

Chapter 1: *Introduction*

PURPOSE

The Orleans County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed to help the County and all the municipalities located within it to:

- Break the cycle of destruction affecting life, safety and property by addressing mitigation needs prior to future hazard events;
- Pursue effective mitigation strategies that are realistic, achievable and will reduce the potential of future damage and economic loss;
- Plan ahead for recovery efforts that will follow future disaster events;
- Qualify for additional pre-disaster and post-disaster funding; and
- Meet New York State and Federal legislative requirements regarding pre-disaster mitigation.

SCOPE

The scope of the Orleans County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is countywide. The Plan addresses all natural, technological, and human-caused hazards recognized as a threat to the residents and property of the County and its fourteen municipalities.

AUTHORITY

Federal authorization to prepare a countywide all-hazard mitigation plan comes from the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and 44 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44). These regulations provide a mandate directing local governments to assess the potential dangers posed by natural hazards to their communities and propose cost effective means of reducing/eliminating the threats posed by those hazards.

Hazard mitigation planning programs are strongly encouraged and supported by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, known as the Stafford Act (PL 93-288, as amended) and New York State Executive Law Article 2B: State and Local Natural and Man-Made Disaster Preparedness.

FUNDING

The Orleans County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan has been funded in part by a grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York State Emergency Management Office. The Orleans County Department of Planning and Development provided the required grant match. Representatives from Orleans County municipalities and county agencies contributed significant in-kind time and effort towards the collection and review of data that was critical in developing the plan.

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