



**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

New York State

Elected Officials Guide to Emergency Management



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Purpose of the Guide

This guide is designed to provide elected officials with an overview of emergency management in New York State. Additional information can be found at the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) website at www.dhSES.ny.gov.

In developing this guide, DHSES worked closely with the New York State Emergency Management Association (NYSEMA), comprised of County and other local government emergency managers from across the State.

About DHSES

DHSES provides leadership, coordination and support for efforts to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism and other man-made and natural disasters, threats, fires and other emergencies.



**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

About the DHSES Office of Emergency Management

For more than 50 years, the DHSES Office of Emergency Management (DHSES OEM) and its predecessor agencies have been responsible for coordinating the activities of all State agencies to protect New York's communities, the State's economic well-being, and the environment from natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

DHSES OEM routinely assists local governments, voluntary organizations, and private industry through a variety of emergency management programs. DHSES OEM also oversees the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) used to coordinate the State's disaster response activities in support of local government. DHSES OEM currently has the following Sections:

- Planning
- Training and Exercises
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Radiological Emergency Preparedness
- Operations
- Incident Management Team



**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Emergency
Management**

About NYSEMA

NYSEMA is a non-profit organization supporting and enhancing local emergency management efforts in New York State. In doing so, NYSEMA works with DHSES and other agencies to:

- Promote active, on-going and adequately funded emergency management programs at all levels of government (local, State and Federal).
- Build on the foundation of existing emergency management plans, systems and capabilities to broaden their applicability to the full spectrum of emergencies, emphasizing implementation of emergency management measures that are known to be effective.
- Foster a full Local, State and Federal Governmental partnership with provisions for flexibility at all levels of government for achieving common goals.
- Promote more complete integration of emergency management planning into Local and State policy making and operational systems.
- Assist in the development of a coordinated response network through the combined efforts of Local, State, and Federal Agencies as well as the private sector.



About NY Responds

NY Responds is a state-of-the-art online incident management system used within EOCs to develop and maintain situational awareness and coordinate the sharing of emergency resources across the State. DHSES OEM has made the NY Responds system available to every County in New York, and it serves as a single, unified system to ensure visibility, transparency and accountability of emergency response activities and assets. DHSES OEM is further developing the NY Responds system to include advance GIS mapping capabilities, weather data, real-time communications, and emergency notification functions. It is critical that Elected Officials understand the existence of the NY Responds system and promote its use during emergencies.



Responds

The Roles of Elected Officials

Elected Officials have important roles during all phases of emergency management. Some of these roles are highlighted below and further explained in this guide.

Before Disasters Strike

- Make planning for disasters a priority at all levels of your organization.
- Meet with your emergency management team to learn about the hazards that threaten your jurisdiction and what is being done to address those hazards.
- Learn about emergency management and disaster assistance programs.
- Encourage all government agencies and business leaders to coordinate and collaborate with your jurisdiction's emergency management agency.
- Get familiar with your jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Center.
- Encourage individuals, families and businesses to develop an emergency plan and be self-sufficient in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
- Participate in disaster drills and exercises.
- Learn the damage assessment process and how it impacts the possibility of obtaining Federal assistance.
- Learn your legal authorities and responsibilities.
- Obtain the necessary training to become a leader for your constituents during an emergency. More information about training can be found at: www.dhSES.ny.gov/training.

During a Disaster

- Support and work with your emergency management officials as needed; this may include declaring a State of Emergency and issuing emergency orders if you are the Chief Elected Official within your jurisdiction.
- Understand the resource request process and work within the NY Responds system to avoid competing or conflicting requests; all resource requests need to be routed through the County emergency management agency and Emergency Operations Center (when activated).
- Communicate quickly, clearly and effectively to your constituents and work with your partners to ensure a coordinated message.
- Get accurate public information out early and often.
- Maintain situational awareness regarding the disaster by staying informed.
- Trust and empower your emergency management officials to make the right decisions.

