



For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES 12 LOCAL RESILIENCY
PROJECTS FROM NYRCR PLANS TOTALING NEARLY \$14 MILLION FOR
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SOUTHERN TIER**

NY Rising Community Reconstruction program signs agreements with 11 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 12 projects— totaling nearly \$14 million— to be implemented in the Southern Tier 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 11 municipal entities in the Southern Tier, 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 Southern Tier move forward with their first 12 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 Southern Tier are as follows:

BROOME COUNTY NYRCR COMMUNITIES

Regional Shelter Initiative

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Subrecipient: Broome County

Description: A total of six NY Rising Communities located in Broome County have agreed to pool NY Rising funds to evaluate the feasibility of renovating a former military supply depot located in Fenton, New York to serve as a regional emergency shelter. The findings will also make recommendations as to whether there are other uses that could be incorporated into the project, such as a first responder shelter, emergency animal shelter and an emergency training facility.

CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Front Street Stormwater Separation

Estimated Cost: \$750,000

Subrecipient: City Of Binghamton

Description: The City of Binghamton will use NY Rising funds to separate stormwater from sanitary sewer as part of an overall Front Street Reconstruction project. The infrastructure improvements will reduce the risk of localized flooding, improve water quality, and improve public health and safety during storm events.

TOWN OF CONKLIN

Stillwater Road Stormwater Drainage System

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Conklin

Description: The Town of Conklin will use NY Rising funds to install a stormwater drainage system along a key section of Stillwater Road to mitigate flooding. Installation of the system will enhance the resiliency of this neighborhood by reducing the risk of localized flooding and addressing access issues. It will provide an evacuation route during flooding emergencies for approximately 50 homes in the Stillwater Road neighborhood.

VILLAGE OF ENDICOTT

Water Supply Interconnection

Estimated Cost: \$665,544

Subrecipient: Village Of Endicott, in partnership with the Town of Vestal

Description: The Village of Endicott is undertaking a project in partnership with the Town of Vestal using NY Rising funds to connect their water systems using an existing transmission line beneath the Susquehanna River. During Tropical Storm Lee, flooding at the Village of Endicott's Ranney Well Water Supply Facility knocked out electrical power for 36 hours. Water storage tanks serving the Village of Endicott and the Town of Union were depleted and water mains collapsed when they became depressurized. This project will create additional access to potable water if the water supply in Endicott is unavailable in a future emergency.

VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

Reynolds Road/Anna Maria Drive Drainage Improvements

Estimated Cost: \$999,160

Subrecipient: Village Of Johnson City

Description: The Village of Johnson City will use NY Rising funds for the rehabilitation of 3,500 feet of stormwater infrastructure needed to eliminate erosion affecting 50 residential properties. This project will also increase holding capacity of Broome County's Finch Hollow Stormwater Retention Facility 1.

TOWN OF NICHOLS

Highway Garage Relocation

Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Nichols

Description: The Town of Nichols will construct a new highway garage with NY Rising funds. During Tropical Storm Lee, the town's garage flooded, causing extensive damage to the facility and its equipment. Additionally, stored fuel, salt and sand were released into the environment. The new garage will be located outside of the floodplain, enabling the town to provide supplies and services and reduce the risk of environmental contamination during and after major storm events.

VILLAGE OF NICHOLS

Levee Study and Improvements

Estimated Cost: \$700,000

Subrecipient: Village Of Nichols

Description: The Village of Nichols will use NY Rising funds to conduct a study of its levee to determine if deficiencies exist, and if so, identify and undertake needed improvements. During Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, floodwaters came within six inches of overtopping the levee that protects the Village of Nichols. As a result of this project, the village will be able to provide data and documentation to FEMA that demonstrate that the levee provides the required level of flood risk reduction needed for protection and FEMA accreditation.

TOWN AND VILLAGE OF OWEGO

Shared Campus for Municipal Services

Estimated Cost: \$4,800,000

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

Description: The Town and Village of Owego are working together to design and construct a new Owego shared services campus to house the town's Department of Public Works, Parks, Utilities and Codes Offices. The existing municipal office buildings flooded during Tropical Storm Lee; the new shared services campus will be built outside of the floodplain.

TOWN OF TIOGA

Halsey Valley Road Elevation

Estimated Cost: \$1,900,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Tioga

Description: The Town of Tioga will use NY Rising funds to raise a large section of the south end of Halsey Valley Road so that it is aligned with the elevation of NYS Route 17c, a key evacuation route for the Town. During Tropical Storm Lee, this low-lying section of roadway flooded and cut off access for residents, emergency vehicles, evacuees and other travelers. Raising this portion of the roadway will preserve one of the county's critical connector roads during storm events.

