

# How to Write Hazard Mitigation Plans that are Actionable

Matt McCullough & Ernest Szabo



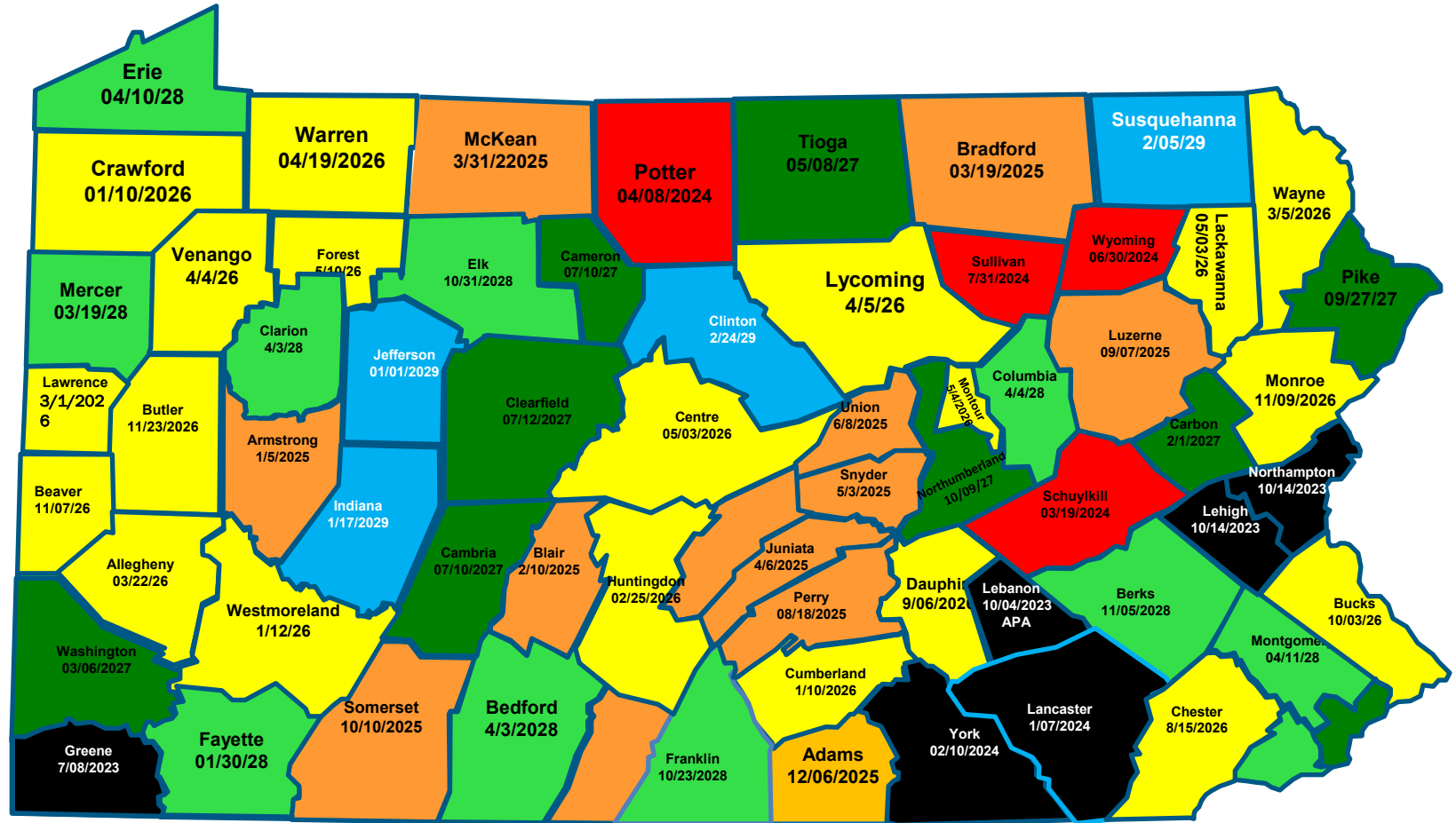
FEMA



# Actionable projects meet *Eligibility Screening*

- **County must have an approved and adopted All Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
- **Municipality/applicant must have participated and adopted the approved county plan.**
- **Requested project funding must have been identified as a mitigation activity in the county plan**
- **Project must meet the FEMA, State, and local municipal strategies**

