

New York State Community Reconstruction Zone Planning Program



The New York State Community Reconstruction Zone (CRZ) Program has been established to provide additional rebuilding and revitalization assistance to communities severely damaged by Hurricanes Sandy and Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. To facilitate community redevelopment planning and the resilience of communities, the State has established the Community Reconstruction Zone (CRZ) Program and has allocated \$25 million in planning grants for the most affected communities. Later allocations of funds will be used to support the implementation of projects and activities identified in the CRZ Plans that the identified communities will produce.

The CRZ Planning Program will allow communities to identify safe, resilient, and innovative reconstruction projects based on community-driven plans that consider current damage, future threats, and the community's economic opportunities.

The State will provide a variety of consultants to assist in the development of CRZ Plans. A CRZ Program website has been established at:

<http://nysandyhelp.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-zones>

The website will include additional details on the program, an extensive guidance document, planning tools, and assessment guides for communities to use as part of their planning process.

Each identified community will convene a CRZ Planning Committee that includes, among others, a representative from the County, Town or Village, elected legislative representatives, local residents, and directors of established organizations and businesses in the community.

The CRZ Planning Committee will be responsible for developing the content of the CRZ Plan. The CRZ Plan will provide a list of projects and actions needed for the community to recover, improve its economy, and reduce future natural disaster damage. Development of a successful plan will qualify a community to receive federal funding to implement the identified projects. The planning process is expected to take approximately eight months and will include the following important steps:

- **Asset Inventory:** Completing a detailed inventory of the community's social, economic, and natural resource assets and systems that have been, or will be, affected by coastal or riverine hazards.
- **Public Engagement:** Offering opportunities for public input and involvement at key milestones in the planning process.

- **Risk Assessment:** Assessing risk to key community assets and systems based on the three factors contributing to risk:
 - **Hazard:** The likelihood and magnitude of anticipated hazard events.
 - **Exposure:** Local landscape characteristics that tend to increase or decrease storm effects.
 - **Vulnerability:** The capacity of an asset or system to return to service after an event.
- **Needs and Opportunities Assessment:** Determining needs and opportunities to improve local economic growth and development and enhance resilience.
- **Strategies for Investment and Action:** Developing strategies and identifying funds to repair, reconstruct, or relocate essential public assets and protect vulnerable persons. Identifying management measures, projects, and actions needed to implement the strategies.
- **Implementation Schedule:** Preparing a detailed implementation schedule of the actions the community will take to implement the CRZ Plan.

The State will facilitate the CRZ planning process in each participating community and will be available throughout the process to provide communities and their CRZ Planning Committees:

- Guidance and technical assistance to help complete a CRZ Plan, including information workshops, webinars, and training;
- Assistance from experts and facilitators during the planning process;
- Identification of risk assessment areas;
- A regional context to develop large scale infrastructure projects and address State, regional, and county assets;
- An optional risk assessment tool to allow communities to estimate relative risk and test management measures ; and
- A website containing information related to plan development and implementation, as well as other useful resources.