What is a Community Reconstruction Plan?

COMMUNITY VISION

Assets

Needs/OppORTunities

Strategies

Projects

Community Reconstruction Plan

For more information on NY Rising Program, visit us at www.NYSandyHelp.ny.gov
Step 1 ---> Inventory Assets

Your community has many assets that could be made more resilient in the face of future storms. We are going to compile a list of assets specific to your community. Please help us identify what the assets are in your community. Some ideas could be:

- **Housing** – Do you have any unique neighborhoods? Are there historic or culturally significant housing areas? Are there housing communities with special needs?

- **Transportation** – What are the critical roadways in your area? What streets are significant for emergency access and evacuation? Are railroad, boat or ferry facilities critical to your community? Bicycle or pedestrian facilities?

- **Infrastructure** – What facilities are located in your community for power, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and communications? Gasoline, fuel, oil?

- **Community Facilities** – Where are all the public and private schools? Other types of educational facilities? Hospitals? Fire and police departments? Public works? Where are your parks and public open space areas?

- **Natural Areas** – What special natural resources are located in your community? Are there beaches, rivers, canals, sanctuaries/preserves?

- **Commercial Areas** – Do you have a downtown business district? Are your businesses along a certain commercial roadway? Are there unique maritime industries associated with the Great South Bay?

There are many, many other assets, so don’t be limited by this list... it is just a starting point. Please show us on the maps where these features are located and help us to develop your critical asset list!
Step 2 ---> Identify Needs & Opportunities

Next, we want to understand the needs in your community. Your needs may relate to repairing or replacing assets that were damaged by recent storms; redirecting or expanding the local economy; or making your assets more resilient for the future. There are also opportunities in your community – things that make your community great that should be preserved and enhanced. Some questions to think about to develop your needs and opportunities include:

- Do regulatory approaches in extreme and high risk areas need to be changed? How?
- How do you want to balance economic potential of shoreline businesses with potential risks to people and property?
- Should your health and social services be increased to meet post-disaster needs?
- Are the housing needs in your community being addressed for various income levels and rental/ownership preferences?
- What can be done to your infrastructure to reduce future vulnerability and expedite recovery?
- Are there any infrastructure investments that would both stimulate economic growth and promote resiliency?
- How could your resources be rebuilt or restored to reduce vulnerability and foster resiliency?
- Is there a need for large-scale restoration of coastal protection infrastructure?

What are the needs and opportunities in your community? Please let us know!
Step 3 ---> Develop Strategies

Your community’s strategies will address the needs and opportunities that you identify. In developing the strategies, your community should consider the benefits, costs, availability of resources, timing relative to other projects and regional projects.

Examples of strategies include:

- Improvements to communication systems and protocols during a disaster.
- Opportunities to collaborate with adjacent communities on management or development of shared resources.
- Projects and policies that will facilitate the return to productivity of commercial, industrial or agricultural uses.
- Public investment in infrastructure to service commercial and industrial areas.
- Programs that promote the health and well-being of residents.
- Approaches to encourage the provision of disaster-resistant housing for all income groups.
- New investments in infrastructure to improve services to the community, resilience and economic growth.
- Projects and policies that would reduce vulnerability of infrastructure to storms.
- Restoration, conservation or rehabilitation of natural resources.
- Study of whether hard infrastructure along the shoreline should be repaired, removed or built up.

As you develop your needs and opportunities, it is helpful to keep in mind the strategies that will be created to address them.
Step 4 ---> Recommend Projects

Finally, projects to address your community’s desired strategies will be identified. The projects your community decides to pursue may replace damaged structures or address exposure to risk; respond to current or future housing needs or help restore or grow businesses. Some potential ideas for projects could include:

- Restoration of wetlands
- Relocation of a senior center
- Repair of sewer pipes
- Elevation or relocation of a fire house or other community facilities located in a high risk area
- Construction of new affordable housing to meeting the needs of displaced residents
- Construction of bulkheads, dikes or tide gates
- Land use and zoning policies that allow for protection of the shoreline

There is wide range of potential projects that could be pursued in your community. Working through the steps in the Community Reconstruction Program process will help your community identify and prioritize the strategies and projects to meet your community desires for resiliency in the future.

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