
News Release



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Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-year Update

Columbia County received \$120,000 from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) to update the County's 5-year Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that expired in April 2023, as the last update was completed in April 2018. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Developing a comprehensive written plan allows the County and its local jurisdictions to identify risks associated with natural disasters and develop long-term strategies for protection from future hazard events.

For the first time, the County and the local jurisdictions will incorporate climate vulnerability assessments into the HMP instead of relying solely on information from historical events. The HMP will also take into account the 2019 New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the April 19, 2023 FEMA updates, which all new plans to be approved on or after this date should abide by.

The Town of Canaan's contribution to the HMP will include identifying any natural hazards that have impacted the community in the past, or may impact it in the future, including coastal and inland flooding, drought, extreme temperatures, winds, severe winter weather, landslides, earthquakes, fire, invasive species, and other natural hazards. Canaan will identify how these hazards could impact vulnerable populations, cultural assets, economic sectors, critical buildings and infrastructure, as well as impact the natural resources, including clean air and water, that are important to the town charter. The updated HMP will provide proactive opportunities for the County and its jurisdictions to effectively address long-term resilience in the face of current and future natural hazards, help the town be better prepared for a natural disaster, and allow for quicker recovery times post hazard occurrences. Updating the HMP is also a requirement for the County and the Town of Canaan to continue to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds.

A local team of town officials and stakeholders will work with the County alongside the civil engineering consultant, Tighe & Bond, whose services in New York are provided by T&B Engineering and Landscape Architecture, P.C., to conduct the HMP update over the next several months. The public will have multiple opportunities to participate in the planning process this winter and spring including public workshops and a web survey. To complete the survey, please scan the QR code provided. The more survey responses there are, the more prepared Canaan team can prepare the HMP. Maps and data will be available for public review on Columbia county webpage at the following location. <https://>