvial (non-tidal) flood elevation mapped by NJDEP by 2 feet. • The Rule requires use of future projected precipitation when calculating flood elevations. • The Rule ensures that NJDEP's Flood Hazard Area permits conform to New Jersey Uniform Construction Code standards and meet or exceed minimum FEMA National Flood Insurance Program requirements. • The Rule requires stormwater best management practices to be designed to manage runoff for both today's storms and future storms. • The Rule removes use of rational and modified rational methods for stormwater calculations (NJDEP 2023). 		
Wetlands Act of 1970 (NJSA 13:9A – 1 to 10) Coastal Zone Management Rules Program (N.J.A.C.7:7E) Coastal Zone Management Adopted Amendment (N.J.A.C. 7:7-16.9)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>In 1970, the New Jersey Legislature declared that one of the most vital and productive areas of the state's natural world is the area between the sea and the land known as the "estuarine zone." This area protects the land from the force of the sea, moderates the weather, provides a home for waterfowl, fish, and shellfish, and assists in absorbing sewage discharge by the rivers of the land. It is necessary to preserve the ecological balance of this area and prevent its further deterioration and destruction by regulating dredging, filling, removing, or otherwise altering or polluting these areas.</p>		
Coastal Zone Management Rules Program (N.J.A.C.7:7E) Coastal Zone Management Adopted Amendment (N.J.A.C. 7:7-16.9)	Responsible Agency:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>Coastal Zone Management (CZM) rules mandate the use and development of coastal resources, to be used primarily by the Land Use Regulation Program in the Department in reviewing permit applications under the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA), NJSA 13:19-1 et seq. (as amended to July 19, 1993); Wetlands Act of 1970, NJSA 13:9A-1 et seq.; Waterfront Development Law, NJSA 12:5-3; Water Quality Certification (401 of the Federal Clean Water Act); and Federal Consistency Determinations (307 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act). The rules also provide a basis for recommendations by the Program to the Tidelands Resource Council on applications for riparian grants, leases, and licenses. The most recent amendment, effective as of September 18, 2017, creates rules that update several provisions in the Department's requirements to provide public access to tidal waterways and their shores.</p>		



Capability		Details
Freshwater Wetland Protection Act (NJSA 13: B:1) Freshwater Wetland Protection Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7A)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>New Jersey enacted this law to support development and enhancement of state and local wetland protection programs. Projects must clearly demonstrate a direct link to increasing the state’s ability to protect wetland resources. Grants are federally funded and administered by the NJDEP. The associated implementing regulations support the New Jersey freshwater wetlands program. The Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act was last amended in 2016 and the Freshwater Wetland Protection Rules were last amended April 16, 2018.</p>		
Waterfront Development Statute (NJSA 12:5-1) Coastal Permit Program (N.J.A.C. 7:7)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>This law sets forth the requirements of filling or dredging of, or placement or construction of structures, pilings, or other obstructions in any tidal waterway or in certain upland areas adjacent to tidal waterways outside the area regulated under Coastal Area Facility Review Act. These requirements are fully explained in N.J.A.C.7:7-2.3. The implementing rules establish the procedures by which the NJDEP will review permit applications and appeals from permit decisions under the Waterfront Development Law.</p>		
Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) (NJSA 13:19)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>CAFRA applies to projects near coastal waters in the southern part of the state. The law divides the CAFRA area into sections or zones and regulates different types of development in each zone. Generally, the closer it is to the water, the more likely a development will be regulated. The CAFRA law regulates almost all activities involved in residential, commercial, or industrial development, including construction, relocation, and enlargement of buildings or structures and all related work, such as excavation, grading, shore protection structures, and site preparation. This law is implemented through New Jersey’s CZM Rules N.J.A.C. 7:7E-1.1 et seq.</p> <p>Permits issued require construction in accordance with the NFIP requirements in A and V zones. Effective July 1994, the CAFRA jurisdiction was expanded to include every single-family residential development within 150 feet of the mean high-water line, beach, or dune. The threshold for regulation over commercial development was lowered to capture smaller commercial developments, and NJDEP gained authority over any disturbance to a beach or dune area or the placement of a structure in these areas. Effective November 5, 2007, the CZM rules incorporate the more stringent Flood Hazard Area Control Act standards, including protection of riparian buffers along tidal water courses that can be 50, 150, and 300 feet along environmentally sensitive (Category-1) waterways.</p> <p>In Burlington County, Bass River Township is the only municipality subject to CAFRA.</p>		
Safe Dam Act of 1981 N.J.A.C.7:24A	Responsible Agency	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Dam Failure
<p>No municipality, corporation, or person shall (without the consent of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection) build any reservoir or construct any dam; or repair, alter, or improve existing dams on any river or stream in this state or between this state and any other state that will raise the waters of the river or stream more than 5 feet above its usual mean low water height.</p>		
Pinelands Protection Act (NJSA 13: 18A-30 to 49)	Responsible Agency:	Pinelands Commission
	Hazard:	Flood, Wildfire
<p>In 1979 the New Jersey Legislature declared the protection of the New Jersey Pinelands and established a regional planning and management commission empowered to prepare and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the pinelands area.</p> <p>Management programs and minimum standards have been established under the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan that are intended to provide protection of wetlands, vegetation, fish and wildlife, water quality management, and forest fire management. Flood and wildfire mitigation is a secondary benefit of the development constraints placed on environmentally sensitive areas.</p>		



Capability		Details
Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (N.J.A.C.7:50)	Responsible Agency:	Pinelands Commission
	Hazard:	Flood, Wildfire
<p>The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan implements the regulations and standards designed to promote orderly development of the Pinelands to preserve and protect the significant and unique natural, ecological, agricultural, archaeological, historical, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources of the Pinelands. The Pinelands Commission bears the ultimate responsibility for implementing and enforcing the provisions of the Pinelands Protection Act and this Plan.</p> <p>Under the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, management programs and minimum standards have been established to provide for the protection of wetlands, vegetation, fish and wildlife, water quality management, and forest fire management. Flood and wildfire mitigation is a secondary benefit of the development constraints placed on environmentally sensitive areas.</p>		
Tidelands Act (NJSA 12:3)	Responsible Agency:	Tidelands Resource Council
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>Tidelands, also known as "riparian lands," are lands now or formerly flowed by the tide of a natural waterway. This includes lands that were previously flowed by the tide but have been filled and are no longer flowed by the tide. These lands are owned by the people of the State of New Jersey. Individuals must first get permission from the state to use these lands, in the form of a tidelands license, lease, or grant, and must pay for this use.</p> <p>The management of tidelands in New Jersey is overseen by the Tidelands Resource Council, a board of 12 Governor-appointed volunteers, along with NJDEP staff at the Bureau of Tidelands Management. Grants, licenses, and leases are issued by the Tidelands Resource Council, which makes all ultimate decisions with regard to tidelands.</p>		
State Planning Act (NJSA § 52:18A-196 et seq)	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey State Planning Commission (SPC)
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The State Planning Act (1985) created the New Jersey State Planning Commission (SPC) and the Office of State Planning (now the Office for Planning Advocacy) as staff to the SPC. Duties of the SPC are to prepare and adopt a State Plan to provide a coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive plan for the growth, development, renewal, and conservation of the state and its regions; to prepare a long-term Infrastructure Needs Assessment, which shall provide information on present and prospective conditions, needs and costs with regard to state, county and municipal capital facilities, including water, sewerage, transportation, solid waste, drainage, flood protection, shore protection, and related capital facilities; to develop and promote procedures to facilitate cooperation and coordination among state agencies and local governments; to provide technical assistance to local governments; to periodically review state and local government planning procedures and relationships; and to review any bill introduced in either house of the Legislature which appropriates funds for a capital project.</p>		
Stormwater Management Rules (N.J.A.C.7:8)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>These rules set forth the required components of regional and municipal stormwater management plans and establish the stormwater management design and performance standards for new proposed development. The design and performance standards for new development include groundwater recharge, runoff quantity controls, runoff quality controls, and buffers around Category 1 waters.</p> <p>New Jersey's Stormwater Management rules are implemented by NJDEP through the review of permits issued by the Division of Land Use Regulation (Flood Hazard, Freshwater Wetlands, CAFRA, Waterfront Development, and Coastal Wetlands). The Stormwater Management rules are also implemented by local authorities through the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) and the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS). Per the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the RSIS are applicable to any residential application that goes before a local board. Through the RSIS, the stormwater rules are activated whenever a municipality requires the control of runoff from a site that is the subject of a site or subdivision application.</p>		



Capability		Details
New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Stormwater Regulation Program (NJPDES) Rules (N.J.A.C.7:14A).	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>The NJPDES Stormwater Rules are intended to address and reduce pollutants associated with existing stormwater runoff. The NJPDES Rules govern the issuance of permits to entities that own or operate small, separate municipal storm sewer systems. The permit program establishes the Statewide Basic Requirements that must be implemented to reduce nonpoint source pollutant loads from these sources. The Statewide Basic Requirements include measures such as the adoption of ordinances (litter control, pet waste, wildlife feeding, proper waste disposal, etc.); the development of a municipal stormwater management plan and implementing ordinances; requiring certain maintenance activities (such as street sweeping and catch basin cleaning); implementing solids and floatables control; locating discharge points and stenciling catch basins; and a public education component.</p> <p>Guidance for the development of Municipal Mitigation Plans was developed and made available in February 2004. This has been effective in guiding the community for stormwater runoff.</p> <p>The program was developed in response to the EPA Phase II rules published in December 1999. The department issued final stormwater rules on February 2, 2004, and four NJPDES general permits authorizing stormwater discharges from Tier A and Tier B municipalities as well as public complexes and highway agencies that discharge stormwater from municipal separate storm sewers. There are 462 Tier A municipalities and 100 Tier B municipalities. The general permits address stormwater quality issues related to new development, redevelopment, and existing development by requiring municipalities to implement several Statewide Basic Requirements. All municipalities have a local stormwater coordinator, and the department has case managers assigned to each municipality for compliance assistance (see N.J.A.C. 7:22 below). Long-term water quality trends in rivers and streams indicate dramatic improvement over the past 30 years, likely the result of elimination or minimization of point sources, upgrades of wastewater treatment plants and natural attenuation of pollutants.</p> <p>Municipal stormwater management renewal permits have changed for Tier A and Tier B municipalities, effective as of January 1, 2018. The Tier A and Tier B Municipal Stormwater General Permits authorize the discharge of stormwater from small municipal separate storm sewers. The Tier A permit addresses stormwater quality issues related to both new and existing development. The Tier B permit focuses on new development and redevelopment projects and public education.</p>		
Construction Permits (NJSA 13: 1D-29 to 34)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>The law mandates that NJDEP make timely decisions on construction permit applications to ensure adequate public notice of procedures and to continue effective administration of the substantive provisions of other laws. This law ensures that NJDEP issues permits in a timely manner so as not to delay necessary construction projects. Historical records indicate NJDEP's conformance with this law. This does not apply to freshwater wetland rules, only coastal and flood hazard regulations. As part of the effort to recover from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, this law was amended March 25, 2013, in conjunction with the amendment of R.2013d to the Flood Hazard Area Control Act.</p>		
New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1961	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>The Legislature enacted the New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act to achieve, in partnership with others, a system of interconnected open spaces, whose protection will preserve and enhance New Jersey's natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment. On November 3, 1998, New Jersey voters approved a referendum that created a stable source of funding for open space, farmland, and historic preservation and recreation development. On June 30, 1999, the Garden State Preservation Trust Act was signed into law. The law establishes, for the first time in history, a stable source of funding for preservation efforts. These rules implement the Green Acres laws, governing the award of loans or matching grants, or both, to local government units for the acquisition or development of land, and 50% matching grants to nonprofits for the acquisition or development of land, for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. These rules establish project eligibility requirements, application requirements, funding award categories and criteria, matching grant and loan terms, and program administrative requirements. The rules also contain procedures for the disposal, or diversion to a use other than recreation and conservation, of those lands acquired or developed with Green Acres funding or otherwise encumbered with Green Acres restrictions.</p>		



