

NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Overview



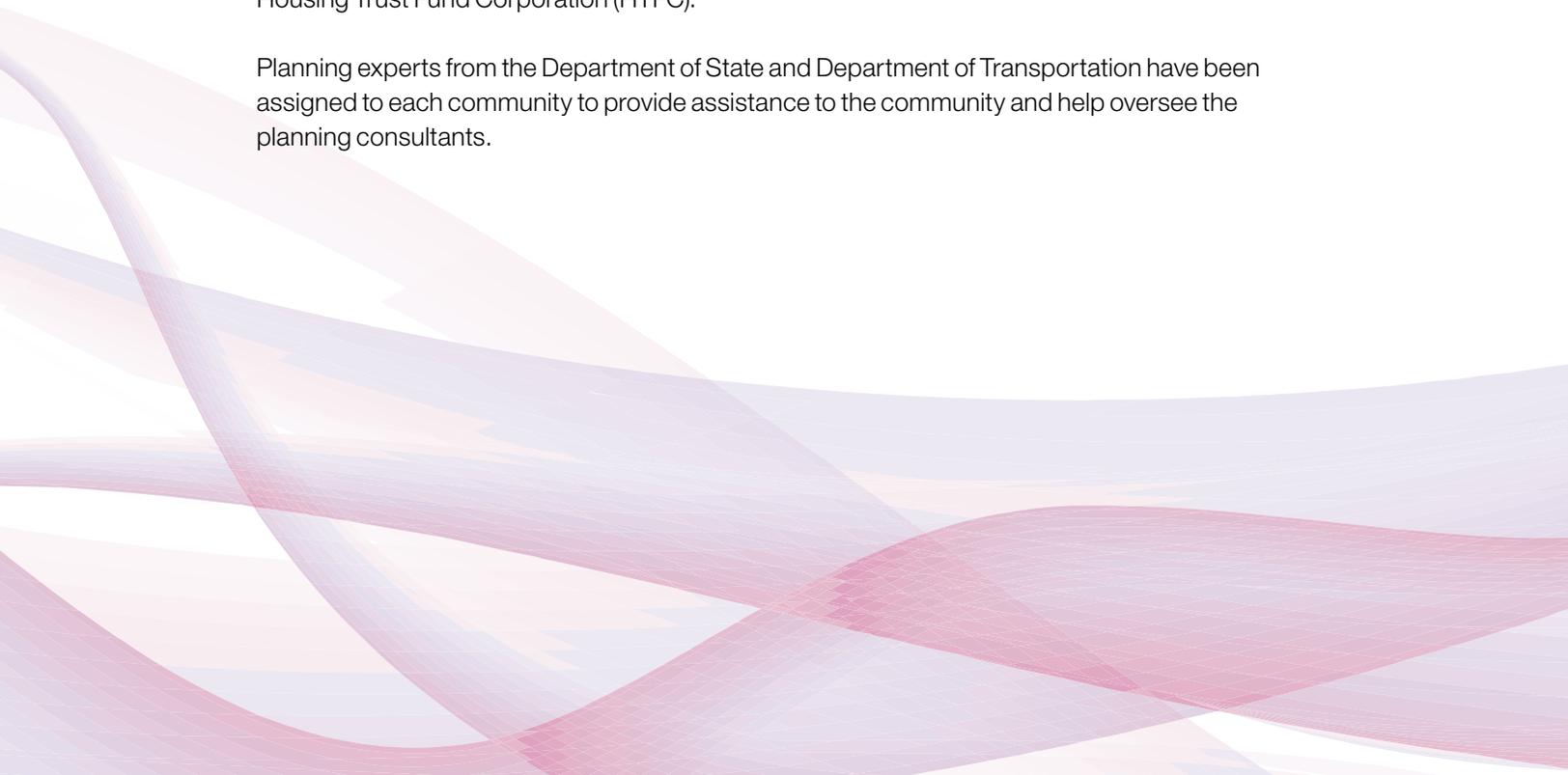
NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Overview

The NY Rising Community Reconstruction program was established to provide additional rebuilding and revitalization assistance to communities severely damaged by Hurricanes Sandy and Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The NY Rising Community Reconstruction program enables communities to identify resilient and innovative reconstruction projects and other needed actions based on community-driven plans that consider current damage, future threats and the communities economic opportunities. Communities successfully completing a recovery plan will be eligible to receive funds to support the implementation of projects and activities identified in the plans.