After a Disaster

- Understand the Federal Disaster Declaration process and what funding may be available to assist with the recovery; Federal assistance is generally only available after the President issues a Major Disaster Declaration and damage thresholds must be met to qualify for Federal aid.
- Ask questions; the recovery process and programs can be complex.
- Support your community throughout the recovery; it can be a long process particularly for major disasters.
- Help to identify opportunities to build back better and mitigate future damage through mitigation planning and smart infrastructure investments.

New York State's Risk Profile

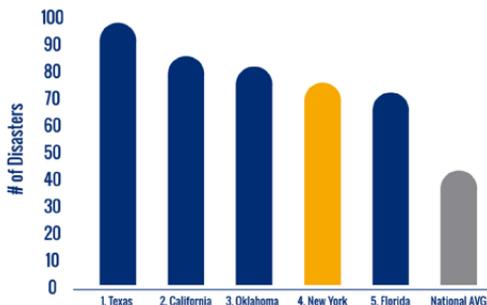
New York State faces a variety of manmade and natural hazards and no state has endured the threat of terrorism like New York with two terrorist attacks plus the numerous foiled plots since 9/11. Additionally, New York State has recently faced some of the largest natural disasters in the State's history with Hurricanes Sandy and Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Collectively these events have resulted in numerous losses of life and property, and billions of dollars in damage. The recent disasters and terrorist plots are just some of the threats and hazards we face and it is critical that elected leaders in New York State understand the risks and the importance of emergency management at all levels of government.

Examples of the Threats and Hazards Facing New York State

- Flooding
- Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
- Tornadoes
- Winter Storms/Ice Storms
- Wildfires
- Earthquakes
- Drought
- Pandemics/Public Health Emergencies
- Infrastructure Failures
- Transportation Accidents
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Terrorism
- Active Shooter Situations
- Cyber Attacks

New York State currently ranks fourth in the nation in the number of Federal Disaster Declarations. Every County in New York has been impacted by at least one of these disasters. There are numerous other emergencies that did not meet the Federal Disaster Declaration criteria but still caused major impacts locally.

FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS TO DATE



Emergency management protects communities by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to save lives, reduce human suffering and mitigate further harm to disaster-affected populations. It does this through a process to build, sustain, and improve the capability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made hazards. Emergency management exists at all levels of government and relies on the coordination and integration of a variety of public and private sector partners during the four phases of emergency management (outlined below).



Preparedness: Building the emergency management function through planning and policy development, staffing, obtaining necessary equipment, and conducting emergency management training and exercises. Stakeholder outreach and education efforts are also important preparedness activities.

Response: Conducting emergency operations to save lives, reduce suffering, and mitigate further harm from disaster-affected populations.

Recovery: Rebuilding communities to function on their own, and developing resiliency for future events.

Mitigation: Taking sustained actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

Overview of NYS Executive Law Article 2B

Article 2-B of the New York State Executive Law provides the statutory governance of emergency management activities in New York State, including the authority of State and local Chief Executives. It also created the State Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC). The DPC is made up of officials from 29 State agencies, offices, and authorities and the American Red Cross, with the Commissioner of the DHSES serving as the permanent chair. DHSES OEM acts as the operational arm of the DPC and serves as the focal point for all emergency management programs, including maintaining the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and coordinating and directing State Agencies and assets in response to a disaster or emergency.

Article 2-B also provides that:

- Local government and emergency service organizations continue their essential role as the first line of defense in times of disaster;
- The State provide appropriate supportive services to the extent necessary;
- Local government officials take an active role in the development and implementation of disaster preparedness programs;
- State and local natural disaster and emergency response functions be coordinated in order to bring the fullest protection and benefit to the people;
- State resources be organized and prepared for immediate effective response to disasters which are beyond the capability of local governments and emergency service organizations; and
- Upon a finding by the DPC that a local government is unable to manage a local disaster, and with the approval of the Governor the State may assume temporary direction over local disaster operations.

Disaster Preparedness

Planning

Article 2-B outlines the requirements for State and local disaster plans. The DPC is responsible for maintaining the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and its functional annexes. The CEMP is composed of the State's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Response and Short-Term Recovery Plan, and Long-Term Recovery Plan. Local Emergency Management Offices are generally responsible for developing and maintaining local CEMPs.

