



For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES 11 LOCAL RESILIENCY PROJECTS FROM NYRCR PLANS TOTALING \$13.4 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

NY Rising Community Reconstruction program signs agreements with six subrecipients, as first step in implementation phase for proposed projects.

Albany, NY (May 14, 2015) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the first 11 projects— totaling \$13.4 million— to be implemented in the Mohawk Valley through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots undertaking that empowers localities to increase their physical, social and economic resilience following impacts from Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

The more than \$700 million NYRCR program has identified and finalized agreements with six governmental entities in the Mohawk Valley, which will serve as subrecipients to execute the projects with support from New York State. The signing of the agreements is the first official step in bringing the proposals to fruition—with the State offering additional resources to promote the progress being made.

“As we carry out all of our recovery initiatives, we understand the importance of balancing top-down responses with the informed and passionate ideas that come from bottom-up planning,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “The NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program exemplifies this approach, and gives a voice to those who know their regions best. We are pleased to see the Mohawk Valley move forward with the first 11 projects, as we continue to make our State better and stronger than before.”

The implementation phase comes after eight months of bottom-up planning—an effort that enabled local residents and community leaders to become actively involved in the recovery and resiliency process and integrate local needs into final NYRCR Plans.

Throughout the State, a total of 66 NYRCR Communities (representing 124 disaster-affected localities) have collectively taken part in Rounds I and II of the NYRCR Program. As part of the initiative, NYRCR Communities are led by local Planning Committees, who work alongside State planners and world-renowned planning firms to develop actionable proposals. The State has allotted awards of up to \$3 million and \$25 million for the implementation of eligible projects.

More than 650 New Yorkers have represented their communities by serving on NYRCR Committees and have participated in more than 650 Planning Committee Meetings. Committees also held 250 heavily-

publicized Public Engagement Events, which attracted thousands of community members that wished to provide feedback on the planning process and project proposals.

GOSR will provide additional resources to facilitate the implementation of NYRCR projects, thereby supplementing the allotment of each NYRCR Community and maximizing State investment. As such, the NYRCR Program will provide subrecipients with Project Coordinators, who will offer technical assistance to ensure compliance with federal regulations. GOSR will also fund and carry out necessary environmental reviews on all projects, as well as provide staffing support to subrecipients for NYRCR Program-specific work.

Communities unveiled their final NYRCR Plans to Governor Cuomo at the Spring 2014 NYRCR Conference. In Upstate New York, the State has allotted up to approximately \$150 million for the implementation of eligible projects proposed in 42 Upstate NYRCR Plans. Projects will be implemented on a staggered basis, up to the community's pre-determined allotment. Estimated costs and project scopes are subject to change as project applications are developed. The first projects to move forward in the Mohawk Valley are as follows:

CITY OF AMSTERDAM

Route 5 Stormwater Reconstruction

Estimated Cost: \$1,132,648

Subrecipient: City of Amsterdam

Description: The City of Amsterdam will use NY Rising funds to inspect storm and sanitary sewers along Route 5 and conduct a much-needed study of sewer system capacity. The city will use the results of the study to design and reconstruct sewer infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Maintain Power to Critical City Buildings and Emergency Shelter Locations

Estimated Cost: \$1,065,045

Subrecipient: Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, in partnership with the City of Amsterdam

Description: The city will install backup generators at key locations to facilitate response and recovery efforts in the future.

TOWN OF AMSTERDAM

Maintain Power to an Emergency Shelter at Amsterdam Town Hall and Amsterdam High School

Estimated Cost: \$799,353

Subrecipient: Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, in partnership with the Town of Amsterdam

Description: The Town of Amsterdam will use NY Rising funds to install an 80kw generator at the Town Hall and a 250kw generator at the Amsterdam High School to provide a consistent source of power during future power outages.

TOWN OF FLORIDA

Enlarge Undersized Culverts

Estimated Cost: \$840,000

Subrecipient: Town of Florida

Description: The Town is using NY Rising funds to enlarge nine culverts that were overwhelmed by flood waters during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee– thus reducing the potential for future flooding.

TOWN OF ESPERANCE

Town Hall Restoration with Addition and Auxiliary Municipal Building

Estimated Cost: \$706,424

Subrecipient: Town Of Esperance

Description: The Town of Esperance is using NY Rising funds to renovate and expand its Town Hall, which was damaged during Hurricane Irene. The town will also construct an auxiliary municipal building for flood-safe storage of archives and to serve as a back-up center of operations during an extreme flood. In the event of future flooding, the renovated Town Hall will ensure continuous services and protect utilities, archives and records.

VILLAGE OF ESPERANCE

Village of Esperance Firehouse Rescue Facility

Estimated Cost: \$750,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Esperance, in partnership with the Village of Esperance

Description: The Town and Village of Esperance are working together to construct a new firehouse in the Village. The current building cannot accommodate contemporary firetrucks and equipment, which slowed first responders during Hurricane Irene. The new building will be large enough to comfortably house trucks, personnel and equipment. It will also have a generator to ensure uninterrupted emergency services in the event of a power outage.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURGH

New Ambulance Building and Shelter

Estimated Cost: \$2,300,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Middleburgh

Description: The Town of Middleburgh is using NY Rising funds to construct a new emergency medical services building and a new emergency shelter outside of the floodplain. During Hurricane Irene, access to the existing emergency shelter was blocked by floodwaters and the Middleburgh Emergency Volunteer Ambulance Corps' response was challenged by limitations of the space it shares with the town's Department of Public Works (DPW) garage. The new dedicated building will alleviate these challenges and make Middleburgh better prepared to respond to future flood events.