Capability		Details
New Jersey Pinelands Development Credit Program	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Pinelands Commission
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Program is a transfer of development rights program that helps to redirect growth in the Pinelands Area from the preservation and agricultural districts to infrastructure-supported Regional Growth Areas. PDCs are development rights that are allocated to certain lands (“sending areas”) that can be transferred to increase the amount of residential development permitted on other lands (“receiving areas”). Each PDC transfers the right to build four homes and can be bought and sold in 1/4 (or 1 right) increments. Sending areas include the Preservation Area District, Agricultural Production Area, and Special Agricultural Production Area. PDCs may also be allocated to other properties that cannot be developed due to of environmental constraints. Conservation or agricultural easements are placed on the sending properties when the PDCs are transferred (New Jersey Pinelands Commission 2023).</p>		
Emergency Building Inspection Act (NJSA 52:27D-126.3)	Responsible Agency:	Department of Community Affairs
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Enacted on January 17, 2007, this Act addresses how building code officials would be compensated if called to support damage assessment outside of their jurisdiction. The Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs established a program to deploy state and local construction code officials to assist local construction code officials and inspectors. This program has provided flexibility and redundancy to the state and local governing bodies in the deployment of essential personnel to evaluate buildings and other structures affected by a natural or human-caused disaster or emergency.</p>		
New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The purpose of this act is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of New Jersey and to aid in the prevention of damage to property during any emergency as herein defined by prescribing a course of conduct for the civilian population of the state during such emergency and by centralizing control of all civilian activities having to do with such emergency under the Governor and for that purpose to give to the Governor control over such resources of the state government and of each and every political subdivision thereof as may be necessary to cope with any condition that shall arise out of such emergency and to invest the Governor with all other power convenient or necessary to effectuate such purpose.</p> <p>Implementation is overseen by the State Department of Defense, Office of Civilian defense director. The director is appointed by the Governor. The Act is implemented through coordination and established lines of communication through the State Office of Emergency Management and county emergency management coordinators.</p>		
NJSA 38A:17-1	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Governor is authorized to enter into agreements with the governors of any of the states bordering on New Jersey for the protection in the event of emergency of any or all interstate bridges, tunnels, ferries, and other communications facilities.</p> <p>The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) is responsible for the implementation of the Governor’s directive to assist emergency response counterparts in bordering states. NJOEM manages inter-state assistance through delineated lines of communication and standard operating procedures.</p>		



Capability		Details
Forest Fire Prevention and Control Act (NJSA 13:9-44 to 44.10)	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Forest Fire Service
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>The Forest Fire Service is responsible for determining wildfire hazards; removing or overseeing removal of brush, undergrowth, or other material that contributes to wildfire hazards; maintaining or overseeing maintenance of firebreaks; setting backfires; plowing lands; closing roads; and making regulations for burning brush. The Forest Fire Service has the authority to summon any male person between the ages of 18 and 50, who may be within the jurisdiction of the state, to assist in extinguishing fires. The Fire Service can require the use of property needed for extinguishing fires, issue permits, collect extinguishment costs and fines for violations, and direct all persons and apparatus engaged in extinguishing wildfires. The Service has the right of entry to inspect and ascertain compliance and extinguish wildfires, investigate fires to determine cause, close the woods to all unauthorized persons in an emergency, and arrest (without an official warrant) anyone violating the Forest Fire Laws.</p> <p>The laws that apply are 13:9-2, 9-23, and 9-24. Also, Forest Fire mitigation efforts are not exempted in other environmental regulations. Certain mitigation efforts sometimes occur where there is threatened and endangered habitat, even when that habitat was caused by past prescribed burning operations.</p>		
NJSA 52:14E-11 (3-10-2003) The Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Community Affairs, Fire Service Division
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>This Act allows for the Fire Division within the Department of Community Affairs to deploy fire assets to a pre-designated location in advance of a disaster or emergency as well as move assets to a pre-designated location to avoid assets being damaged. This has been used successfully in every disaster since the Act was passed.</p>		
Best Management Practices for Creating and Maintaining Wildfire Fuelbreaks in New Jersey's Wildland Urban Interface, 2011	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Forest Fire Service
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>In New Jersey, residential communities and development continue to spread into new, previously undisturbed natural areas which create a "Wildland Urban Interface" - where rural land and developed areas meet. This fragmented rural landscape has greater ignition sources and more frequent fires, which makes it difficult for the Forest Fire Service to manage land for wildfire protection and preparedness. This problem can be seen throughout New Jersey, especially with the State having such a rapidly growing population. In a study done by the American Planning Association, 46 percent of homes in New Jersey are located in the Wildland Urban Interface, which stresses the importance of the problem in New Jersey.</p>		



Capability		Details
New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Drought
<p>The Water Supply Management Act of 1981 requires NJDEP to develop and periodically update the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan to guide future water supply management. The Statewide Water Supply Plan addresses the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify surface and ground water sources, and current demands on those resources Make demand projections for duration of the plan Identify intended uses of land purchased for water supply facilities but not yet used Recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements, new construction, and interconnections Diversions for aquaculture Legislative and administrative actions to protect watershed areas Identification and purchase of land for water supply facilities Administrative actions to protect surface and ground water supplies <p>The 2023-2028 plan addresses the following issues (NJDEP n.d.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change implications for water availability and water supply demands Extending the planning period from 2040 to 2050 Environmental justice and equity issues related to water supply management Potential water supply implications of source water contamination, especially regarding emerging contaminants of concern More specific water management recommendations for stressed water resources 		
New Jersey’s Rising Seas and Changing Coastal Storms: Report of the 2019 Science and Technical Advisory Panel	Responsible Agency:	Rutgers University, NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather
<p>A Science and Technical Advisory Panel was convened by Rutgers University in 2016, culminating in a report that identified planning options for practitioners to enhance the resilience of New Jersey’s people, places, and assets to sea-level rise, coastal storms, and the resulting flood risk. The same team at Rutgers University was engaged by the NJDEP to update the 2016 report based on the most current scientific information. Similar to the inaugural work, the 2019 Panel was charged with identifying and evaluating the most current science on sea-level rise projections and changing coastal storms, considering the implications for the practices and policies of local and regional stakeholders, and providing practical options for stakeholders to incorporate science into risk-based decision processes. The 2019 Panel’s report is used by multiple state agencies including NJDEP and NJOEM for sea level rise and coastal flooding planning and project design purposes.</p>		
2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Drought, Extreme Temperature, Flood, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather, Wildfire
<p>NJDEP’s first scientific report on climate change summarizes the effects of climate change on New Jersey’s environment to inform state and local decision-makers as they seek to understand and respond to the impacts of climate change. This report identifies and presents the best available science and existing data regarding the current and anticipated environmental effects of climate change globally, nationally, and regionally (NJDEP 2023).</p>		



Capability		Details
2021 New Jersey Climate Change Resilience Strategy	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Drought, Extreme Temperature, Flood, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather, Wildfire
<p>New Jersey's first Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy provides a suite of forward-looking policy options to promote the long-term resilience of New Jersey to climate change. As a framework for policy, regulatory, and operational changes, the Resilience Strategy presents actions that New Jersey's Executive Branch can take to support the resilience of the state's communities, economy, and infrastructure. The Resilience Strategy includes 125 recommended actions across six priority areas (NJDEP 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build resilient and healthy communities • Strengthen the resilience of New Jersey's ecosystems • Promote coordinated governance • Invest in information and increase public understanding • Promote climate informed investments and innovative financing • Coastal resilience plan 		
Coordinate Efforts to Protect and Enhance Tidal Marshes	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP, NJSEA, Pinelands Commission, Highlands Council
	Hazard:	Disease Outbreak, Extreme Temperatures, Flood, Severe Weather
<p>In 2023, NJDEP, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA), the Pinelands Commission, and the Highlands Council coordinated to develop the first fully integrated statewide Wetland Program Plan, which directs current and future wetland protection, management and restoration efforts along a coordinated path to the benefit of New Jersey's wetland resources and the quality of life for future generations. An environmental justice component is woven into the program's core elements to lessen environmental and public health stressors in historically overburdened communities.</p>		
Stormwater Management: Pinelands	Responsible Agency:	Pinelands Commission
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>In December 2021, the Commission adopted new rules to better protect Pinelands resources by requiring the use of green infrastructure and other more stringent standards to manage stormwater. The new rules integrate the stormwater management standards previously adopted by the NJDEP and incorporate additional standards to provide enhanced protection to the Pinelands environment. For the first time, the Commission's rules require stormwater management for all residential development, including projects involving only one new housing unit, and stricter standards for nitrogen removal that apply to larger projects in the Pinelands area. The new rules are intended to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff, lower the potential for localized flooding, and help to maintain water levels in the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, which underlies the Pinelands, provides fresh drinking water, and supports the region's special ecosystem.</p>		
Water Supply: Water Management Rules	Responsible Agency:	Pinelands Commission
	Hazard:	Drought, Extreme Temperature
<p>After decades of study, the Pinelands Commission adopted new water management rules on Sept. 8, 2023, to strengthen protections to the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer and the Pinelands ecology as a whole, while ensuring sufficient water supply for authorized development in the growth-oriented portions of the Pinelands. The Kirkwood-Cohansey is a freshwater reservoir underlying the Pinelands, which contains an estimated 17 trillion gallons of water. Withdrawals from the aquifer can negatively impact the essential character of the Pinelands environment; therefore, the Commission set clear, quantifiable standards to address potential adverse local and regional impacts.</p>		



5.1.3 County and Regional

Table 5-3 summarizes the planning and regulatory capabilities available to Burlington County at the county and regional levels.

