Summary of financial assistance programs

Several state and federal agencies offer financial assistance to municipalities and non-profits for activities relating to Hudson River Flood Resilience Task Force Recommendations. This document provides an overview of these assistance programs and indicates the agencies which offer financial assistance or information. Eligible activities include municipal planning, improving the resiliency of structures, emergency management planning, waterfront revitalization, public outreach, and floodplain protection. The agencies and areas of assistance are listed below.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Public Assistance, Community Rating System
- Department of State (DOS): Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, Brownfield Opportunity Area
- Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC): Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning, Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, Green Innovation Grant Program
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP): Park development, Historic Preservation

**Other Financial Assistance Programs**

- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Cleaner Greener Communities
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Programs
- Hudson River Greenway Communities and Compact Grant Programs
- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Resilience Program
- Open Space Funding Options

**NYS Consolidated Funding Application**

New York State’s Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) allows communities to design comprehensive projects and with one application, apply to multiple state funding sources. Communities may not apply to federal programs such as FEMA through the CFA.

**LOCAL EXAMPLE: CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION**

Kingston received a $1.2 million grant for a public-private intermunicipal partnership to design and build a one mile promenade along the Hudson River. The promenade will feature green infrastructure and offer public access and recreation and keep open space along the waterfront. The funds were awarded from the Department of State’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Program through a CFA application.
Overview of Financial Assistance Programs

Below is a summary of financial assistance programs identified by their funding categories related to flood resilience.

- Municipal planning
- Collaboration and public outreach
- Resilient structures
- Waterfront economy
- Emergency management
- Floodplain protection

☑ CFA = grants included in the NYS Consolidated Funding Application

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is a national agency that administers programs providing flood insurance, hazard mitigation assistance, and public assistance grants.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance

FEMA currently provide three types of hazard mitigation assistance (HMA):

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures. HMGP funds are triggered by a declared disaster and funneled to individual municipalities through the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and projects.

- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) provides funds on an annual basis for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Public Assistance Grant Program

Through the Public Assistance (PA) Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities, and the facilities of certain private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

LOCAL EXAMPLE: HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

Kingston applied for a $5 million grant from Hurricanes Irene and Sandy Relief Funds to implement Task Force recommendations riparian buffers, buyouts, the adaptation and fortification of infrastructure, and the purchase emergency generators for pumping stations. The City is awaiting notification of the application’s status.
Community Rating System

FEMA also administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the related Community Rating System (CRS), which allows municipalities to reduce flood insurance rates for all policyholders by instating community-scale projects and policies regarding flood resilience.

Department of State (DOS)

The DOS is a planning agency that focuses on economic revitalization and resilient, livable communities.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides technical assistance, and matching grants on a reimbursement basis to villages, towns, cities, and counties located along New York’s coasts or designated inland waterways, to prepare or implement strategies for community and waterfront revitalization. The grant categories currently are:

- Preparing or implementing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Redeveloping hamlets, downtowns and urban waterfronts
- Planning or constructing land and water-based trails
- Preparing or implementing a watershed revitalization plan
- Preparing or implementing a community resilience strategy

$11.75 million was made available in the 2014-15 LWRP Grant Program. Funds are available as a 50% match.

Contact: Jamie Ethier, NYS DOS, (518) 473-3656, Jaime.Ethier@dos.ny.gov
Timeline: 2015-16 Grant Programs TBA, ☑CFA

Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program

The Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program provides municipalities and community based organizations with technical and financial assistance to complete area-wide approaches to redeveloping and revitalizing brownfield areas – abandoned, underused or overgrown industrial or commercial sites. Funds cover up to 90% of project costs on a reimbursement basis.

Contact: David Ashton, NYS DOS, (518) 473-2473, David.Ashton@dos.ny.gov
Timeline: Open enrollment
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

The NYS DEC is a state agency focused on the conservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of environmental resources.

Hudson River Estuary Program Grants

The 2015 Request for Applications (RFA) for Hudson River Estuary Grants is expected to be announced soon. All prospective applicants must register in advance in the New York State Grants Gateway, www.grantsreform.gov, to be eligible to apply for any New York State grant.