Jurisdictions should also develop Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) plans to ensure their agency and government functions can continue to operate during a crisis. More information on CEMP, COOP and COG planning, including templates and planning guides, can be found on the Planning portion of the DHSES website.

10 Step CEMP Planning Process

1. Assemble the Planning Team
2. Conduct Hazard Analysis
3. Examine Risk Reduction Strategies
4. Conduct a Capability Assessment
5. Develop a Response Plan
6. Develop a Recovery Plan
7. Engage/Educate the Community
8. Exercise the Plan (s)
9. Approve the Plan (s)
10. Update the Plan (s)

Training and Exercises

In addition to planning, it is critical to conduct emergency response training to ensure everyone understands the plan and their roles during a major emergency or disaster. Elected officials should take advantage of training opportunities. There are a variety of on-line and classroom courses available and DHSES has worked with NYSEMA to develop training specifically for executives. More information on the various training opportunities can be found on the Training portion of the DHSES website and by contacting your jurisdiction's emergency management agency. Elected officials should also participate in drills and exercises designed to test response capabilities and disaster plans and protocols.

Citizen and Community Preparedness

It is the responsibility of every citizen in the State to ensure that they and their families have taken the necessary steps needed to prepare for a major disaster. These steps include: 1) making an emergency plan, 2) preparing an emergency kit, 3) becoming informed of potential disasters and hazards, and 4) getting involved with disaster volunteer organizations. Taking the right steps to build awareness and prepare for emergencies will build a stronger community and can help save lives in New York State. DHSES has established an Aware Prepare website (www.nyprep.gov) aimed at providing New York State citizens, businesses, and communities with information and procedures to better prepare for disasters and emergencies. Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Corps training initiative is also intended to enhance citizen preparedness. The program seeks to provide citizens with the training to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. Training sessions are led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the DHSES Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Elected officials should also help to promote the preparedness message with their constituents and communities.

Disaster Response

The State provides a variety of support to local governments during emergency and disaster response situations. These efforts are coordinated by DHSES through the County emergency management agencies. Some of the key activities include:

- Directing and coordinating State emergency response activities in support of local government.
- Working with local government to identify and to meet emergency needs and resource requests.
- Gathering and sharing information about the disaster to ensure effective situational awareness.
- Conducting preliminary damage assessments and gathering other information necessary to support requests for a Major Disaster Declaration and the associated Federal funding.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, based on the authority derived from Article 2-B, the Governor can also declare a State Disaster Emergency and suspend State laws in support of the response effort. This process and other key disaster response concepts are further outlined in this guide.



National Incident Management System/Incident Command System

To ensure consistency and a coordinated response between the various levels of government, disaster response activities in New York State are conducted in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the associated Incident Command System (ICS).

NIMS: provides a consistent nationwide framework to enable Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. This consistency provides the foundation for utilization of NIMS for all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.

NIMS Compliance

State and local governments must comply with the use of NIMS (and ICS) to remain eligible to receive Federal grant funding

This consistency provides the foundation for utilization of NIMS for all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.

ICS: is a key component of NIMS and is the incident command system used by State and local agencies in New York State. ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach that:

- Allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure.
- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private.
- Establishes common processes for planning and managing resources.

Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)

EOCs are used to help coordinate and manage disasters that require response resources from numerous agencies and/or levels of government. An EOC is a location from which centralized emergency management can be performed. It is a facility used to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency. The EOC exists to support the response activities occurring in the field, and **it is critical that all information and/or resource requests be routed through the EOC when activated.** EOCs are typically activated for larger events, or in some cases to monitor emerging situations or planned events. EOCs vary in size and complexity depending upon the jurisdiction. Elected officials should make time to visit their jurisdiction's EOC to understand how it is organized and activated during an event. It is also important to note that every County has access to the NY Response system within their EOC. To schedule a visit to your County EOC, please contact your County Emergency Manager. Contact information is available at: www.nysema.org