Table 5-3. County and Regional Planning and Regulatory Capabilities in Burlington County

Capability		Details
Connections 2050 Plan for Greater Philadelphia, September 2021	Responsible Agency:	The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and four New Jersey participating counties.
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>The Connections 2050 Plan is a nine-county greater Philadelphia regional plan (five Pennsylvania counties and four New Jersey counties, including Burlington County). The Plan is about transportation infrastructure. Infrastructure underpins the society and economy that makes much of what gets done possible. In order for the transportation network to continue to serve the region’s residents and its economy, and to find the means to invest to modernize and improve the condition of the infrastructure, coordination is necessary across public and private sectors to make the necessary safety, information, multimodal, and reliability improvements needed for the digital age. At the same time, climate change and shifting ideologies around equity are joining with the digital revolution to drive change and reshape the region’s economy, along with its environment, land use and communities, and the transportation network. A major focus going forward will be to incorporate the Plan’s strategies into projects and investments undertaken throughout the nine-county region and to ensure that decision-making is consistent with the Plan’s vision and goals. Many of the strategy recommendations in the Plan are for the region and go beyond what DVRPC and its planning partners can do on their own. As a result, it is critical to continue to coordinate and build partnerships across the public and private sectors, as well as at the individual level to help implement the Plan.</p>		
Burlington County Highway Master Plan (June 2019)	Responsible Agency:	Board of Commissioners
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>Burlington County has grown by more than 50,000 residents and 25,000 jobs since the county last prepared a Highway Master Plan in 1989. An almost equal number of people and jobs are forecasted to be added by 2040. The DVRPC was commissioned to update the Highway Master Plan to supply a vision and implementation framework for the county highway network that can sustainably complement long-term county growth patterns.</p> <p>The Burlington County Highway Master Plan is the product of a technical, collaborative planning process to supply a vision and implementation framework for the county highway network that can sustainably complement long-term county growth patterns. The report document serves as a companion to a web map, which is an online tool containing traffic management strategies for transportation deficiencies along specific county routes.</p> <p>The County Route network is vital to everyday movement in the county, and it plays an important role in interconnecting with the New Jersey Turnpike and interstate highway system. The County Route Network carries NJ Transit and BurLink bus routes, provides access to stations along the NJ Transit RiverLINE, and serves as a scenic route network in the Pinelands.</p>		
Growing Greater Philadelphia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2019	Responsible Agency:	DVRPC, Burlington County Chamber of Commerce
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>Adopted in 2019, <i>Growing Greater Philadelphia</i>, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the region’s strategy-driven framework to increase economic productivity, diversify local wealth, improve the culture for underrepresented businesses, and increase individual prosperity for the region’s residents. The CEDS covers a nine-county region—Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey. The CEDS was developed through guidance and support of the Economic Development Committee made up of public-and private-sector representatives.</p>		
2019-2022 Annual Report, Burlington County Department of Health (2023)	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Department of Health
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The Burlington County Health Department (BCHD) protects and improves the health and well-being of the community, as well as the environmental resources depended upon. The BCHD continuously surveils information across national, state, and local sources to assist in making data-driven decisions that will improve the well-being of the community and respond to emerging public health threats.</p>		



Capability		Details
Burlington County Wastewater Management Plan, 2017	Responsible Agency:	Water Resources Program
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>Wastewater management plans delineate areas that are to be served by centralized wastewater treatment facilities (“sewer service areas”) and evaluate the capability of existing treatment facilities to handle future sewage flows from within those delineated areas. The 2008 rules also require that wastewater management plans include: 1) a delineation of those areas designated to be served by individual subsurface sewage disposal systems (septic systems); 2) an analysis of whether build-out at current zoning will negatively impact groundwater quality (dilution capacity will not sustain a nitrate level of 2 parts per million); and 3) a plan to ensure the proper management of septic systems. On May 24, 2017, by Resolution No. 2017-00240, the Commissioners authorized submission of the Burlington County Wastewater Management Plan to NJDEP for adoption into the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan. The submission did not include the required septic management component of the plan.</p>		
Soil Survey of Burlington County, New Jersey	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Soils Division
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>This soil survey updates an earlier survey of Burlington County (USDA SCS 1971). It provides a digital soil survey on orthophotography and contains additional interpretive information. The soils and miscellaneous areas in Burlington County are in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the county and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept or model of how they were formed. During mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location.</p>		
Burlington County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan (2022 Update)	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Agriculture Development Board
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program exists to advance the quality of life in Burlington County by preserving a permanent agricultural land base and by maintaining a regulatory environment that supports a viable agricultural industry. The Burlington County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan (the “Plan”) was initially prepared for the purpose of creating one document that would guide Burlington County’s Farmland Preservation Program through its next 10 years (2009-2018). This Plan since became a requirement of State Agriculture Development Committee Regulations (N.J.A.C. 4:76-17.3) for funding through the Garden State Preservation Trust in 2009 and beyond. In addition, this Plan evaluated the implementation of Burlington County’s 1998 Strategic Farmland Preservation Plan and put into action county-wide agriculture viability strategies that were recommended by the Strategies for Farm Viability (December 2004) report prepared in conjunction with the Northern Burlington County Strategic Plan. This updated plan shall serve as the one document to guide the County’s Farmland Preservation Program for the next 10 years. Aside from updating as much information as possible, this Plan intentionally shifts focus from acquisition of farms for preservation toward efforts to ensure enhanced stewardship of farms that have already been preserved and to focus on the economic viability of these farms and the agricultural industry within Burlington County moving forward. Goals of the Plan include preservation of an additional 10,000 acres of farmland, stewardship of protected land and natural resources, coordination of land use planning activities, and promotion of stewardship efforts focused on mitigating the impacts of climate change on preserved farms.</p>		
Burlington County Parks and Open Space Master Plan	Responsible Agency:	Department of Resource Conservation
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The County Parks and Open Space Master Plan calls for an interconnected system of regional parks, greenways and trails that will give every resident an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the scenic landscapes in Burlington County.</p>		
Emergency Operations Plan	Responsible Agency:	County and Local Offices of Emergency Management
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>According to State Police Directive 101, each County and municipality shall prepare, adopt, and maintain an emergency operation plan that meets the requirements of the State Emergency Operations Plan guidelines and checklist. The plan describes the hazards faced by the jurisdiction as well as the jurisdiction’s capabilities, needs, demands, and emergency management structure. Burlington County and all participating municipalities have emergency operations plans.</p>		



Capability		Details
Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of New Jersey's Transportation Infrastructure (December 2011)	Responsible Agency:	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The primary objective of this project is to pilot the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) vulnerability and risk assessment Conceptual Model using New Jersey as a case study, providing feedback for the advancement of the Conceptual Model as well as a heightened awareness and understanding of the potential effects of climate change on transportation infrastructure in New Jersey. The project was led by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.</p> <p>The Conceptual Risk Assessment Model was developed to assist transportation agencies in identifying infrastructure at risk for exposure to climate change stressors and determining which threats carry the most significant consequences. It incorporates the following summary steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build an inventory of relevant assets and determine which are critical 2. Gather information on potential future climate scenarios 3. Assess the potential vulnerability and resilience of critical assets <p>A portion of the study is conducted for the Central Study Area to quantify the potential impact of climate change on the existing riverine 1 percent annual chance floodplain. The central study area covers portions of Burlington, Camden, Mercer, Salem, and Middlesex Counties. The impact of climate change on the riverine floodplain has been assessed through analysis of the effects of extreme precipitation as well as rising temperatures. In this analysis, years 2050 and 2100 were considered.</p>		
Best Management Practices for Creating and Maintaining Wildfire Fuel Breaks in New Jersey's Wildland Urban Interface, 2011	Responsible Agency:	Federal, State & County
	Hazard:	Wildfires
<p>In New Jersey, residential communities and development continue to spread into new, previously undisturbed natural areas, which creates a "Wildland Urban Interface" where rural land and developed areas meet. This fragmented rural landscape has greater ignition sources and more frequent fires, which makes it difficult for the Forest Fire Service to manage land for wildfire protection and preparedness. This problem can be seen throughout New Jersey, especially with the state having such a rapidly growing population. In a study done by the American Planning Association, 46 percent of homes in New Jersey are located in the Wildland Urban Interface, which stresses the importance of the problem in New Jersey.</p>		
New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study	Responsible Agency:	USACE, NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>The study area includes the bays and river mouths located landward of the barrier islands and Atlantic Ocean-facing coastal areas in the State of New Jersey. The report outlines a "Tentatively Selected Plan" framework, which includes three storm surge barriers, two cross-bay barriers, and the elevation of more than 18,000 structures to reduce the risk of flood damage associated with storm surge. The plan has not yet been approved by higher authorities, including Congress, and has not been funded for implementation at the federal or state level.</p> <p>Municipalities in Burlington County located along the Mullica River in the southeastern portion of the County may be impacted positively by implemented flood risk reduction projects in Great Bay.</p>		
Community Health Improvement Plan, 2014	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Department of Health
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The BCHD Community Health Improvement Plan is a summation of health disparity in the county and interventions to guide efforts to keep residents healthy. With data gathered from the Tri-County Health Assessment Collaborative, Burlington County worked with Camden County, Gloucester County, local area hospitals and health systems to conduct a comprehensive regional community health needs assessment (CHNA). From September 2012 to June 2013, the counties, partners, and residents were contributing valuable information to help identify areas of health concern to be targeted for strategic interventions.</p> <p>Using an independent contractor, the CHNA conducted a Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System-based telephone survey that collected data from a statistically representative sample population from the county. Focus groups, key-informant interviews and a secondary data profile were also conducted to bolster the data gathered from the survey. The results of these efforts led to the identification of health disparities that informed key priority areas. With the identification of these issues, BCHD collated and compiled interventions and available resources to initiate actions.</p>		



Capability		Details
Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Department of Health
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>Since 2013, the South Jersey Health Collaborative has combined efforts to better understand the factors that influence the health of people living in the South Jersey region. Member institutions have committed to conducting a collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. By working together, sharing strengths, and generating ideas, the Collaborative fosters a common understanding of the resources and challenges among the communities of South Jersey. Leveraging the collective and individual strengths across each institution, the Collaborative is working toward a healthier, more equitable South Jersey for all.</p> <p>The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment reviewed health indicators, engaged community participation through 14 focus groups with diverse populations, including youth, and solicited feedback through a key informant survey and stakeholder interviews to interpret the quantitative and qualitative information collected through a lens of health equity – working towards equitable outcomes for all people - and a focus on the social determinants of health.</p>		

5.1.4 Local

Plans are often developed at the county and regional level in the State of New Jersey, but the majority of regulations are adopted and enforced by local municipalities. New Jersey’s municipalities are granted the ability to establish and enforce various ordinances and planning requirements. New Jersey’s Home Rule Act (1917) grants municipal governments broad authorities to enact ordinances and regulations providing for public welfare and order and stands as one of the major sources of authorization for local autonomy in the state. Municipalities can leverage these powers to address local conditions that affect their residents. To ensure a minimum set of standards, New Jersey has passed laws and regulations mandating that each municipality adopt local ordinances with the same basic criteria so that jurisdictions may add additional requirements but cannot have fewer requirements than the state.

For more information on the local plans and regulations adopted by each municipality in Burlington County that contribute to risk reduction, refer to the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II.

Master Plans

The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) of 1975 (N.J.S. 40:55D-1 et seq.) grants municipalities the power to enact a master plan which has a land use element. Master plans create the foundation for the local zoning and land ordinances that govern development. These plans help jurisdictions review their land use plans and policies with public participation. The MLUL provides the required components of a municipal master plan and requires all zoning ordinances to be consistent with the master plan. The local zoning administrator as well as the volunteer planning and zoning board members have the responsibility to interpret and enforce the municipality’s master plan.

In recognition of the critical need for climate science to inform land use planning, on February 4, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law Public Law 2021, c6. This law requires municipalities to incorporate a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment into any master plan land use element adopted after the signing. The vulnerability assessments must rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the NJDEP. They must also consider environmental effects



associated with climate change, including but not limited to temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, such as coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and wind.

Zoning Ordinances

The authority to regulate land use is encompassed within the powers granted to the legislative branch of government by Article III of the New Jersey Constitution of 1947. The legislature, however, is authorized by Article IV, Section VI, paragraph 2, to delegate some of its power to municipalities. This has been done by virtue of several land use laws, including the MLUL, which grants municipalities the power to enact a master plan which has a land use element and to adopt a zoning ordinance (N.J.S. 40:55D-28 and 40:55D-62). Under the MLUL, each municipality must adopt a zoning ordinance. A property owner can request a variance from the municipality, and if granted, the owner can use the land in a way that is ordinarily not permitted by the local zoning ordinance. Zoning ordinances have three major constraints:

- Municipalities may not exercise authority in ways that conflict with provisions of the federal or state constitutions.
- Municipal authority may not be exercised in conflict with authority exercised by the county, state, or federal governments.
- Municipal authority must be exercised in strict conformity with the provisions of the MLUL.