Contact: Keep in touch with the Estuary Program for the latest grants and RFPs via the Climate Resilience Newsletter and Hudson RiverNet

Timeline: TBA

Water Quality Improvement Project

The WQIP program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that directs funds from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York's waterbodies. Eligible Project Types include nonagricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, municipal wastewater treatment, aquatic habitat restoration, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4).

Contact: User.Water@dec.ny.gov

Timeline: Opening of next round (round 12) TBA

Trees for Tribs

The Hudson River Estuary Program's Trees for Tribs offers free native trees and shrubs for streamside buffer planting and restoration projects in the Hudson River estuary watershed. Since 2007, the program has been responsible for planting more than 38,000 native trees and shrubs along 16 miles of stream with the help of thousands of local volunteers.

Contact: Beth Roessler, NYS DEC, 845-256-2253, HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov

Timeline: The Spring round is open but resources are limited. There will be an opportunity to apply again in the Fall.

Wastewater Asset Management Pilot Program

This year, DEC will fund asset management plans for municipal wastewater infrastructure in qualifying communities. These plans will map infrastructure components, fill in gaps of any existing asset management plans, and identify strategies for cost-effective implementation. Communities will work with an engineering firm for 2-3 years to develop the plan. More details to come.

DEC offers a variety of grant programs relating to water quality, land protection, and more. Check the DEC grants webpage for open opportunities.
Environmental Facility Corporation (EFC)

The EFC is a state agency that assists public and private entities to comply with federal and state environmental quality standards through technical assistance, low cost financing, and green innovation grants.

**Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant**

The EFC, in cooperation with NYS DEC, offers grants for engineering and consulting services to produce engineering reports to construct or improve municipal wastewater systems. A maximum of $30,000 in funding is available for communities under 50,000 residents; the municipality must provide a 20% match. The final engineering report can be implemented using EFC or other financing sources.

Contact: Susan Van Patten, NYS DEC, 518-402-8267, CFAWater@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Timeline: 2015 grant TBA, ☑CFA

**Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

The EFC provides various forms of low-interest project finance for water-quality protection projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A variety of publicly-owned water quality improvement projects are eligible for financing, including point source projects such as wastewater treatment facilities, and nonpoint source projects such as stormwater management projects and landfill closures, as well as certain habitat restoration and protection projects in national estuary program areas.

Contact: Dwight Brown, EFC, 518-402-7396, CWSRFinfo@efc.ny.gov

Timeline: Open enrollment

**Green Innovation Grant Program**

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) funds projects (with a minimum 10% local match) across New York State that utilize unique stormwater infrastructure design and create cutting-edge green technologies. GIGP funds highly-visible projects which:

- Protect and improve water quality
- Spur innovation in stormwater management
- Build capacity locally and beyond by inspiring others to build and maintain green infrastructure
- Facilitate the transfer of new technologies and practices to other areas of the State.

Contact: Suzanna Randall, EFC, 518-402-7461, GIGP@efc.ny.gov

Timeline: 2015 Program Deadline TBA, ☑CFA
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

THE NYS OPRHP is a state agency dedicated to preserving and enhancing parks, historic assets and heritage areas.

**Park development**

The OPRHP provides matching grants for planning, acquisition, and development of parks and recreational areas.

**Historic preservation**

The OPRHP provides matching grants to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate, restore or acquire properties listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects.

Contact: Erin O'Neil, NYS OPRHP, (845) 889-3866
Timeline: 2015 Program Deadline TBA, ☢️CFA

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**Additional Financial Assistance Resources**

**New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**

NYSERDA is a public benefit corporation that supports renewable energy, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas reduction projects in the state.

**Cleaner Greener Communities (CGC)**

NYSERDA is offering competitive grants for the implementation of market-transforming sustainability initiatives and projects that accelerate the adoption of sustainable planning and development practices, that are innovative, create multiple community benefits, reduce carbon emissions, leverage public and private resources, and propel NYS toward an environmentally and economically vibrant and resilient future. Funding will support policy and plan development, technical assistance, and implementation of projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Certain stormwater and adaptive planning for flood resilience qualify because of their direct and indirect impact on a community’s GHG emissions.

Contact: CGC@nyserda.ny.gov
Timeline: Open enrollment until September 30, 2015, ☢️CFA
You can view all current opportunities on the NYSERDA open funding webpage.