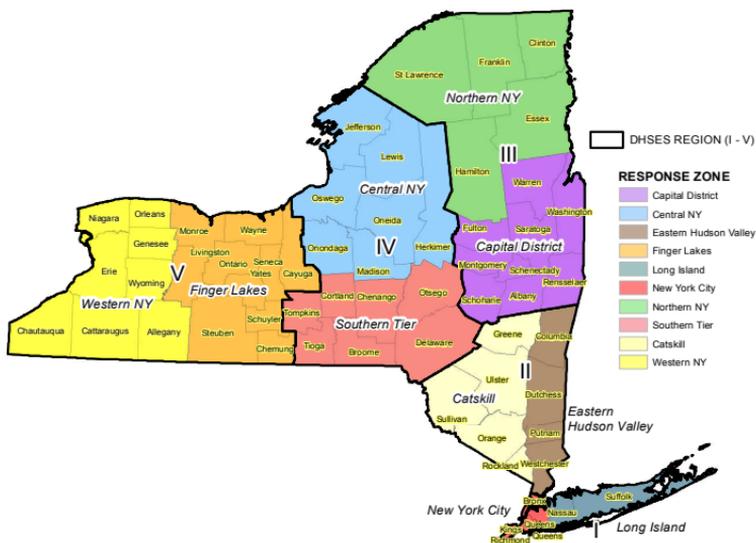


DHSES Regions/OEM Response Zones

DHSES provides service to Counties and local governments across the State through a five region construct. The regions are further broken into 10 OEM Response Zones each with a Regional Director and Regional Coordinator that assist the Counties and localities with emergency management activities, including disaster response. In doing so, the OEM field staff work in close collaboration with the DHSES Office of Fire Prevention and Control, State Police and other State and local agencies within the region.

Situational Awareness

Gaining and maintaining situational awareness is critical to understanding the scope and scale of an event and ensuring State and local resources can be mobilized to respond quickly and effectively.



9/20/2012

DHSES OEM Regional Contact Information

Region I

Long Island: Nassau, Suffolk

Address: 250 Veterans Memorial Highway, Room 4A7, Hauppauge, NY, 11788

New York City: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond

Address: 633 Third Avenue, 32nd Floor, New York, NY 10017

Region II

Eastern Hudson Valley: Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester

Address: 10 Ross Circle, Suite 1, South Poughkeepsie (city), NY, 12601

Catskill: Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster

Address: 10 Ross Circle, Suite 1, South Poughkeepsie (city), NY, 12601

Region III

Northern NY: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence

Address: 5 Fox Farm Road, Queensbury, NY, 12804-1107

Capital District: Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington

Address: 1220 Washington Avenue, Building 22 Suite 101, Albany, NY 12226

Region IV

Central NY: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego

Address: 10 Adler Drive, Suite 103, East Syracuse, NY, 13057

Southern Tier: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins

Address: 2534 Airport Road #6, Johnson City, NY, 13790

Region V

Western NY: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

Address: 1530 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY, 14623

Finger Lakes: Cayuga, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates

Address: 1530 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY, 14623

Please call the NYS Watch Center to contact your respective Regional Director
(518) 292-2200 | (518) 322-4982@fax.ny.gov | NY.StateWatchCenter@dhSES.ny.gov

The NY Responds Resource Request Process

During a disaster, DHSES/OEM will work to staff County EOCs and help local emergency managers identify resource needs and submit resource requests to the State EOC for processing. All local requests for resources must be routed through the County emergency management agency and the County EOC (if/once activated). If the request can't be filled locally, the County emergency management agency will seek assistance from the State. During disaster situations, the resource requests will be routed from the County EOC to the State EOC, as the State EOC serves as the centralized coordination point for all requests made to the State. If the State EOC is not activated, the County emergency management agency will work through the DHSES/OEM regional staff.