Each municipal clerk is required to file a copy of the planning and zoning ordinances of the municipality with the county planning board (New Jersey Statute 40:27-6.10). The local zoning administrator, as well as the volunteer planning and zoning board members, have the responsibility to interpret and enforce the municipality's zoning and other land development ordinances.

Subdivisions

The MLUL dictates subdivisions in New Jersey. It allows every municipality in the state to adopt its own building and land use laws within a municipal boundary, and all property owners must abide by these laws. The board of commissioners provides for the review of all subdivisions of land within the county by the county planning board and for the approval of those subdivisions affecting county road or drainage facilities (New Jersey Statute 40:27-6.2).

Building Codes

Building codes mandate best practices and technology, largely designed to reduce or prevent damage from occurring when structures are under stress. As evidenced during recent storm events (e.g., Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy), structures built to code and sufficiently elevated suffer far less damage during hazard events. In New Jersey, municipalities are required to adopt the New Jersey State Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The MLUL permits every municipality in the state to adopt its own building regulations, and all property owners must abide by these regulations at a local level. Building regulations can be amended to be more stringent than the requirements of the UCC but not to be more lax.



The UCC Act authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs to adopt and enforce rules pertaining to construction codes and provides for the administration and enforcement of those rules throughout the state. The UCC (N.J.A.C. 5:23) contains the UCC Act and all rules issued under the Act relating to the administration and enforcement of construction regulations. The UCC is composed of four basic technical subcodes for construction: building, electrical, fire protection, and plumbing. In addition, the UCC contains technical subcodes for fuel gas installations; mechanical installations; one- and two-family dwellings; accessible (barrier free) construction; the rehabilitation of existing buildings; the construction of manufactured homes; asbestos hazard abatement; radon hazard abatement; and playground safety. In New Jersey, state-licensed, municipally employed code enforcement professionals (construction officials, subcode officials, and inspectors) are responsible for the enforcement of the UCC (NJDEP n.d.).

Stormwater Management Ordinances

Title 7 of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 7:8) establishes design and performance standards for management of stormwater that address water quality, water quantity, and recharge. All municipal stormwater control ordinances must be designed to:

- Reduce flood damage, including damage to life and property
- Minimize, to the extent practical, any increase in stormwater runoff from any new development
- Reduce soil erosion from any development or construction project
- Ensure the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts and bridges, and other instream structures
- Maintain ground water recharge
- Prevent, to the greatest extent feasible, an increase in nonpoint pollution
- Maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions, as well as for drainage
- Minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff from new and existing development in order to restore, enhance, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state, to protect public health, to safeguard fish and aquatic life and scenic and ecological values, and to enhance the domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial and other uses of water
- Protect public safety through the proper design and operation of stormwater management basins

Municipal ordinances can be amended to be more stringent than the requirements of the Stormwater Management rules but not to be more lax. The Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) allow municipalities to require stormwater runoff controls for development falling below major development to address groundwater recharge and stormwater runoff quantity, but not for water quality as provided in the RSIS at N.J.A.C. 5:21-7.1 (NJDEP 2023).

Amendments to New Jersey's stormwater management rules in 2021 include the required use of green infrastructure practices that use or mimic the natural water cycle to capture, filter, absorb, and/or re-use stormwater.



Stormwater Management Plan and Ordinances

In response to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Phase II rules published in December 1999, the NJDEP Storm Water Management Rule (N.J.A.C. 7:8, et seq.) was developed. This rule includes establishment of the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program and four NJPDES general permits authorizing stormwater discharges from Tier A and Tier B municipalities as well as public complexes and highway agencies that discharge stormwater from municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s). These rules set forth the required components of regional and municipal stormwater management plans.

A municipal stormwater management plan (MSWMP) documents the strategy of a specific municipality to address stormwater-related impacts. A plan may address an existing water quantity issue, such as localized flooding; an existing water quality issue, such as excess pollutant loading; or issues of water quantity and quality that may be generated by future development. MSWMPs provide the structure and process for addressing stormwater management in the municipality. They are required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Phase II Stormwater Permitting Rules; the mandatory elements of the plan are described in the Stormwater Management Rule (NJDEP 2004).

Emergency Operations Plans

Local municipalities in the State of New Jersey are required to have an approved emergency operations plan. The plan specifies the vulnerabilities for major emergencies the municipality may have and outlines the resources the municipality has or can access to meet the emergency. The plan is reviewed at the county and state offices of emergency management.

5.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

5.2.1 Federal

Numerous federal agencies have specific capabilities that support pre- and post-disaster hazard management in Burlington County, as described in the subsections below.

FEMA

FEMA is responsible for providing assistance before, during, and after disasters. FEMA is the federal reviewer of hazard mitigation plans and sets federal standards for local and state hazard mitigation plans.

FEMA evaluates NFIP minimum compliance through compliance audits known as Community Assistance Visits (CAV) and Community Assistance Contacts (CAC). CAVs and CACs are performed to ascertain community compliance with the NFIP, at entry into the CRS, and to maintain participation in the CRS. FEMA may conduct these with Region 2 staff, with NJDEP staff under the Compliance Assistance Program – State Support Services Element grant, or with private contractors. While there is some flexibility in how a CAV or a CAC is conducted, CAVs are generally more rigorous than CACs (NJDEP 2023).

FEMA evaluates the following key areas in a compliance audit:



- The community's flood damage prevention ordinance
- Mapping products and other ordinances used to regulate floodplain development
- Floodplain development permitting procedures
- Floodplain permit applications and other forms/records, including substantial damage and improvement determinations
- Floodplain development review and performance standards
- Floodplain development permits issued to applicants (NJDEP 2023)

National Dam Safety Program

The National Dam Safety Program is a partnership of state and federal agencies and other stakeholders that encourages individual and community responsibility for dam safety to protect people from dam failures. It is administered through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. The program improves safety and security around dams by providing grants to state dam safety agencies to assist them in improving their regulatory programs; producing educational materials for dam owners; funding research to enhance technical expertise as dams are built and rehabilitated; establishing training programs for dam safety inspectors; and creating a National Inventory of Dams (FEMA 2023).

HURREVAC

HURREVAC is the decision support tool of the National Hurricane Program, administered by FEMA, USACE, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center (HURREVAC n.d.). NJOEM has established a strong working group with all 21 county offices of emergency management (OEMs) to use HURREVAC software for tracking hurricanes. HURREVAC allows NJOEM and counties to work as a unified team, coordinating notification, communication, activations, public warning, and evacuation and sheltering efforts. By operating together, the state and the counties serve the public better by providing the same advisories and actions.

National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) monitors weather and delivers weather forecasting for New Jersey. Most of the state is serviced by the Mount Holly weather forecast office (WFO). Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union County are covered by the New York WFO. NJOEM uses conference calling with the NWS and county OEMs to share specific information and needs when severe weather is forecast. When an approaching storm warrants monitoring, NJOEM sends out e-mails with State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) status information and advice to keep all emergency managers statewide up to date with NJOEM's direction. Resources are deployed as early as possible to prepare for storm impacts. The NWS also offers various education and training programs on weather-related hazards (NWS 2023).

StormReady Program

The NWS operates the StormReady program, which encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-



cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. To be recognized by the program, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public; create a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises (NWS n.d.). In Burlington County, the Borough of Palmyra and the City of Burlington are StormReady communities. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is a government/military participant in the program.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) works to strengthen the nation's security by building and maintaining America's infrastructure and providing military facilities where service members train, work, and live. Projects include dredging, storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration in and near waterways (USACE n.d.). New Jersey is serviced by the Philadelphia and New York districts. USACE has numerous initiatives to support hazard mitigation measures, including the Silver Jackets, planning assistance, and inspections and repair of flood control structures. USACE also maintains the National Inventory of Dams.

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of gauges across New Jersey that continuously measure lake, reservoir table, stream, and tide levels. These data sets are transmitted to the USGS and made available over the internet. As project needs and funding levels change, gauges may be added or deactivated, and deactivated gauges may be reactivated (USGS 2023). The USGS provides data to NJDEP for drought determinations. The USGS also recovers high water marks following coastal flood events (USGS 2018). In the back bays and along tidal waters, the USGS manages the New Jersey Tide Telemetry System. All systems transmit telemetry continuously to the NWS, USGS, the state climatologist, NJDEP, NJOEM, all affected counties, and many municipalities. These systems were created and installed with federal assistance through NOAA and USACE.

5.2.2 State

Numerous state agencies have specific capabilities that also support pre- and post-disaster hazard management in Burlington County. Major state agencies that support hazard mitigation include:

- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJCA)
- New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
- New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
- New Jersey Department of Treasury: Division of Administration and the Emergency Response Unit
- New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness



- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)
- NJ Transit
- New Jersey Turnpike Authority

For more information about these agencies, refer to the State of New Jersey All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

5.2.3 Regional

Numerous regional organizations have capabilities that support pre- and post-disaster hazard management in Burlington County.

Delaware River Basin Commission

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) provides a unified approach to managing the Delaware River without regard to political boundaries. Commission programs include water quality protection; water supply allocation, water conservation initiatives and watershed planning; regulatory review (permitting); flow and drought management; flood loss reduction; and recreation (DRBC 2023). The signatory members of this regional body include the state governors of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and the USACE Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division. The DRBC established an Advisory Committee on Climate Change in 2019 to provide the Commission with vital expertise, information, and advice as it endeavors to maintain and improve stream flows, water quality, habitat, wetlands, and watersheds in the face of changing hydrologic conditions and sea-level rise.

Pinelands Commission

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency whose mission is to “preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to encourage compatible economic and other human activities consistent with that purpose.” Through its implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission protects the Pinelands in a manner that maintains the region’s unique ecology while permitting compatible development. The Comprehensive Management Plan contains provisions for fire hazard mitigation, wetlands protection, and permanent land preservation programs that reduce risk and vulnerability to wildfires and flooding (Pinelands Commission 2023). The plan also has stricter stormwater management regulations. The Commission also has a climate committee.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia region (MPO ID# 42196501), established by an interstate compact between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey. The DVRPC includes Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer County in New Jersey as well Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania. DVRPC provides municipalities with tools and resources to assist communities with land use planning. DVRPC also provides resources for



funding opportunities, technical assistance programs, consultant opportunities, economic development, smart growth, and workshops on integrating comprehensive planning and hazard mitigation. DVRPC was contracted to update and reformat emergency detour route maps for all limited access highways within the region, replacing outdated paper maps with digital PDF maps (DVRPC n.d.).

Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training, and financial incentives to support community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Sustainable Jersey certification is a designation for municipal governments in New Jersey. All actions taken by municipalities to score points toward certification must be accompanied by documentary evidence. The certification is free and voluntary (Sustainable Jersey 2023). Many municipalities in Burlington County participate in Sustainable Jersey, but only the following municipalities are certified: Bordentown City (silver), Bordentown Township (silver), Burlington City (bronze), Chesterfield Township (bronze), Delran Township (bronze), Evesham Township (bronze), Florence Township (bronze), Maple Shade Township (bronze), Medford Township (silver), Moorestown Township (silver), Mount Holly Township (silver), and Mount Laurel Township (bronze) (Sustainable Jersey 2023).