**US Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

The USDA is a federal agency focused on rural economies, agriculture, health, conservation and more.

The USDA has multiple programs for infrastructure grants and low-interest rate loans for communities and non-profits. They also administer two programs in New York that can be used to support the conservation and

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LOCAL EXAMPLE: PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Village of Freeport received a $250,000 grant to replace over 1,000 feet of bulkhead at Waterfront Park to reduce soil erosion and improve public safety and recreational access.

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reconnection of floodplains for mitigating flood waters:

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Contact: Enroll in EQIP through [local NRCS office](#)

Timeline: Open enrollment

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

CREP is administered by the NYS Farm Service Agency (FSA) and targets high-priority conservation issues identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organizations. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and introducing conservation practices, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural land owners are paid an annual rental rate. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10–15 years, along with other federal and state incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement.

Contact: Enroll in CREP through [local FSA office](#)

Timeline: Open enrollment

**NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway**

The Greenway is state agency focused on using regional collaboration to conserve and enhance the natural, scenic and historic resources of the unique Hudson River Valley.

**Greenway Communities Grant Program**

Financial assistance (approximately $5,000-$10,000) is available to designated “Greenway Communities” within the Greenway Area. Projects funded under this program include those that relate to community planning, economic development, natural resource protection, cultural resource protection, scenic resource protection, and open space protection.

**Greenway Compact Grant Program**

Funding for municipalities that develop, approve, and implement a regional compact strategy consistent with the Greenway criteria and the Greenway act.

Contact: 518-473-3835, hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov

Timeline: Two rounds with deadlines of May 8, 2015 and September 11, 2015

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**LOCAL EXAMPLE: GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT**

The Village of Ossining received a $15,000 grant to create a Waterfront Recreational Resource Plan to identify ways to promote water-related uses on their 3 miles of Hudson River waterfront, and to outline strategies to increase public access, catalog existing recreational assets, and engage stakeholders to determine demand for possible upgrades.
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)
The DHSES is a state agency that offers various grants and programs relating to emergency management.

Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant
Funding for county governments to facilitate the development, consolidation, and/or improved operation of public safety communications to support and enhance statewide interoperable communications for first responders.

Contact: grants@dheses.ny.gov
Timeline: Due April 15, 2015

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
NOAA is a federal agency that uses science technology to monitor and forecast environmental conditions, including natural disasters, daily weather, fisheries health, and more.

Regional Coastal Resilience Grants
NOAA will establish a competitive grant program to promote coastal communities’ resilience to extreme weather events and climate hazards. This funding will fill a gap in the current state-centric structure of the Coastal Zone Management Grants by prioritizing actions that bring together partners on a regional scale. Funding emphasis is on implementation, not planning.

Contact: nos.info@noaa.gov
Timeline: Program to be announced early 2015.

Open Space Funding Options
Preserving land as open space in floodplains and in coastal areas is an important aspect of flood resilience recommendations. Here are several options for municipalities looking to preserve open space in their community:

- The municipality can advocate to have their land included in the NYS Open Space Plan that is updated every 5 years. This helps the community to show that the land has value outside of traditional development and is a good way to prepare for purchase of the land for open space. The State receives annual funding to purchase lands specifically mentioned in the plan. Municipalities can also seek grant funds to write or update their own Open Space Plan and include floodplain protection as one of the important values that open space provides.

- The municipality can work with a private land trust, like the Wallkill Valley Land Trust or the Open Space Institute to

LOCAL EXAMPLE: REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX
The Town of Warwick passed a 0.75% Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Town of Red Hook a 2% tax to create a conservation fund to help provide financial support for their Open Space Plans.
purchase the land using easements if it has scenic, ecological and/or agricultural value. Then, the community may be able to work with the land trust to make the property more valuable as floodplain protection.

- The municipality can purchase the land for open space by taking on debt (bonds) or instigating a tax levy. One example of a relevant tax levy is called a Real Estate Transfer Tax, which has been passable by local law since NYS passed the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act of 2007. This tax is applied to mortgages on local real estate and is used to create a conservation fund for the community, which can be used to preserve open space.

### Summary table of all funding assistance programs

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<thead>
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<th>Assistance Program</th>
<th>Priority Funding Categories</th>
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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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