Intrastate Mutual Aid Program (IMAP)

The IMAP is another tool that the State and local governments can use to share emergency management resources. Established in Executive Law Article 2B (§ 29-h), IMAP provides for mutual assistance among the State and the participating local governments in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from, any disaster that results in a formal declaration of an emergency by a participating local government. The Program also provides for mutual cooperation among participating local governments in conducting disaster-related drills, exercises, or other training activities outside actual declared emergency periods. IMAP complies with requirements of NIMS/ICS. More information on the IMAP Program, including Standard Operating Guidelines, can be found on the DHSES website.

NYS Watch Center

In addition to the State EOC in Albany, NYS DHSES also operates the NYS Watch Center. The Watch Center is a 24/7 operation that monitors weather and other situations that may warrant State or local response activities. Watch Center staff continuously monitor, analyze, and share information with DHSES/OEM field staff and other internal and external stakeholders to ensure they have and maintain situational awareness. The Watch Center disseminates daily operations briefs during steady-state operations and situation reports during an incident. The NYS Watch Center can be reached 24/7 at 518-292-2200.

NY-Alert

NY-Alert is the State's all-hazards alert and notification system. It is part of New York State's ongoing commitment to provide New Yorkers with information so that they will understand the risks and threats that they may face and know how to respond



accordingly. The NY-Alert website contains critical emergency-related information including instructions and recommended protective actions developed in real-time by emergency service personnel. Concurrent with the posting to this website, that same information will be disseminated through various communications systems (e.g. email, cell phones, media outlets) to those who sign up. The information shared through NY-Alert includes severe weather warnings, significant highway closures, hazardous materials spills, and many other emergency conditions. By signing up for NY-Alert, you can receive warnings and emergency information via the web, your cell phone, email and other technologies. A companion App for mobile devices (iAlertz) is also available for iPhone and Android devices. Signing up for NY-Alert is free and elected officials should take advantage of this program and encourage others to do so as well. Additional information on NY-Alert, including how to register, can be found at www.nyalert.gov.

NYS Stockpile Program

NYS DHSES uses a variety of mechanisms to identify and deploy resources to support local response needs during an emergency or disaster. One of those mechanisms is the New York State Stockpile Program. Initiated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to more quickly deploy key response resources during times of crisis, the Stockpile Program consists of nine (9) locations across the State that house a variety of resources often needed during a disaster. These resources include generators, light towers, mass care supplies (e.g., cots, blankets), pumps and numerous other assets often needed during an emergency. Stockpile requests are considered by DHSES (in consultation with County emergency management) on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the request and the situation. However, **the stockpile assets are only intended to be used during emergency situations and after other local resourcing options have been exhausted, and all requests must be made to DHSES through the County emergency manager.** As outlined above, the stockpile is only one means DHSES may use to fulfill a request. DHSES may also obtain the requested resource from another agency or by procurement if the asset is not readily available elsewhere.



The Disaster Declaration Process

Most emergencies are handled locally without any need for State or Federal assistance. However, in those cases where the emergency evolves into a disaster that overwhelms local or State resources, there is an established process to seek support from the Federal government.

The disaster declaration process generally begins with the local response and a local state of emergency (if warranted). A State response and State disaster emergency declaration often follow allowing State assets and resources to be used in support of local government. State and local states of emergency are critical in that they allow for the suspension of State and local laws and greater authority and flexibility to respond to the incident (e.g., the closure of State and local roads). **Although a local State of Emergency generally occurs first, in some cases the State may act in advance of local government to ensure the State is better positioned to move assets or support local government needs.** In these cases, DHSES/OEM will work to ensure coordination and communication with local emergency management officials once executive decisions are made.

If the event looks as though it may overwhelm State resources, the Governor may seek a Federal Emergency Declaration allowing for Federal assets and resources to assist with the response. If the event results in enough damage, the Governor may request that the President declare a Major Disaster Declaration which can open up a variety of Federal recovery assistance programs for individuals and jurisdictions impacted by the disaster. **However, it is critical to understand that not every disaster will result in State or Federal funding assistance, as only the most severe events generally meet the required thresholds.** Therefore, it is important that elected leaders understand the disaster declaration process and what funding may or may not be available.