Rutgers Cooperative Extension for Burlington County

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives and communities through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge. Through science-based educational programs, Rutgers Cooperative Extension enhances the quality of life for residents of New Jersey and brings the wealth of knowledge of the state university to local communities. The office provides research-based information to county residents in the areas of 4-H youth development, agriculture and natural resources, and family and community health sciences (Rutgers 2023).

Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

Portions of southeastern Burlington County are located in the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JC NERR). The JC NERR encompasses approximately 116,000 acres in southeastern New Jersey, including a great variety of terrestrial, wetland and aquatic habitats within the Mullica River-Great Bay ecosystem. The JC NERR is one of two national estuarine reserves created to promote the responsible use and management of the nation's estuaries through a program combining scientific research, education, and stewardship. The Coastal Training Program provides up-to date scientific information and skill-building programs for New Jersey's coastal management community. Program formats include seminars, hands-on skill training, participatory workshops, lectures, and technology demonstrations (JC NERR 2017).



5.2.4 County

Numerous County departments have capabilities that support pre- and post-disaster hazard management in Burlington County. The following section summarizes administrative and technical capabilities in Burlington County. Detailed information regarding administrative and technical capabilities in the County and the municipalities can be found in the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II.

Burlington County Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services consists of a wealth of services to support individuals in the community from all backgrounds, with various needs (Burlington County n.d.):

- The **Office on Aging** provides information, assistance and outreach services to seniors in a variety of areas, including legal assistance, transportation, Meals on Wheels, weekend meal program, congregate nutrition sites, home health services, respite care, home security, adult day care and care management. The Office on Aging is part of the statewide Aging and Disability Resource Connection, which provides “one-stop shopping” access to services.
- The **Division of Behavioral Health and Youth Services** provides coordination, planning and funding for behavioral health, addiction and disabilities services for youth, families, and adults throughout the County.
- The **Division of Community Development** administers federally funded Housing and Urban Development programs, Home Improvement Loan Programs, Home Investment Partnership Program, First-Time Home Buyers Program and Community Development Block Program.
- The **Division of Community Outreach and Special Projects** maintain relationships with local neighborhoods, community groups, nonprofits, and residents. The Division seeks to build a network of trust among County residents and the department or local government by increasing collaborative efforts.
- The **Division of Employment and Training** provides resources for businesses and jobseekers to ensure that a well-trained workforce is equipped to meet the business needs of the future.
- The **Burlington County Housing Hub** provides housing advocacy and supportive services to all Burlington County residents.
- The **BurLink deviated fixed route service** is committed to improving the efficiencies of the transportation network for Burlington County residents who most need transportation.

Burlington County Health Department

The Burlington County Health Department protects and improves the health and well-being of the County’s communities, as well as the environmental resources of the County. The Health Department contracts with all 40 local boards of health in Burlington County to provide residents, businesses, and visitors a variety of health-related programs and services. The Health Department works to prevent disease, conducts education and outreach, trains staff, and takes part in developing new policies and



standards that address existing and emerging challenges to communities' health while enforcing a range of laws pertaining to public health and safety (Burlington County n.d.).

Burlington County Department of Information Technology

The Burlington County Department of Information Technology (IT) provides various services to County residents and other County departments.

Communications Division

The Communications Division provides data and telephone connectivity and information security to the County's local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN) resources through a variety of cutting-edge technologies. In addition to maintaining the County LAN / WAN infrastructure for County employees, the Communications Division provides IT support for the County municipal police departments, fire, and EMS communities.

Development Division

The Development Division supports software on multiple platforms and develops systems to solve County department needs. The division supports almost all of Burlington County's business functions, including personnel, payroll, fiscal operations, county clerk records management, surrogate system administration, and other department-specific applications.

Geographic Information Systems

The GIS Section creates, maintains, acquires and serves digital geographic data layers that are useful to the County's GIS users. The GIS Section also provides GIS software, training, technical support, and project development assistance and mapping to County departments. Departmental users of the GIS include Public Safety/Emergency Management, Engineering, Health, Resource Conservation, Prosecutors, Highway, Board of Elections, Legal and the Burlington County Bridge Commission's Economic Development Office. Each department has a different level of autonomy, thus requiring various degrees of support. The Burlington County Bridge Commission's Economic Development Office employs its own full time GIS specialists.

Public Safety

The Public Safety IT Division, located at the County Public Safety Center in Westampton Township, is the primary provider of IT services to the Department of Public Safety (County 9-1-1 Communications Center; Office of Emergency Management / County EOC; Forensic Science Lab; Radio Maintenance; Emergency Services Training Center; County Fire Marshal's Office). This section provides 24/7 technical support to all County law enforcement agencies participating in the Burlington County Integrated Law Enforcement Computer Project, which is the primary records management, computer aided dispatch (CAD)/dispatch software and mobile computing solution for county public safety agencies. Our staff also provides training in the technologies utilized by County public safety agencies:



- Fire and EMS—Fire and EMS agencies in Burlington County participate with our staff in the Fire and EMS IT Working Group, a steering committee comprised of appointed members from the County Fire Chiefs Association, County First Aid Council, Central Communications, and County government. The committee is chaired by the director of County IT. This committee provides a forum to discuss information technology solutions for fire and EMS services in the County.
- FIREHOUSE Software—The FIREHOUSE Software platform provides participating agencies with the ability to access and enter fire incidents, hydrant information, staff, training, and other records via the internet, as well as complete and submit National Fire Incident Reporting System reports to the state. Personnel from our section maintain the servers and CAD interface and provide 24/7 technical support.
- EMS—The EMS Service benefits from a CAD interface with EMS Charts, a software package sanctioned by the State of New Jersey for use by EMS agencies, as well as other reporting services from the CAD system.

Records Management

The Division of Records Management holds the public records of the County of Burlington. The Division ensures the security, integrity, and efficiency of record-keeping within County government agencies. The Division recently implemented a state-of-the-art records information management system to enhance the operational efficiency of records creation, maintenance, storage, and access while reducing operational costs. The Division maintains and operates a large County storage facility located in Westampton, New Jersey. The Division coordinates and supports records management activities for County of Burlington municipalities. In conjunction with Burlington County’s shared services strategy, the Division recently implemented and successfully concluded a countywide records management needs assessment for County municipalities.

Systems

The Systems Section is responsible for the maintenance and support of over 150 physical and virtual servers and over 1,000 computers throughout the County (Burlington County n.d.).

Burlington County Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety has a wide range of responsibilities and services pertaining to hazard mitigation (Burlington County n.d.):

- The **Communications Center** is a consolidated countywide operation handling 9-1-1 emergency calls, police, fire, and emergency medical dispatch. It acts as a point of contact after hours for all County agencies.
- The **Communications Support Division** is the provider of public safety radio communications for all public safety agencies in Burlington County. The division has an infrastructure of 17 countywide radio tower sites, with their attendant equipment and buildings.



- Emergency Management’s **Emergency Operations Center** handles large-scale or long-term natural or human-caused emergencies.
- The **Office of Fire Marshal** investigates fires. It also provides education on all aspects of fire safety, including workplace safety and senior citizen fire safety. The unit conducts programs all year long for schools, civic groups, senior citizens, and businesses.
- The **Emergency Services Training Center** provides training to firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and many other government agencies.

Burlington County Department of Public Works

Public Works is comprised of several divisions and houses the Planning Board:

- The **Engineers Office** works to identify innovative ways to minimize congestion and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the traveling public. This includes the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies, which allow the Office to coordinate traffic signals and revise traffic signal timings and detection along the County’s busiest corridors from the Engineers Office.
- The **Planning Board** is responsible for reviewing proposed development projects and making decisions on them in accordance with state statutes and local bylaws and regulations. The Planning Board is also charged with long-range planning for the County.
- Burlington County has large areas that have potential to breed mosquitoes. These areas include farmland, wetlands (fresh and salt water), home yards, stormwater facilities, and sewer plants. The **Division of Mosquito Control** employs an integrated mosquito control program, blending chemical and biological control and water management. In addition, the division conducts a comprehensive mosquito surveillance program, as well as a variety of maintenance programs.
- The **Division of Roads and Bridges** (formerly, the Highway Department) repairs and corrects any hazard or complaints that affect the road system, such as road repair, mowing, and snow removal. The Stormwater Section of the Roads and Bridges Division maintains, inspects, and cleans the storm systems on County roads and within the right-of-way. There are over 7,000 inlets within the County. The Division also cleans and maintains roadside ditches on County roads.

Burlington County Department of Economic Development

The Burlington County Department of Economic Development is housed within the Burlington County Bridge Commission. It is responsible for helping to improve business aspects in the County (Burlington County n.d.).

Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation

The Department of Resource Conservation’s mission is to preserve and protect the land and water resources of the County, to protect taxpayers’ investment in farmland preservation through programs and services designed to assist the agricultural community, and to provide families with places to play, learn, and enjoy. It includes the following (Burlington County n.d.):



- The **Division of Parks** is responsible for maintaining the County Parks System, which includes regional parks, canoe and hiking trails, museums, historic sites, the County Fairgrounds, and the Rancocas Nature Center. The Division is responsible for more than 1,000 acres of developed parkland, with 3,500 acres of land slated for park development and a regional trail system that will provide a link between the parks.
- The **Farmland Preservation Program** is committed to preserving a permanent agricultural land base and maintaining an environment that supports a viable agricultural industry. Over 28,000 acres of farmland have been preserved to date through this County program.
- The **Burlington County Agriculture Development Board** is a state-mandated advisory body to the Commissioner Board for farmland preservation matters and other issues relating to agriculture, such as the review of proposed state policies and regulations that may impact agriculture. The County Agriculture Development Board is also required to address matters that may arise as a result of the New Jersey Right to Farm Act and is statutorily required to handle these matters independently of Commissioner Board involvement.
- The **Open Space Preservation Program/Trail Development Program** is responsible for acquisition of the land that will become part of the County Parks System and developing that land for public enjoyment.
- The **Water Resources Program** provides planning coordination for water resource management related activities of the County, including wastewater management.

Burlington County Sheriff's Office

The Burlington County Sheriff's Office includes multiple bureaus and units relating to hazard mitigation, including a Community Outreach Unit, Emergency Services Unit, and Senior Services Unit (Burlington County n.d.).

Burlington County Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration is comprised of the following key functional areas: Financial Operations, which includes banking operations, accounts payable and departmental operating budgets; Capital & Debt Management; Grants Management; Purchasing & Contract Management; Risk Management; Human Resources; and Payroll & Employee Benefits (Burlington County n.d.).

Burlington County Boards and Commissions

In addition to County departments, various County boards and commissions provide services or have responsibilities relating to hazard mitigation:

- The **Burlington County Board of Social Services** provides services to individuals, to families, and to the community by preserving and restoring families, promoting self-sufficiency, providing information and referrals, and protecting the well-being of children, the elderly, and people with



disabilities. The Board works to build partnerships with community organizations and service providers (Burlington County Board of Social Services 2023).

