Collaborative Mitigation

Delaware County’s Mitigation Model
All Hazard Mitigation Planning

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines a *Hazard Mitigation Plan* as the documentation of a state or local government evaluation of natural hazards and the strategies to mitigate such hazards.
- Multi-Jurisdictional Planning is essential in Delaware County due to the large area and limited population base to address needs.
Mitigation Planning Team

Our plan was developed in three phases: Risk Reduction (Mitigation), Response, and Recovery by a team of representatives from:
- Delaware County Emergency Services
- Delaware County Public Health
- Delaware County Planning Department
- Delaware County Department of Public Works
- Delaware County Sheriff’s Office
- Delaware County Public Safety Committee
- Delaware County Social Services
- New York State Office of Emergency Management
- Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District
- New York State Police
Multi-Jurisdictional Planning

• Coordination with County, Towns, Villages and School Districts is imperative.
• Public meetings, statistical analysis and risk modeling.
• Develop goals that can affectively reduce risk to the greatest extent possible, identify potential funding streams and prioritize based on local needs.
Mitigation Projects – The Reality of FEMA

• FEMA likes to fund permanent solutions to flooding (i.e. Buyouts, Elevations) – Cost/Benefit is essential since these programs are really about eliminating future expenses as a result of a disaster.

• 75/25 grants require a local share that can be costly and make projects difficult to fund in the dry.

• Mitigation is intended to be done in the dry in advance of major impacts.

• Large funding streams come as a result of major impacts – usually a reactive response rather than proactive.
Mitigation is a Game of Dominos

• Successful mitigation strategies require planning when you are not in fight or flight mode.
• All actions need to be evaluated for reactions.
• All projects will have both positive and negative impacts that need to be addressed.
• Plan for the unexpected and acknowledge the need for multiple solutions.
Collaborate in Advance

• Build a team that will represent all aspects of the community – Local leaders, residents, businesses, local non-profits, school district, local funders and banks, youth groups, senior groups, etc.

• Look for solutions that have multiple benefits and serves multiple groups needs.

• Try to define projects in phases that can be accomplished and funded over time.
Don’t be Afraid of Change

• ALWAYS keep the public apprised
• Change can be difficult and is raises concerns about need, tax base impacts, loss of services, etc.
• Be prepared to answer questions and always listen to each other and the public.
• Remember projects evolve as they develop.