# Do you have an approved plan?



# Participation and Adoption

- **How does FEMA define participation?**
  - Go beyond minimal requirements
  - Evaluate Risk, Assess Capabilities, Develop Strategies
  - *Municipal Authorities no longer covered by their municipality*
- **Do you have your adoption resolution and FEMA approval memo?**
- **Did you identify specific mitigation actions that address hazards in your community?**

# Hazard Mitigation Project Ranking / Prioritization

- **Does it address hazards and problem statements identified in the County Plan?**
- **Does it support FEMA priorities?**
  - **Climate Change Adaptation**
  - **Vulnerable Populations and Underserved Communities**
  - **Lifelines**
- **Is it integrated with other County and State efforts?**
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **MS4 Plan**
  - **Emergency Operations Plan**

# What Assets are Vulnerable?

## Community Lifelines

 lifelines@fema.dhs.gov

 [fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222)

### Definition

A lifeline enables the continuous operation of **critical business and government functions** and is essential to **human health and safety** or **economic security**.

### Purpose

- Root Cause Analysis
- Interdependencies
- Prioritization
- Ease of Communication

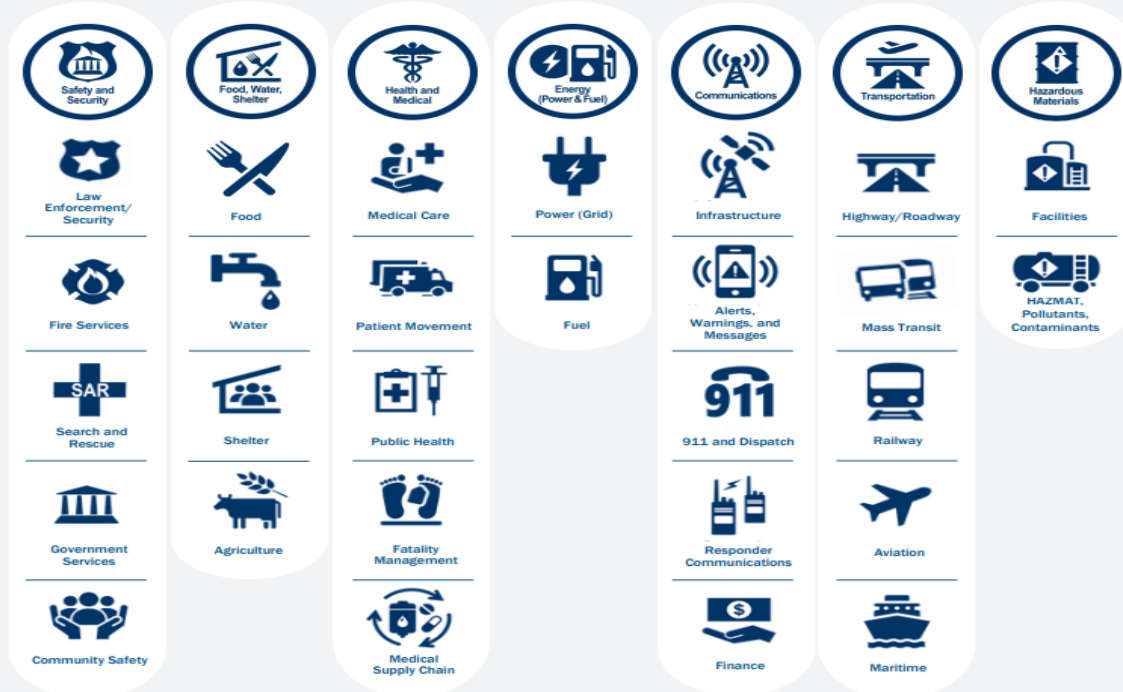
### Assessing

- Status → What?
- Impact → So What?
- Actions → Now What?
- Limiting Factors → What's the Gap?