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEBURGH

Gorge Creek Culvert Repair and Stormwater and Drainage Infrastructure Improvements

Estimated Cost: \$2,600,000

Subrecipient: Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Village of Middleburgh

Description: The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Village of Middleburgh are working together to address persistent flooding of the Gorge Creek. NY Rising Funds will be used to upgrade two undersized culverts and install new stormwater infrastructure on Main Street and several surrounding streets. These improvements will enhance the capacity of the drainage system in the Village of Middleburgh, especially in the vicinity of the Middleburgh High School.

TOWN OF SCHOHARIE

Stony Brook Mitigation

Estimated Cost: \$2,100,000

Subrecipient: Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Town of Schoharie

Description: The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Town of Schoharie are working together to repair significant damage of key sections of Stony Brook caused by Hurricane Irene and to mitigate the impact of future flooding. During Hurricane Irene, the creek undermined Stony Brook Road, a vital evacuation route, to the point of collapse and caused extensive flooding in over a dozen homes. Through solutions such as floodplain reconnection, streambank stabilization and culvert modification this project will create a long-term solution to protect the roadway from future damage and minimize the risk of flooding to residential properties.

VILLAGE OF SCHOHARIE

South End Drainage Improvements

Estimated Cost: \$1,100,000

Subrecipient: Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Village of Schoharie

Description: The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Village of Schoharie are using NY Rising funds to improve the stormwater drainage system in the Village's South End. This project will mitigate flood damage to homes and businesses in the area, many of which were severely damaged by Hurricane Irene.

"The widening of these existing culverts in the Town of Florida is necessary to reduce the potential for flooding and keep residents safe," said Montgomery County Executive Matthew L. Ossenfort. "I appreciate the cooperation between State, county and town officials on this important project. It is important to improve our infrastructure, especially in areas that have been impacted by severe weather in the past."

"I am elated and appreciative that the Town of Schoharie was included in this funding opportunity to address some of the issues we are having with our infrastructure," said Schoharie Town Supervisor Gene Milone.

"I am very pleased and excited about the South End Drainage Project," said Schoharie Mayor John Borst. "When completed, it should alleviate chronic flooding issues that have plagued residential properties along South Main Street for decades. We look forward to working with Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to make this happen."

"It is great to have the funding mechanism in place to see these projects come to fruition to deal with the ongoing stormwater and drainage issues that the Village has had to deal with over the years," said Stephen Hoerz, District Manager of the Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District. "This is another important step in the ongoing revitalization of the Village of Middleburgh."

"Drainage issues on the south side of Schoharie Village have been known to the Soil and Water Conservation District for years," said Peter Nichols, Stream Program Manager of the Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District. "These Community Reconstruction projects will mitigate flooding and stormwater deficiencies, thereby leading us one step closer to healing from the wounds of recent storms. Soil and Water is proud to be part of this recovery process."

"I am truly grateful to Governor Cuomo and the State of New York for the NY Rising Program and the opportunities it is providing to communities such as mine that were devastated by flooding," said Earl Van Wormer III, Supervisor of the Town of Esperance. "I'd like to thank all those who were involved in this important program; we look forward to getting these projects done."

"As a Planning Committee member and a Trustee of the Village of Esperance, I am excited about the potential for our new firehouse to not only prepare our community to respond effectively and efficiently to any future disasters, but also to contribute to the revitalization of our downtown," said Dana Todd. "Thanks to the NY Rising program, the Village of Esperance will be well-positioned to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2018."

"The Town of Middleburgh is very fortunate to be able to take part in NY Rising," said Town of Middleburgh Supervisor Jim Buzon. "Without it, I don't see how we would be able to afford to build a new structure to house our ambulance and provide an emergency shelter that will provide a safe place for residents of the Town and the surrounding region to get out of harm's way when necessary."

"My Village is very happy that our Main Street drainage issues will be addressed," said Middleburgh Mayor Matthew Avitabile. "I have every confidence in our partners in this endeavor at Schoharie County Soil and Water who are helping us make this project happen."

“The City of Amsterdam is pleased to see that the Route 5 drainage project is moving forward,” said City of Amsterdam Mayor Ann M. Thane. “The problems due to flooding have been a hindrance to traffic, growth and safety for decades. We laud the State's action to remedy this situation. This initiative will certainly have a positive economic development benefit and promote environmental responsibility.”

"We appreciate the funding the Governor's office is providing to make these shelters self-sustaining," said Town of Amsterdam Supervisor Thomas P. DiMezza. "This will allow us to keep operating at the town during long power outages. It will also allow the Town offices to serve as a command post if a disaster occurs in eastern part of the county. In addition we have a kitchen and room for a shelter if citizens become displaced."

About GOSR

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD’s CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

Visit www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr to learn more about the NYRCR Program and to read the final NYRCR Plans. Procurement opportunities are available through each subrecipient and are listed on the GOSR website at www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/gosr-supplemental-contract-opportunities.

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