Each NY Rising Community has a Planning Committee that includes, among others, a representative from the County, Town or Village, elected legislative representatives, local residents, and leaders of other organizations and businesses in the community. The Planning Committee will take the lead in developing the content of the plan.

The State has provided each NY Rising Community with a planning team to help prepare a plan. Consultants have been hired through a State process administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYS HCR) through its Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC).

Planning experts from the Department of State and Department of Transportation have been assigned to each community to provide assistance to the community and help oversee the planning consultants.



Planning Steps

The planning process includes:

- *Public Engagement*: Offering opportunities for public input and involvement at key milestones in the planning process.
- *Asset Inventory*: Completing an inventory of the community's social, economic, and natural resource assets that have been, or will be, affected by coastal or riverine hazards.
- *Risk Assessment*: Assessing risk to key community assets 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 to return to service after an event.
- *Needs and Opportunities Assessment*: Determining needs and opportunities to improve local economic growth and enhance resilience to future storms.
- *Strategies for Investment and Action*: Developing strategies and the projects and actions needed to implement the strategies; identifying potential costs and benefits of chosen projects and actions, as well as potential funding sources.
- *Implementation Schedule*: Preparing an implementation schedule of the actions needed to implement the strategies.

Communities should develop a conceptual plan by the end of October and the final plan within eight months of starting the planning process. A successful plan will describe projects and actions needed for the community to rebuild a more resilient and economically strong community. A successful plan will also qualify a community to receive federal funding to implement the identified projects and actions.

Plan Contents

The items contained in a NY Rising Community plan include:

Overview

- Geographic Scope of Plan
- Description of Storm Damage
- Critical Issues
- Community Goals
- Relationship to Regional Plans

Assessment of Risk and Needs

- Community Assets
- Assessment of Risk to Assets
- Assessment of Needs and Opportunities

Reconstruction Strategies

- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Economic Development
- Health and Social Services
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Natural and Cultural Resources

Implementation Schedule

- Schedule of Implementation Actions

A Successful Plan

A successful plan should include:

- *Assessment of risk to key assets.* As the bedrock of the plan, an inventory of the vulnerabilities of key assets will help a community set priorities among needed projects and actions.
- *Projects and actions to restore and increase the resilience of key assets.* The recovery plan should address both the restoration of key assets and actions that will make them more resilient to future threats. Examples of such projects and actions include restoration or mitigation of natural infrastructure (e.g. wetlands, oyster reefs, dunes, and other green infrastructure), changes in land use regulations (e.g. changes in use, increased setbacks, and transfer of density) to encourage sound development, and investments in transportation or other improvements in community systems to prepare for future threats.
- *Protection of vulnerable populations.* New measures to protect vulnerable persons (people with disabilities, low and very-low income populations, elderly, young children, homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless) through housing decisions and other services. For example, site new facilities in lower risk areas, require backup power systems for critical facilities such as nursing homes and hospitals, and improve communications systems to ensure that vulnerable persons are not left without aid. Some actions to address vulnerable populations could include amendments to municipal emergency management procedures.
- *Projects with economic growth co-benefits.* Projects to enhance community resilience will improve the future of the local economy. For example, investments in new transportation infrastructure may facilitate the growth of Main Street business corridors; and investments in new recreational assets (e.g. new green space that serves as a buffer against flooding) may protect against storm damage or serve as redundant protection in critical areas, while also drawing tourists or facilitating the growth of new businesses.
- *Regional coordination.* Regional coordination can enable stakeholders to work together across jurisdictions to leverage resources, opportunities and long-term objectives.
- *Detailed implementation agendas.* A clear and detailed description of the actions needed to implement the plan will provide a template for success. This includes assigning responsibility for specific actions to specific individuals or organizations, and establishing timelines for each action, as appropriate.