Some of the more relevant types of Emergency/Disaster Declarations are outlined below:

Local State of Emergency: Declared by local government, a Local State of Emergency allows for the suspension of local laws, the establishment of curfews, local road closures, the establishment of emergency shelters, and other activities to enable the local response effort.

State Disaster Emergency Declaration: Declared by the Governor, a State Disaster Emergency Declaration allows for the suspension of State laws and the ability of State assets, including the National Guard, to assist local governments during a disaster.

Federal Emergency Declaration: Declared by the President, a Federal Emergency Declaration is issued to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe. Generally, Federal assistance and funding are provided to meet specific emergency needs or to help prevent a catastrophe from occurring. A Federal Emergency Declaration allows for specific types of Federal assistance but is far more limited than a Major Disaster Declaration.

Major Disaster Declaration: Declared by the President, a Major Disaster Declaration makes a variety of Federal funding available for emergency relief and reconstruction assistance to the State and local governments and individuals impacted by the disaster.

The graphic below further outlines the **Major Disaster Declaration** process. Although depicted in a linear fashion, several of these steps can occur near simultaneously. State and local states of emergency do not necessarily need to be declared to obtain a Major Disaster Declaration, although local and state declarations are generally made prior to requesting Federal assistance.

 **DISASTER OCCURS**



- Local Response
- Local State of Emergency Declared
- Request for State Assistance (through the County)



- State Response
- Governor Declares State Disaster Emergency
- Governor May Request Federal Emergency Declaration



- Preliminary Damage Assessment Conducted
- Governor Requests Major Disaster Declaration (if enough damage)



- FEMA Examines Damage and Disaster Declaration Request
- President Approves (or denies) Major Disaster Declaration
- If denied, the State can appeal



Federal Recovery Programs Commence
(if declaration is approved)

Disaster Recovery

All disasters generally have some degree of recovery in which emergency management agencies, community groups and others help individuals and jurisdictions recover from the event. State recovery programs may be available depending on the scope and magnitude of the disaster, but Federal assistance programs are generally only available if a Major Disaster Declaration is received. A Major Disaster Declaration can open up a variety of Federal assistance programs, including some of the major FEMA programs outlined below:

Individuals and Households Program (IHP): Through the IHP, FEMA provides financial help or direct services to those who have necessary expenses and serious needs if they are unable to meet the needs through other means. Up to the IHP maximum is available in financial assistance (adjusted each year), although some forms of IHP assistance have limits. The types of assistance available includes: Housing Assistance (including Temporary Housing, Repair, Replacement, and Semi-Permanent or Permanent Housing Construction) and Other Needs Assistance (including personal property and other items). States must be approved for Individual Assistance (IA) as part of the Major Disaster Declaration in order to receive IHP funding. **However, there is no threshold or exact criteria for an IA declaration although it generally depends on the disaster magnitude and number of individuals impacted.**

Disaster Case Management Program (DCM): DCM is a time-limited process that involves a partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor (also known as a “client”) to develop and carry out a Disaster Recovery Plan. This partnership provides the client with a single point of contact to facilitate access to a broad range of resources. State’s need to receive an IA declaration and apply for DCM funding; it is not guaranteed for every disaster.

Public Assistance (PA): Through the 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. States and localities must meet a damage threshold to obtain PA funding.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): The HMGP provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and improve property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. HMGP projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damages as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. FEMA also runs two nationwide non-disaster mitigation grant programs annually. Grants are also available to prepare hazard mitigation plans, which are a prerequisite for accessing FEMA mitigation project grants.

In addition to funding from FEMA, other Federal agencies have recovery programs that can be utilized if the disaster meets certain thresholds and criteria. Some of these programs include:

Small Business Administration (SBA): The SBA has disaster recovery programs as well, including low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, nonprofit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery & equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA): The USDA also offers emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR): The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides CDBG-DR funds for recovery efforts involving housing, economic development, infrastructure and prevention of further damage to affected areas, if such use does not duplicate funding available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The nature and scope of the disaster will generally dictate the type of programs available, so it is important to understand that additional State and Federal programs may exist depending on the magnitude and scope of the disaster. In addition to governmental agencies, NGOs may be able to provide recovery assistance as well. Elected officials should work closely with State and local emergency management agencies to understand the types of recovery programs that may be available after a disaster.