### Stabilization

Occurs when basic lifeline services or capabilities are provided to survivors (may be temporary solutions requiring sustainment).

COMPONENTS of Lifelines



# Does your project fit?

- **Thinking globally..... does it fit locally?**
  - **Climate change, environmental protection etc**
- **Who is going to pay for it and what is their organization's mission?**
- **How does it fit within the larger area such as watershed plans?**
- **Is it integrated with other plans for environmental conservation, historical preservation, economic development etc?**

# New FEMA Guidance and Priorities

- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Vulnerable Populations and Underserved Communities**
- **Lifelines**



## Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP 206-21-0002

Released April 19, 2022, Effective April 19, 2023

OMB Collection #1660-0062



FEMA



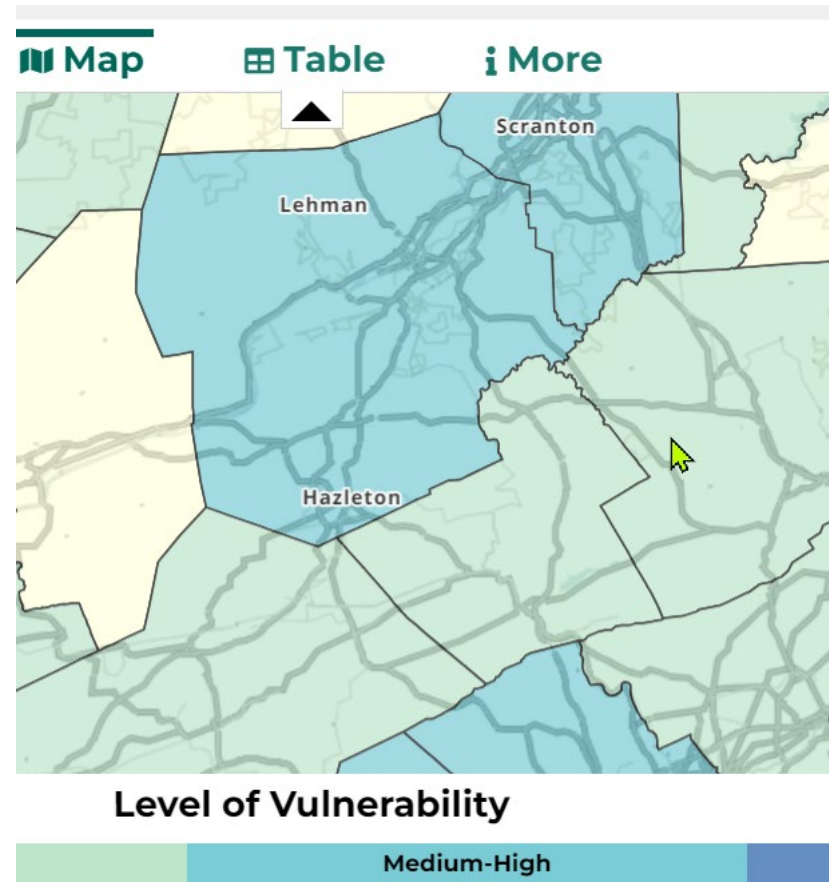
# Climate Change Adaptation

- **All HMPs must address Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Your mitigation strategy and your proposed project should discuss how they will mitigate the effects of climate change**
- **Environmental Systems Protection will always rank higher than structural projects**