- The **Burlington County Bridge Commission** provides Burlington County's residents, commuters, and visitors with safe, accessible, and affordable bridges, roads, and facilities. The Commission is dedicated to serving customers courteously and to helping Burlington County prosper by saving taxpayers money through innovative financing programs and by fostering and assisting neighbors in their economic development and community revitalization projects to ease the burden on local property taxpayers (Burlington County Bridge Commission 2019).
- Burlington County's **Community Development Advisory Committee** studies the County's community development needs, prioritizes funding, and recommends activities to be funded (Burlington County n.d.).
- The New Jersey State Uniform Construction Code Act mandates that each County create a board to hear any construction appeals from within that County. The **Burlington County Construction Board of Appeals** was formed to allow appeals from decisions made by municipal construction officials and municipal fire officials (Burlington County 2009).
- The mission of the **Burlington County Emergency Services Advisory Board** is to review the fire and EMS emergency services' needs, resources, and related issues within Burlington County and to provide advice to the Burlington County Board of County Commissioners (Burlington County 2009).
- The **Burlington County Human Services Advisory Council** reviews county-level human services activities and serves as the primary vehicle for making local recommendations to assist Commissioners and the state in their decision making (Burlington County n.d.).
- The **Burlington County Library Commission** determines policies and oversees the budget of the Burlington County Library System (Burlington County Library System 2023).
- The **Burlington County Minority and Equality Rights Task Force** was established to help combat systemic racism and support equality for all, regardless of race, color, gender, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation (Burlington County n.d.).
- The **Burlington County Solid Waste Advisory Council** assists in the development and formulation of a solid waste management plan and establishes minimum criteria for the composition of the council (Burlington County n.d.).
- By the State of New Jersey stormwater regulation, Burlington County was required to establish an agency to review adopted municipal stormwater management plans. The Planning Board appointed the **Burlington County Stormwater Management Committee** to review submitted draft and adopted municipal stormwater plans and ordinances for consistency with the state's stormwater regulations (Burlington County n.d.).
- The **Burlington County Transportation Advisory Committee** assists the Board of County Commissioners by providing input on the development of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, NJDOT's transportation project prioritization process within the county, major transportation projects, and related issues of concern as assigned by the Board of County Commissioners (Burlington County n.d.).



5.3 FISCAL CAPABILITIES

Fiscal capabilities are the resources that a jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use to fund mitigation actions. The sections below list funding programs for jurisdictions seeking funding. This section is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but rather a tool to help identify potential funding sources.

5.3.1 Federal

Burlington County and its municipalities continue to apply for and secure federal funding to support hazard mitigation. As noted on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) website (<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>), FEMA administers six programs that provide funding for eligible mitigation planning and projects that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damage:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Public Assistance (PA) Section 406 Funds
- Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Revolving Loan Fund

Since the 2019 HMP, the County has received numerous HMGP awards for generators, an FMA award for an elevation project in Lumberton Township, and BRIC funding for planning (NJOEM 2023). The establishment of FEMA -identified Community Disaster Resilience Zones provides geographic focus for financial assistance for underserved communities for technical assistance and increased mitigation activities (FEMA 2023).

Table 5-4 provides an overview of HMA program funding eligibility and cost share. Table 5-5 summarizes the fiscal capabilities available at the federal level to support hazard mitigation in Burlington County.

Table 5-4. FEMA HMA Grant Cost Share Requirements

Programs	Cost Share (Percent of Federal / Non-Federal Share)
HMGP ⁽¹⁾	75 / 25
HMGP Post Fire	75 / 25
FMA (community flood mitigation, project scoping, individual mitigation of insured properties, and planning grants)	75 / 25
FMA—repetitive loss property ⁽²⁾	90 / 10
FMA—severe repetitive loss property ⁽²⁾	100 / 0
PDM	75 / 25
PDM—small and impoverished community	Up to 90 / 10
BRIC	75 / 25



Programs	Cost Share (Percent of Federal / Non-Federal Share)
BRIC—small and impoverished community	Up to 90 / 10

Source: FEMA 2023; FEMA 2023

1. Subapplicants should consult their state hazard mitigation officer for the percentage of HMGP subrecipient management cost funding their state has determined to be passed through subrecipients.
2. To be eligible for an increased federal cost share, a FEMA-approved state or tribal mitigation plan (standard or enhanced) that addresses repetitive loss properties must be in effect at the time of award, and the property being submitted for consideration must be a repetitive loss property.

Table 5-5. Federal Funding Capabilities Available to Support Mitigation in Burlington County

Capability	Details	
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard-prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements, and development of state or local standards. Projects must fit into an overall mitigation strategy for the area identified as part of a local planning effort. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan (this plan).</p> <p>Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to NJOEM and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available.</p> <p>For additional information regarding HMGP, see: https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program</p>		
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
<p>The FMA program combines the previous Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss Grants into one grant program. The FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP-insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited, and as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is at least 75 percent; at most 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source. Of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At minimum, a FEMA-approved local flood mitigation plan is required before a project can be approved. The FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. NJOEM serves as the grantee and program administrator for the FMA program. The FMA program is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program</p>		



Capability	Details	
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) supports states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.</p> <p>For additional information regarding the BRIC program, see: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities</p>		
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>The HMGP Post Fire program provides funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures focused on reducing the risk of harm from wildfire. HMGP Post Fire funding is authorized under Sections 404 and 420 of the Stafford Act and provides hazard mitigation grant funding to states, federally recognized tribes, and territories affected by fires resulting in a Fire Management Assistance Grant declaration on or after October 5, 2018. For more information regarding the HMGP Post Fire program, see https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/post-fire.</p>		
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program makes federal funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters. The program is authorized by Section 203 of the Stafford Act. While previously an annual program, the PDM program is currently dependent on annual congressional authorization. For additional information regarding the PDM program, see: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/pre-disaster</p>		
Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act became law on Jan. 1, 2021. This Act authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants for eligible entities to make funding decisions and award loans directly to local communities. Eligible entities are states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia. These revolving loan funds provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters. For additional information regarding STORM funding, see: https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/femas-safeguarding-tomorrow-revolving-loan-fund-program</p>		



Capability	Details	
Extraordinary Circumstances	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>For PDM and FMA project subawards, the FEMA region may apply extraordinary circumstances when justification is provided and with concurrence from FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) prior to granting an exception. If an exception is granted, a local mitigation plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of the project subaward to that community.</p> <p>For HMGP, PDM, and FMA, extraordinary circumstances exist when a determination is made by the applicant and FEMA that the proposed project is consistent with the priorities and strategies identified in the state mitigation plan (standard or enhanced) and that the jurisdiction meets at least one of the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The jurisdiction meets the small, impoverished community criteria (see Part VIII, B.2). • The jurisdiction has been determined to have had insufficient capacity due to lack of available funding, staffing, or other necessary expertise to satisfy the mitigation planning requirement prior to the current disaster or application deadline. • The jurisdiction has been determined to have been at low risk from hazards because of low frequency of occurrence or minimal damage from previous occurrences as a result of sparse development. • The jurisdiction experienced significant disruption from a declared disaster or another event that impacts its ability to complete the mitigation planning process prior to award or final approval of a project award. • The jurisdiction does not have a mitigation plan for reasons beyond the control of the state, federally recognized tribe, or local community, such as Disaster Relief Fund restrictions that delay FEMA from granting a subaward prior to the expiration of the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan. <p>If the jurisdiction does not meet at least one of these criteria, the Region must coordinate with FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) for HMGP; however, for PDM and FMA the Region must coordinate and seek concurrence prior to granting an exception:</p> <p>For HMGP, PDM, and FMA, the Applicant must provide written justification that identifies the specific criteria or circumstance listed above, explains why there is no longer an impediment to satisfying the mitigation planning requirement, and identifies the specific actions or circumstances that eliminated the deficiency.</p> <p>When an HMGP project funding is awarded under extraordinary circumstances, the Recipient shall acknowledge in writing to the Regional Administrator that a plan will be completed within 12 months of the subaward. The Recipient must provide a work plan for completing the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan, including milestones and a timetable, to ensure that the jurisdiction will complete the plan in the required time. This requirement shall be incorporated into the award (both the planning and project subaward agreements, if a planning subaward is also awarded).</p>		
Individual Assistance	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Individual Assistance (IA) provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses, and some non-profit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses could be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible for loans to cover personal property losses. Individuals are allowed to borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate, \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property, and an additional 20 percent for mitigation. For businesses, loans could be made to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Non-profit organizations, such as charities, churches, and private universities are eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster but are restricted by law to small businesses only. IA is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/individual-disaster-assistance</p>		



Capability	Details	
Public Assistance	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Public Assistance (PA) provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities, and school districts) and certain non-profit agencies that were involved in disaster response and recovery programs or that suffered loss or damage to facilities or property used to deliver government-like services. This program is largely funded by FEMA with both local and state matching contributions required. PA is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit</p>		
Department of Homeland Security Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. In FY 2019, the total amount of funds available under HSGP was \$1.095 billion.</p> <p>HSGP is comprised of three interconnected grant programs, including the State Homeland Security Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative, and Operation Stonegarden. Together, these grant programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration.</p> <p>Additional information regarding HSGP is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/homeland-security-grant-program.</p>		
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>Assistance for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. Provides a 75 percent federal cost share, and the state pays the remaining 25 percent for actual cost. Before a grant can be awarded, a state must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meet or exceed either the individual fire cost threshold - which is applies to single fires, or the cumulative fire cost threshold, which recognizes numerous smaller fires burning throughout a state. Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program.</p>		
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations, and state fire training academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Information regarding this grant program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program.</p>		
High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>The Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants to non-Federal governmental organizations or nonprofit organizations for rehabilitation of eligible high-hazard potential dams. Information regarding this program is available on the website: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=316238</p>		



Capability	Details	
National Dam Safety Program	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Hazard:	Dam Failure
<p>The National Dam Safety Program, which is led by FEMA, is a partnership of the states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to encourage individual and community responsibility for dam safety. Grant assistance is provided to states, providing vital support for the improvement of state dam safety programs that regulate most of the dams in the United States.</p>		
Small Business Administration Loan	Responsible Agency:	SBA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and most private nonprofit organizations. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets.</p> <p>Homeowners could apply for up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Renters and homeowners could borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances that were damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million are available to qualified businesses or most private nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>Additional information regarding SBA loans is available on the SBA website: https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness/disaster-assistance.</p>		
Community Development Block Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>CDBG are federal funds intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, and planning and administration. Public improvements could include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances and during the times of "urgent need" (e.g., post-disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding could be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event.</p> <p>Funding is split into two programs:</p> <p><i>Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program:</i> This program provides grant funds, which are appropriated by Congress and allocated by HUD to rebuild disaster-impacted areas and provide crucial seed money to start the long-term recovery process. These flexible grants help cities, counties, Indian tribes, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations. Since CDBG-DR assistance may fund a broad range of recovery activities, HUD can help communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limited resources.</p> <p><i>Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT):</i> This program funds pose a unique opportunity for eligible grantees to use this assistance in areas impacted by recent disasters to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses. CDBG-MIT defines mitigation as activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship by lessening the impact of future disasters. Goals of CDBG-MIT funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support data-informed investments, focusing on repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure. • Build capacity to comprehensively analyze disaster risks and update hazard mitigation plans. • Support the adoption of policies that reflect local and regional priorities that will have long-lasting effects on community risk reduction, including risk reduction to community lifelines and decreasing future disaster costs. • Maximize the impact of funds by encouraging leverage, private/public partnerships, and coordination with other Federal dollars. <p>Additional information regarding CDBG is available on the website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/</p>		