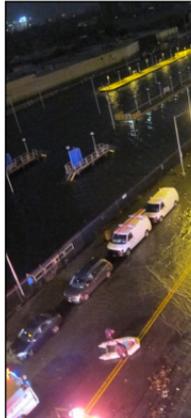
Disaster Mitigation

In addition to the post-disaster mitigation programs, State and local governments should engage in ongoing disaster mitigation planning to identify the hazards facing their jurisdiction and what steps can be taken before disasters strike to mitigate the potential impacts of those hazards. This may include things like enlarging culverts or moving structures out of the flood plane to mitigate the impact of a potential flood.

Additionally, **in order to receive certain types of disaster mitigation funding, State and local governments must have a hazard mitigation plan in place** (localities can be covered by a County plan). New York State's Hazard Mitigation plan is available on the Hazard Mitigation portion of the DHSSES website: www.dhses.ny.gov/oem/mitigation/

The Value of Mitigation

A recent study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars.



Preparedness Grants

In addition to the disaster recovery programs, there are numerous State and Federal grants intended to help build and sustain the capabilities of State and local agencies to respond to all types of hazards. **It is important for elected officials to understand the various programs and how they can be used to enhance preparedness.** Most of the Federal programs are administered by DHSES, and several of the larger programs are outlined below:

Grant Funding Since 9/11

Since 9/11, the Federal government has allocated more than \$30 billion in homeland security/emergency management grant funding to State and local governments. New York State has received more than \$4 billion, with at least 80% generally going to local government.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG): The purpose of the EMPG is to assist State and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities, including the development of emergency management plans, training and exercises. EMPG is one of the few grant programs that can be used to support staffing as well, and every County in New York State receives a population based EMPG award.

Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG): The SICG is a competitive State grant funded by cellular surcharge revenue intended to help facilitate the development, consolidation, and/or improved operation of public safety communications to support and enhance statewide interoperable communications for first responders.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): The SHSP is a core homeland security assistance program that provides funds to build capabilities at the State and local levels and to implement the goals and objectives included in the State Homeland Security Strategy. NYS has received SHSP funding since the program's inception in 2002. Per DHS guidelines, 80% of the State's SHSP award must be given to local grantees each year.

Targeted Grants: Although the vast majority of SHSP funds are awarded to Counties using a risk formula, DHSES also leverages the funding for a series of Targeted Grant Programs intended to help build and sustain some targeted emergency response capabilities across the State. The Targeted Grants are competitive in nature and have traditionally been used to support local Bomb Squads, Tactical Teams, Technical Rescue Teams, Hazardous Material Response Teams, Explosive Detection Canine Teams, and critical infrastructure protection efforts.

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI): The UASI program provides financial assistance to address the unique multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density Urban Areas, and to assist them in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. New York State currently has one UASI area as designated by the US DHS, the New York City UASI Region. In addition to NYC, the Region includes Westchester County, the City of Yonkers, Nassau County and Suffolk County. The UASI is governed by a Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) that ensures the development and implementation of regional preparedness initiatives.

A complete list of the programs administered by DHSES, including eligibility and allowable uses, can be found on the Grants portion of the DHSES website: www.dhSES.ny.gov/grants/. All funding should be used in support of the New York State Homeland Security Strategy, also available on the DHSES website: www.dhSES.ny.gov/planning/.

Conclusion

Elected officials are critical partners in emergency management, providing leadership before, during and after disasters strike. By taking an active and personal role in emergency management, elected officials can help ensure the safety of their constituents and communities. DHSES and NYSEMA are committed to working with elected officials to ensure they have the knowledge and information needed to support emergency management efforts in New York State.





www.dhSES.ny.gov