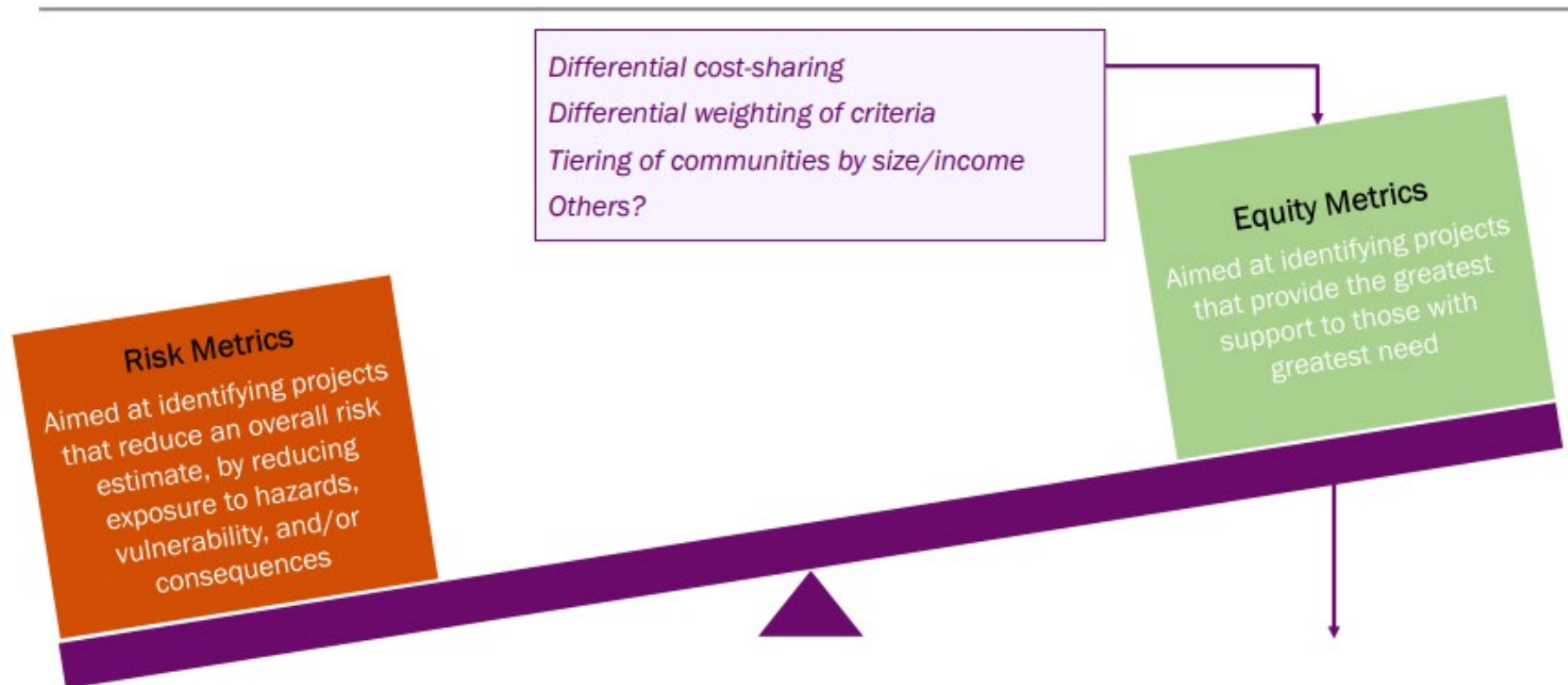


# Who is Underserved and Vulnerable in your Community?

- Where is “the wrong side of the tracks” in your town?
- Are there groups of people who have been left out?
- Who can help you identify them and give a voice to them?