TOWN OF UNION

Scatter Site Stream Bank Restoration

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Union

Description: The Town of Union will use NY Rising funds to restore stream banks in need of repair due to severe damage and erosion caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The project will mitigate existing conditions, reduce the risk of future flooding for residents living along these streams and minimize the risk of erosion and sediment deposits downstream.

TOWN OF VESTAL

Robert Street Stormwater Pump Station Upgrade

Estimated Cost: \$440,000

Subrecipient: Town Of Vestal

Description: The Town of Vestal is using NY Rising funds to convert an out-of-service sewage pump station into a stormwater pump station. Completion of this project will reduce the risk of localized flooding for residents and businesses in the Robert Street area. During storm events, it will remove water from the neighborhood, over a levee, and into Choconut Creek.

“This money will go a long way in helping several municipalities with drainage issues, stormwater management and other issues that will alleviate flooding concerns in our area,” says Broome County Executive Debbie Preston. “It also shows that the Governor understands and shares our vision for the former Army Depot Site and the future site for a regional shelter. This money will go a long way toward formalizing a plan so we can get that facility up and running as quickly as possible.”

"Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, five of Tioga County's hardest hit municipalities developed a collaborative strategy to recover from 2011 flooding and build resilience against future storm events," said Martha Sauerbrey, Chairwoman of the Tioga County Legislature. "The projects announced today are critically important to protecting our residents and businesses, and will foster economic stability and growth in our communities. On behalf of the Tioga County Legislature, I thank Governor Cuomo for providing the financial resources to undertake these and future projects."

“Flood mitigation remains a top priority in Binghamton,” said Binghamton Mayor Richard C. David. “With two historic floods in the last decade, our city is diligently working to improve our water management infrastructure. Those efforts have been greatly helped by funds from the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery.”

“We are grateful for all the help the Governor continues to give us, and the entire Southern Tier, through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program,” said Town of Conklin Supervisor Jim Finch. “As town Supervisor, I appreciate everything he is doing for our benefit, as do the Town Board members and the residents of the Town of Conklin.”

“As Mayor of the Village of Endicott, I can honestly say that we are pleased to be a part of this initiative through Governor Cuomo's Office of Storm Recovery,” said Village of Endicott Mayor John R. Bertoni. “Thanks to the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, we can protect our critical water supply and better tool resources needed to serve residents, businesses and municipalities. By completing these important community-driven projects, we are not only advancing our post-storm recovery, but also positioning the village for long-term growth.”

“Participating in the Community Reconstruction Program has been a great opportunity for Johnson City,” said Village of Johnson City Mayor Greg Deemie. “However, seeing this project move forward toward completion is a great achievement for all of those involved. This will help the area of our community impacted by this project to be better prepared for years to come.”

“Through the Community Reconstruction Program, the Town of Nichols has identified projects and activities that will build long-term resiliency,” said Supervisor Kevin Engelbert. “One of the most important projects to benefit our community is a new highway garage that will enable the town to provide vital services during and after storm events. We look forward to getting started on this exciting project.”

“I am excited that the levee certification project is moving forward,” said Village of Nichols Mayor Lesley Pelotte. “This is a critically-important project for Village residents and businesses. I thank the Governor and his Office of Storm Recovery for recognizing the importance of it and for providing support to the Village to build long term resilience.”

“This project will enable the town to move its highway operations out of the flood plain and has the potential to consolidate other town offices,” said Town of Owego Supervisor Don Castellucci. “This, along with the village moving its Department of Public Works operations to the site, is a win-win for the community.”

“The Village of Owego looks forward to moving its Department of Public Works facility out of the floodplain so that it can be fully operational in the event of a future flood,” said Village of Owego Mayor Kevin Millar.

“The elevation of Halsey Valley Road is a critically important project for the town as it works to provide long term safety for its residents and resiliency against future storm events,” said Lou Zorn, Supervisor of the Town of Tioga. “I appreciate the assistance provided by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to help our community.”

“The Town of Union welcomes and is appreciative of the assistance provided by the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program,” said Town of Union Supervisor Rose Sotak. “Major storms and flooding in recent years caused widespread devastation throughout the town. As the eighth most populous town in Upstate New York, a seemingly countless number of people suffered extensive damage to their homes and businesses. The funding provided by NY Rising assures much needed and enhanced structural safety for our community, and is imperative to restoring the lives of town residents, and to strengthening and moving forward our ongoing economic development work.”

“Through the NY Rising Program, the Town of Vestal has carefully assessed its local needs and opportunities regarding storm resiliency,” said Supervisor W. John Schaffer. “The conversion of the Robert Street sewer pump station to an operational water pump station is one of several activities identified to address future flood events and help protect residents and businesses. We look forward to the implementation of this project.”

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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