Capability	Details	
Federal Highway Administration-Emergency Relief	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief is a grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that can be used for repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways and roads on federal lands that have suffered serious damage as a result of a disaster. New Jersey Department of Transportation serves as the liaison between local municipalities and FHWA.</p> <p>Additional information regarding the FHWA Emergency Relief Program is available on the website: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm</p>		
Federal Transit Administration - Emergency Relief	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Emergency Relief is a grant program that funds capital projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace equipment and facilities of public transportation systems. Administered by the Federal Transit Authority at the U.S. DOT and directly allocated to Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and Port Authority, this transportation-specific fund was created as an alternative to FEMA PA. Currently, a total of \$5.2 billion has been allocated to New Jersey-related entities. Additional information regarding the FTA Emergency Relief Program is available on the website: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/emergency-relief-program</p>		
Disaster Housing Program	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Emergency assistance for housing, including minor repair of home to establish livable conditions, mortgage and rental assistance available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/dhap</p>		
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Grants to local and state government and consortia for permanent and transitional housing (including financial support for property acquisition and rehabilitation for low-income persons). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/</p>		
HUD Disaster Recovery Assistance	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources</p>		
Section 108 Loan Guarantee	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Enables states and local governments participating in the CDBG program to obtain federally guaranteed loans for disaster-distressed areas. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/</p>		



Capability	Details	
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership.</p> <p>https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/home</p>		
Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program	Responsible Agency:	EPA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) focuses on complex or cutting-edge issues, such as stormwater management, code revision, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, infill development, corridor planning, green building, and climate change. Applicants can submit proposals under four categories: community resilience to disasters, job creation, the role of manufactured homes in sustainable neighborhood design, or medical and social service facilities siting. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth</p>		
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Hazard:	All natural hazards
<p>Financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fws.gov/partners/</p>		
National Fish Passage Program	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Hazard:	All natural hazards
<p>The National Fish Passage Program partners with local communities on a voluntary basis to remove or bypass barriers, such as dams, to restore rivers and conserve aquatic resources. The program provides both financial and technical assistance for fish passage projects, which is any activity that improves the ability of fish or other aquatic species to move by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by a barrier.</p>		
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Investing in critical road, rail, transit, and port projects across the nation. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.transportation.gov/tags/tiger-grants</p>		
Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program</p>		
Emergency Loan Program	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Hazard:	All natural hazards
<p>USDA's Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index</p>		



Capability	Details	
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Hazard:	All natural hazards
<p>The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program provides assistance to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/</p>		
Financial Assistance	Responsible Agency:	NRCS
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal, and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/</p>		
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	Responsible Agency:	NRCS
	Hazard:	Flood, dam failure
<p>The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns. NRCS selects projects based on the risks to life and property if a dam failure were to occur.</p>		
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program	Responsible Agency:	NRCS
	Hazard:	Flood, dam failure
<p>The purpose of the program is to protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres.</p>		
Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program	Responsible Agency:	US DHS
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding is available to the State of New Jersey to educate people and protect lives and structures from natural and technical hazards. The grant is to encourage the development of comprehensive emergency management, including terrorism consequence management, at the state and local level and to improve emergency management planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery capabilities. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program</p>		
Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	Responsible Agency:	US DHS
	Hazard:	Wildfire
<p>Provides reimbursement only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/firefighting_federal_property.html</p>		
Land & Water Conservation Fund	Responsible Agency:	National Park Service
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm</p>		



Capability	Details	
Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants	Responsible Agency:	U.S. EPA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds are provided only to designated state and tribal agencies to implement their approved nonpoint source management programs. State and tribal nonpoint source programs include a variety of components, including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and regulatory programs. Each year, EPA awards Section 319(h) funds to states in accordance with a state-by-state allocation formula that EPA has developed in consultation with the states (EPA 2022).</p> <p>Section 319(h) funding decisions are made by the states. States submit their proposed funding plans to EPA. If a state's funding plan is consistent with grant eligibility requirements and procedures, EPA then awards the funds to the state (EPA 2022).</p> <p>In New Jersey, NJDEP uses these funds can be used to fund water quality improvements and to target restoration and tree planting projects, including impervious removal, retrofitting of stormwater management basins with green infrastructure within communities, specifically overburdened communities.</p>		
Coastal Zone Management Act	Responsible Agency:	NOAA
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>This act, administered by NOAA, provides for the management of the nation's coastal resources. The goal is to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone." The Coastal Zone Management Act outlines three national programs, the National Coastal Zone Management Program, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The National Coastal Zone Management Program aims to balance competing land and water issues through state and territorial coastal management programs, the reserves serve as field laboratories that provide a greater understanding of estuaries and how humans impact them, and Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements (NOAA 2023). Grant opportunities are often made available from additional CZM funding. Funding is also provided to the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.</p>		
Community-Based Restoration	Responsible Agency:	NOAA
	Hazard:	Flood, Dam Failure
<p>The program grants support restoration projects that use a habitat-based approach to rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and promote healthy ecosystems and resilient communities.</p>		
USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>Section 22 of the 1974 Water Resources Development Act provides authority for the US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) and Indian Nations. Under this program, USACE assists the states, local governments, Native American Tribes, and other non-federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development and conservation of water and related land resources. Types of work that can be done include Water Quality Studies, Wetland Evaluation Studies, Flood Plain Management Studies, Coastal Zone Management/Protection Studies, Harbor/Port Studies, or other water resource planning investigations. The needed planning assistance is determined by the individual non-federal sponsors.</p>		
USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Flood, Dam Failure
<p>Congress has provided USACE with several standing authorities to study and build water resource projects for various purposes without additional project-specific congressional authorization. The types of projects addressed by the CAP include emergency streambank and shoreline erosion, flood control projects, snagging and clearing for flood control, and small beach erosion control projects. Cost-share varies based on subprograms.</p>		



Capability	Details	
USACE General Investigation (GI)	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>These are congressionally authorized studies under USACE’s Civil Works program. Congress can authorize USACE to study, design, and construct major flood risk management projects. The feasibility study is cost-shared 50/50 and construction is cost-shared 65/35 between the federal government and non-federal sponsor. These are generally large-scale projects that cost more than \$10 million. Congress can also authorize USACE to conduct other water-related studies/projects such as watershed assessments, ecosystem restoration, and navigation improvements.</p>		
Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Dam failure
<p>The purpose of the USACE ecosystem restoration activities is to restore significant ecosystem function, structure, and dynamic processes that have been degraded. Ecosystem restoration efforts involve examining the problems contributing to the system degradation and developing alternative means to solve these problems. This program has previously been used to fund dam removal and provide for fish passage. Cost shares vary by project type.</p>		
Planning Assistance to the States	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Flood, dam failure
<p>USACE is authorized to provide planning assistance, usually for a specific technical item rather than detailed designs for construction. Dam safety/failure studies have been conducted in recent years. To request assistance, state, local, or tribal entities should submit a letter to the Chief of the Planning Division in their USACE district detailing the location and nature of the problem to be investigated.</p>		
Small Flood Control Program	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Hazard:	Flood, dam failure
<p>Under the Small Flood Control Program, USACE works with communities to plan, design, and construct certain small flood control projects that have not already been specifically authorized by Congress. Studies are required to evaluate potential projects. Each project selected must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economically justified, meaning the benefits of the project outweigh the cost of construction • environmentally acceptable • complete within itself 		

5.3.2 State

Table 5-6 summarizes the fiscal capabilities available to Burlington County, at the state level.



Table 5-6. Pre- and Post-Disaster Funding Capabilities – State

Capability	Details	
New Jersey Clean Energy Program	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
	Hazard:	Hazards impacted by climate change
<p>The New Jersey Clean Energy Program promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy, including solar, wind, geothermal, and sustainable biomass. The results for New Jersey are a stronger economy, less pollution, lower costs, and reduced demand for electricity. The Clean Energy Program offers financial incentives, programs, and services for residential, commercial, and municipal customers. Refer to https://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/about-njcep/about-njcep for additional details on the program.</p> <p>The program also offers a Community Energy Plan Grant for government entities (e.g., municipality, county, Green Team or environmental commission, or other Sustainable Jersey organization within a community or county). The grant will provide funding for an entity to create a Community Energy Master Plan to align local communities with the State Energy Master Plan.</p>		
NJDEP Grant and Loan Programs	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	All Hazards
<p>NJDEP offers a wide variety of funding opportunities for local governments and other types of organizations to fund numerous environmentally based projects involving mitigation of hazards such as flooding and wildfires. This includes funding for: air quality, energy, and sustainability; compliance and enforcement; engineering and construction; land use management; local government assistance; natural and historic resources; site remediation and waste management programs; and water resource management. Information on each of the programs can be found on the NJDEP website: https://www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/.</p>		
Green Acres Program	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Together with public and private partners, Green Acres has protected well over a million and a half acres of open space and provided hundreds of outdoor recreational facilities in communities around the state. Green Acres provides low interest (2 percent) loans and grants to municipal and county governments to acquire open space and develop outdoor recreation facilities. Green Acres also provides matching grants to nonprofit organizations to acquire land for public recreation and conservation purposes. Over the years, voters have authorized \$3.3 billion in Green Acres funding, approving every bond referendum put before them.</p>		
Blue Acres Program	Responsible Agency	NJDEP
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The Blue Acres Program purchases flood-prone properties. This land preservation program assists local government units and nonprofits in their efforts to increase and preserve permanent outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment, and conservation areas for the protection of natural resources such as waterways, wildlife habitat, wetlands, forests, and view sheds. A secondary benefit of these laws and rules is that flood-prone properties are often purchased and not available for future development. Funding for Blue Acres is a combination of dedicated state funding from the cooperate business tax and federal grants. To date, the program has received five state funding appropriations from 2009-2019, ranging from \$3 million to \$12 million to effectuate buyouts in flood-prone areas. Most recently, the 3 Garden State Preservation Trust appropriation recommendation proposed Blue Acres receive an infusion of \$10.5 million (\$10 million for buyouts and \$500,000 for administrative costs).</p>		



Capability	Details	
Open Space and Farmland Preservation Programs	Responsible Agency:	Counties, New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, and the New Jersey Green Acres Program
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
Farmland and open space preservation programs are often funded partially through grants administered by the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee and the New Jersey Green Acres Program. The objective of these programs is to expand the existing county and municipal park systems. Many counties in New Jersey also support land preservation acquisition through open space funding.		
New Jersey Water Bank	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP, New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
The New Jersey Water Bank is a partnership between the NJDEP and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust to provide low-cost financing for the design, construction, and implementation of projects that help protect and improve water quality and help ensure safe and adequate drinking water.		
The Water Bank finances projects by utilizing two funding sources. The Trust issues revenue bonds which are used in combination with zero percent interest funds to provide very low-interest loans for water infrastructure improvements. The NJDEP administers a combination of federal and state revolving fund capitalization grants, as well as the state's matching funds, loan repayments, state appropriations, and interest earned on such funds.		
NJDEP Dam Restoration and Inland Water Projects Loan Program	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP Dam Safety Program
	Hazard:	Flood, Dam Failure
The New Jersey Dam Restoration and Inland Water Projects Loan Program was established by the "Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992", Public Law 1992, c. 88. The purpose is to provide loans to dam owners for dam restoration or inland waters projects.		
Dam Restoration Loan Program	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP Dam Safety Program
	Hazard:	Dam failure
The New Jersey Dam Restoration Loan Program was established by the "Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003", Public Law 2003, c. 162. The purpose is to provide loans to dam owners for dam restoration projects.		
New Jersey Redevelopment Authority	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Redevelopment Authority
	Hazard:	All hazards
The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority is an independent state financing authority committed exclusively to the redevelopment of New Jersey's urban areas. The Authority offers several financing resources, including site acquisition funding, predevelopment assistance, several development assistance resources, and technical assistance.		
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Responsible Agency	NJDCA
	Hazard:	All hazards
The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) is a state agency created to provide administrative guidance, financial support, and technical assistance to local governments, community development organizations, businesses, and individuals to improve the quality of life in New Jersey. NJDCA offers a wide range of programs, funding, and services that respond to issues of public concern, including fire and building safety, housing production, community planning and development, and local government management and finance. Among other funding sources, NJDCA administers CDBG funding and is typically the CDBG-Disaster Relief funding recipient for the State of New Jersey.		