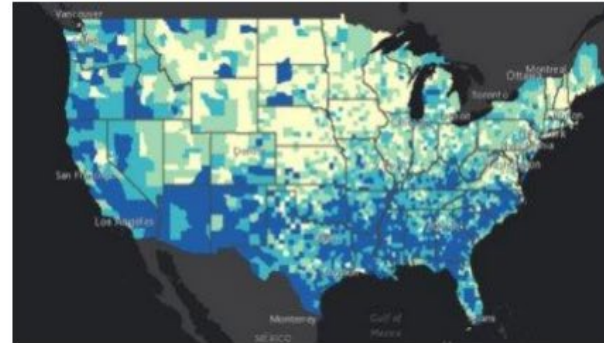
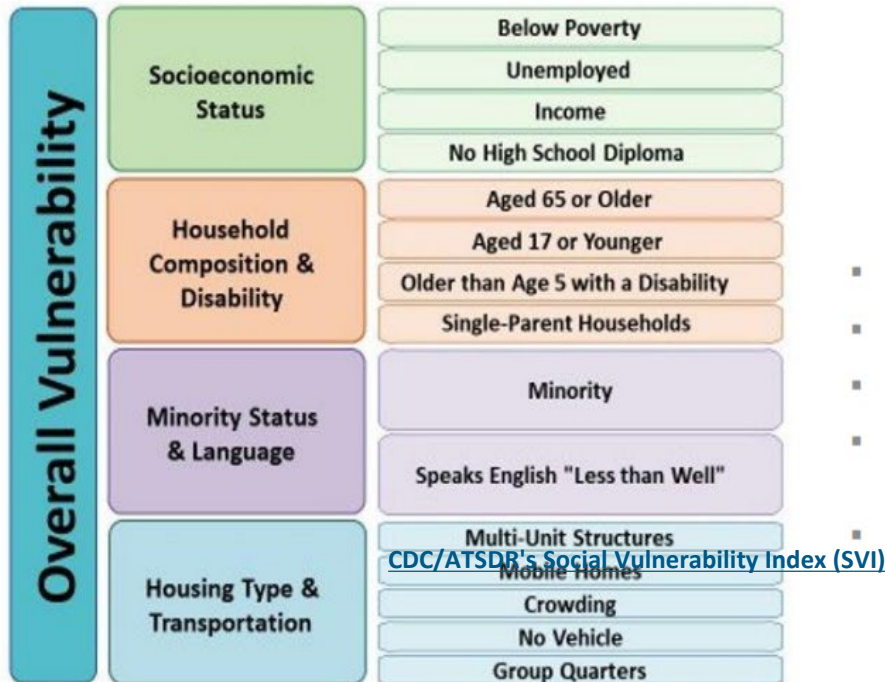
# Federal Disaster Assistance Programs Need to Balance Risk & Equity



# FMA Implementation with CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

## CDC Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI)

A tool to identify socially vulnerable communities 



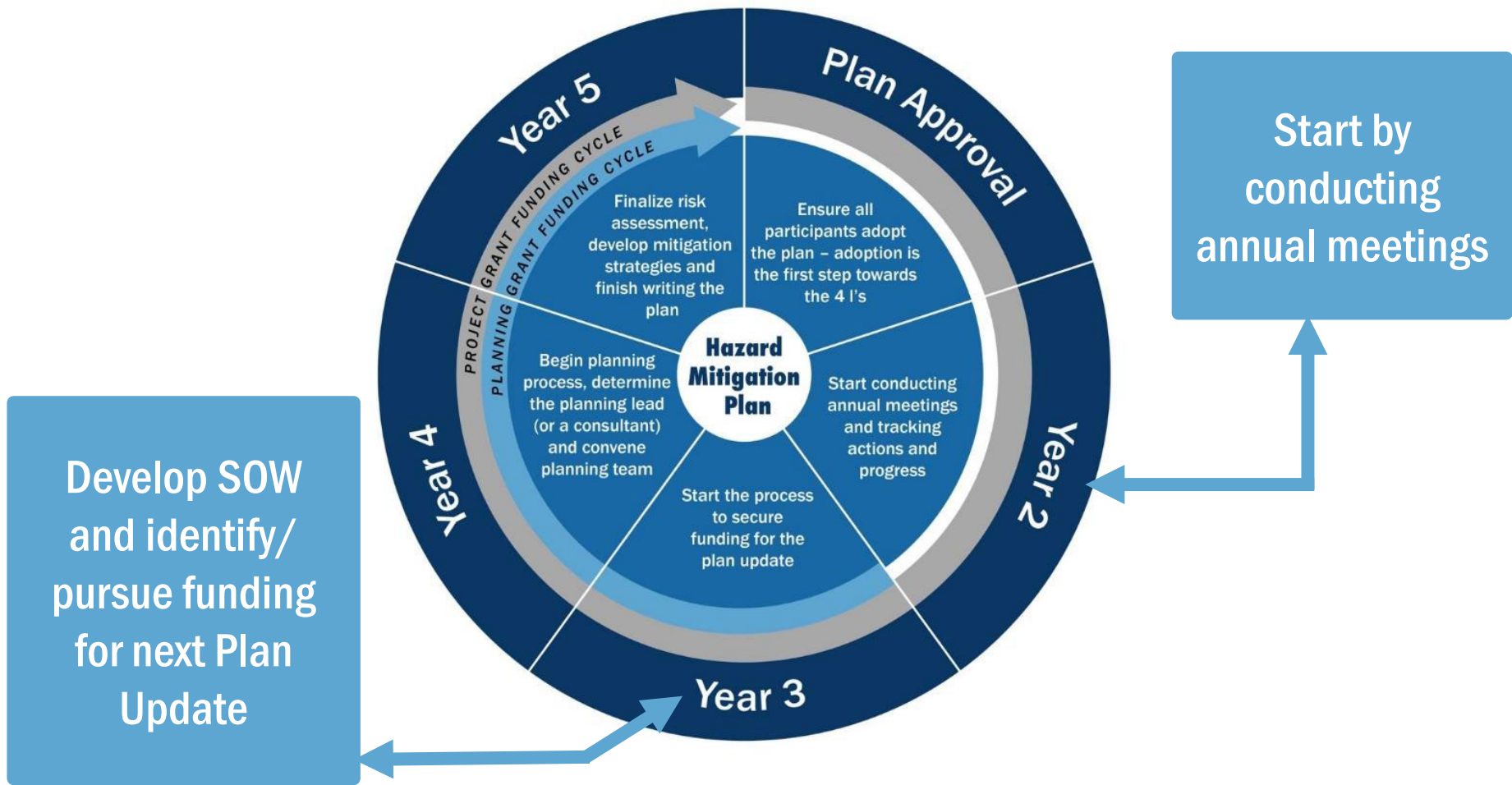
- Overall Vulnerability Score (SVI) between 0 - 1
- 0 being least vulnerable and 1 the most
- 4 themes, 15 demographic and socioeconomic indicators
- CDC updates data every 2 years with latest American Community Survey Census data
- Data available by **Census Tract** and County Crosswalk to **zip codes** (not supported by CDC)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

# Do you want FEMA to fund your project?

- **Your HMP and Your proposed project should:  
Address hazards and problem statements identified in the County Plan?**
- **Support FEMA priorities**
  - **Climate Change Adaptation**
  - **Vulnerable Populations and Underserved Communities**
  - **Lifelines**
- **Be integrated with other County and State efforts**
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **MS4 Plan**
  - **Emergency Operations Plan**
  - **Environmental Preservation**