Capability	Details	
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU)	Responsible Agency:	BPU
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The New Jersey BPU works with private utility companies to provide analysis of natural hazard information affecting the provision of electric power, telecommunications, public water, sewage collection and treatment, and other regulated public utilities. The data are used during response and recovery efforts in the event of emergency or disaster and is also used to analyze impact of mitigation plans and projects. BPU also provides technical assistance for the Energy Resiliency Program</p>		
Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>Qualified borrowers receive loans in two equal parts: Approximately one half to three quarters comes from a 0-percent interest State Revolving Fund maintained by the NJDEP. The other portion comes from proceeds of highly rated tax-exempt revenue bonds sold by the Trust. Combining these two funds results in a loan that is 50 to 75 percent lower than traditional loan rates.</p>		
New Jersey Small Cities Communities Development Block Grants	Responsible Agency:	NJDCA
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The New Jersey Small Cities Communities Development Block Grants provide funds for economic development, housing rehabilitation, community revitalization, and public facilities designated to benefit people with low and moderate incomes or to address recent local needs for which no other source of funding is available to non-entitlement counties and municipalities. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/neighborhood.html.</p>		
New Jersey Conservation Foundation	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Conservation Foundation
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization. Through acquisition and stewardship, the Foundation protects strategic lands, promotes strong land use policies, and forges partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Grants are used to help fund preservation activities. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.njconservation.org/what-we-do/.</p>		
The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank is an independent state financing authority responsible for providing and administering low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, regional authorities, and water purveyors in New Jersey. Two programs provide and administer low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, regional authorities, and water purveyors in New Jersey. Approximately \$350 million is awarded annually.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust for the purpose of financing water quality infrastructure projects that enhance ground and surface water resources, ensure the safety of drinking water supplies, protect the public health, and make possible responsible and sustainable economic development. 2. The New Jersey Transportation Infrastructure Bank is an independent state financing authority responsible for providing and administering low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, and regional authorities in New Jersey for the purpose of financing transportation quality infrastructure projects. <p>The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank provides principal forgiveness opportunities and better financing packages for those projects that implement climate change resilience measures.</p> <p>Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.njib.gov/.</p>		



Capability	Details	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Drought
<p>The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program assists water systems in financing the cost of infrastructure through the use of federal and New Jersey Infrastructure Trust funds. Additionally, the Water Supply program provides operator licensing and training support as well as financial assistance through the Fund. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dws_loans.html.</p>		
New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Aid and Economic Development	Responsible Agency:	NJDOT
	Hazard:	All hazards
<p>NJDOT is committed to advancing projects that enhance safety, renew the aging infrastructure and the state's economy and support new transportation opportunities. The Transportation Trust Fund provides the opportunity for state assistance to local governments for the funding of road, bridge, and other transportation projects. Annually, the Transportation Trust Fund provides \$400 million in state aid to municipalities and counties for local transportation improvements. In addition, several programs which provide funding to counties and municipalities are funded with federal monies available through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) legislation. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/funding.shtm.</p>		
Environmental Aid Act (NJSA 13:1H – 1 to 7) Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program for Local Environmental Agencies (N.J.A.C.7:5)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP Office of Environmental Services
	Hazard:	Natural hazards
<p>State aid may be granted by the department to a local environmental agency for any activity that the agency is authorized to perform by law and for the preparation of an environmental index. An environmental index shall be a report on environmental conditions within the locality and community objectives concerning open areas, parks, water supply, solid waste, wildlife protection, soil resources, air pollution, water pollution, and other related issues. The department may provide technical assistance in addition to (or in lieu of) state aid to any local environmental agency for the purpose indicated in this act. The purpose of the funding dedicated under this act is to assist local environmental commissions and soil conservation districts with funding for a variety of local environmental projects, including community education projects; environmental resource inventories; beach monitoring and management projects; environmental trail designs; lake rehabilitation studies; stream and water quality testing; wellhead delineation; GIS mapping projects; National Environmental Performance Partnership System indicator projects; and surveys of threatened and endangered species. The maximum annual grant is \$2,500. Applicants must match at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project (NJDEP n.d.).</p> <p>Projects funded by this grant are reported online. Examples of mitigation projects that have been funded in the past include Waterways Beach Monitoring and Management Strategy, Dune Project, Beach Protection and Storm Drainage Plan, Beach Storm Water Drainage Analysis, Stream Corridor/Greenway Protection Plan, Shoreline Bioengineering Demonstration and Outreach Project, Stream, and the Pamphlet/Education Project.</p>		
Sewage Infrastructure Improvement Act Grants (N.J.A.C.7:22)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>New Jersey Sewage Infrastructure Improvement Act establishes comprehensive requirements for NJDEP and municipalities/authorities to address combined sewer overflows and stormwater management.</p> <p>NJDEP issues permits and provides below-market interest rate loans through the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program to municipalities for capital improvements that improve water quality. To prioritize wastewater projects under the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program, projects are ranked to address higher state priorities or high-water quality problems or improvements.</p>		



Capability	Details	
Water Pollution Control Quality Act (NJSA 58:10A-1 to 60) Water Quality Management Planning Rules (N.J.A.C.7:15)	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>This Act phased out the Construction Grants Program and required states to establish a State Revolving Fund Loan Program. The last year in which construction grants were made available for new projects in New Jersey was 1989. Grant awards are available currently to cover increased allowable costs for projects that previously received a construction grant. The rules serve two basic functions: (1) to establish the Department’s general regulatory framework for water quality planning and (2) to supplement other Department rules pertaining to wastewater management.</p> <p>This Act is implemented through a number of regulations and programs throughout NJDEP, including but not limited to Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (NJAC 7:7A), Stormwater Management (NJAC 7:8), Water Pollution Control (NJAC 7:9), Surface Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:9B), Safe Drinking Water Act (NJAC 7:10), Flood Hazard Control Act (NJAC 7:13), Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJAC 7:14A), and Water Quality Management (NJAC 7:15). Through these rules, NJDEP regulates development location and intensity of uses, protects floodplain capacity and riparian buffers, funds restoration of lakes and streams, and funds infrastructure improvements that primarily provide environmental health. Secondly, the rules allow NJDEP to provide mitigation in the form of reduced losses due to infrastructure failure. Wastewater Management Plans (WMP) are integral components of area-wide Water Quality Management Plans. WMPs are the vehicle through which the continuing planning process integrates local and regional planning into the area-wide Water Quality Management Plans.</p>		
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: WRM, Municipal Finance and Construction Element New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Drought, Flood
<p>The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program is a revolving loan program for the construction of drinking water facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, sludge management systems, combined sewer overflow abatement, stormwater, and other non-point source management projects. The program also offers funding to publicly and privately-owned drinking water systems for the construction or upgrade of drinking water facilities, transmission and distribution systems, storage facilities, and source development. The Program also offers a disaster relief fund that will be able to provide short-term or bridge loans to entities that are in need of an upfront cash flow (NJDEP 2017).</p>		
New Jersey Turnpike Authority: Capital Program	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
	Hazard:	Wildfire, Severe Storm
<p>The New Jersey Turnpike Authority (Authority) is dedicated to the safe and efficient movement of people and goods over two of the busiest toll roads in the United States – the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. The Authority’s highways are a critical link in the transportation network of the Northeast Corridor. Under the current 10-year, \$7 billion capital program adopted in 2008, the Authority has expanded capacity, repaired deteriorating bridges, reconfigured entrance and exit ramps, improved maintenance yards and toll plazas, and expanded the use of technology for collecting and communicating information about roadway conditions. Under this capital program, the following projects have been advanced addressing hazard mitigation: Bridge Security Program, Forest Fire Prevention, Roadside Weather Information System (RWIS), Coastal Evacuation.</p> <p>Through the Asset Management Program, the Turnpike Authority invests approximately \$50 million annually on drainage-related projects to better equip the Authority’s roadways in response to major rainfall events.</p>		
New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): Local Aid and Economic Development	Responsible Agency:	NJDOT
	Hazard:	Flood
<p>NJDOT is committed to advancing transportation projects that enhance safety, renew aging infrastructure, and support new transportation opportunities at the county and municipal level. The Transportation Trust Fund and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFE-TEA) legislation provide the opportunity for funding assistance to local governments for road, bridge, and other transportation projects. NJDOT has established several local aid programs that provide financial support to counties and municipalities for capital improvements to transportation infrastructure.</p>		



Capability	Details	
Coastal Engineering and Restoration Projects	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Hazard:	Coastal erosion, floods
Funding for coastal engineering and restoration projects is available from a variety of state funding sources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Engineering • Coastal and Land Use Enforcement • Dam Safety • Flood Control • Land Resource Protection • Resilience Engineering and Construction • Tidelands 		

5.3.3 County

Table 5-7 summarizes the fiscal capabilities available to Burlington County, at the county level. For a discussion of fiscal capabilities at the municipal level, refer to the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II.

Table 5-7. Pre- and Post-Disaster Funding Capabilities – County

Capability	Details	
Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
	Hazard:	All Hazards
The Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program was created to assist its partner municipalities in the development and improvement of parks for outdoor passive and active recreation and in their efforts to preserve open space and farmland. Through this program, the County Commissioners will offer grants to build or improve municipal parks, to offset the local cost share required by the county's Farmland Preservation Program, or to provide additional financial assistance for acquisition of locally important open space in conjunction with the County's Local Open Space Preservation Program.		
Farmland Preservation Program	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Agriculture Development Board
	Hazard:	All Hazards
The Farmland Preservation Program is committed to preserving a permanent agricultural land base and maintaining an environment that supports a viable agricultural industry. Over 28,000 acres of farmland have been preserved to date through this County program.		
Open Space Preservation Program/Trail Development Program	Responsible Agency:	Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
	Hazard:	All Hazards
The Open Space Preservation Program/Trail Development Program is responsible for acquisition of the land that will become part of the County Parks System and developing that land for public enjoyment.		

5.4 PLAN INTEGRATION

Hazard mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Integrating hazard mitigation into a community's existing plans, policies, codes, and programs leads to development patterns that do not increase risk from known hazards or leads to



redevelopment that reduces risk from known hazards. The Burlington County Planning Partnership was tasked with identifying how hazard mitigation is integrated into existing planning mechanisms. The jurisdictional annexes in Volume II detail how this is done for each participating municipality and the County. During this process, many municipalities recognized the importance and benefits of incorporating hazard mitigation into future municipal planning and regulatory processes and have added new mitigation actions to support this effort.

The Planning Partners will continue to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations. Planning Partnership representatives will continue to work with local government officials to integrate the newly adopted hazard mitigation goals and actions into the general operations of government and partner organizations. Further, the sample adoption resolution presented in Appendix A (Plan Adoption) includes a resolution item stating the intent of the local governing body to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations. By doing so, the Planning Partnership anticipates that:

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

Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) provides for additional information on the implementation of the hazard mitigation plan through integration into existing programs.