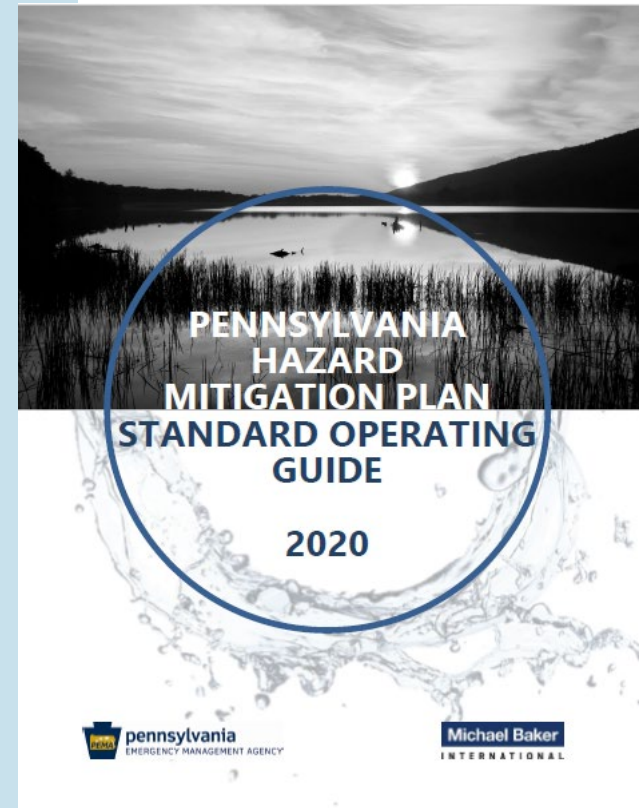
# Mitigation is Ongoing



# PA Standard Operating Guide (SOG)

## PA Requirement....*not 44 CFR*

- Standard operating procedures for hazard mitigation planning in PA
- Captures FEMA requirements
- Clarifies and combines existing guidance



# Mitigation Strategy - Technical Assistance

## FEMA Region 3 Resources:

- Hazard Mitigation Training & Technical Assistance Modules, [Module 3: Mitigation Strategy](#)
- [Community Capability Assessment Worksheet](#)
- [Checking in on the NFIP Worksheet](#)

## FEMA National Resources:

- [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#)
- [Mitigation Ideas](#)
- [Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio](#)



## Develop a Mitigation Strategy

(2-Hour Duration)

- Assessing Capabilities
- Developing Mitigation Goals
- Identifying and Evaluating Alternative Mitigation Actions
- Preparing Implementation Plans
- Setting Priorities



# Plan Adoption, Maintenance, and Implementation

## Plan Adoption

**You must adopt the approved HMP to be eligible for certain kinds of non-emergency assistance from FEMA:**

1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grant
2. HMGP Post Fire
3. BRIC project grant
4. FMA project grant
5. Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD)

# Plan Adoption, Maintenance, and Implementation

## Plan Integration and Maintenance

**Integrate plan data, goals, and actions into other planning mechanisms**

- ❑ These mechanisms can include building codes and land use ordinances
- ❑ Progress in aligning other planning mechanisms with the hazard mitigation plan should be documented.

**Conduct annual plan reviews to connect with project champions and incorporate new risk data and project opportunities**



# Funding Opportunities

## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

- ❑ \$1.0 billion of funding is available
- ❑ FY 2023 priorities include:
  - Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure
  - Incorporate nature-based solutions including those designed to reduce carbon emissions
  - Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
  - Promote equity and prioritize disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order (EO) 14008
  - Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes



# Funding Opportunities

## Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

- ❑ \$800 million of funding is available
- ❑ Projects must reduce flood risk to structures insured by the NFIP
- ❑ FY 2023 priorities include:
  - Mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities
  - Incorporated nature-based solutions
  - Enhance climate resilience
  - Address Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss properties





- **Your Planning Project Officer is**
  - **Ernie Szabo at (717) 651-2159 / cell (717) 756-2892**
  - [erszabo@pa.gov](mailto:erszabo@pa.gov)
- **Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer is**
  - **Rick Deal (717) 651- 2711**
  - [rdeal@pa.gov](mailto:rdeal@pa.gov)
- **The State Hazard Mitigation Officer is**
  - **Tom Hughes at (717) 651-2726**
  - [thughes@pa.gov](mailto:thughes@pa.gov)
- **State Hazard Mitigation Office**
  - [ra-shazmitoff@pa.gov](mailto:ra-shazmitoff@pa.gov)

# Other Contacts

- Ken Roberts – State NFIP Coordinator
  - [kennrobert@pa.gov](mailto:kennrobert@pa.gov) 717.651.2141
- Jonathan A. Skripka – Director Disaster Recovery Assistance
  - [jskripka@pa.gov](mailto:jskripka@pa.gov) 717-651-2157
- Mathew McCullough – FEMA R3 Community Planning Lead for Pennsylvania
  - [Matthew.McCullough@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.McCullough@fema.dhs.gov)
  - (215) 268-2144

# How Can We Help?

