

4.0 Comprehensive State Hazard Mitigation Program

It is essential that State and local mitigation policies are directed to reduce or eliminate the risk of future devastation and the corresponding impact on the citizens of the State of Mississippi. This can only be accomplished by establishing workable goals and objectives that integrate the efforts of state and local governments into one cohesive mitigation strategy that also takes full advantage of public-private partnerships.

Development of a sound mitigation strategy provides a focus that assists State and local governments in identifying priorities and channeling limited resources toward critical mitigation projects. This process helps government at all levels make the most effective use of available resources. "Local governments" include any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and an rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity. Eligible governmental entities would also include all institutions, authorities, bodies or boards created under Federal, state or local authority to manage, oversee or regulate for a public purpose such as, but not limited to, special water/sewer districts, levee boards, floodplain management authorities, and agricultural or forestry boards.

The State of Mississippi will enhance its ability to complete its goals and objectives by taking maximum advantage of the mitigation resources available, both present and future, to reduce the impact of natural and human caused disasters on the citizens and infrastructure. The State will also vigorously pursue methods to augment existing state and local programs by involving other opportunities, such as public-private partnerships. Involvement of a wide range of participants in mitigation efforts, increases the feasibility of implementing mitigation projects as resources become available.

The State will provide, promote, and support education and training on the benefits of a comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation program for state agencies, local governments, and private enterprises. Throughout the process, Mississippi's citizens will remain a priority. With a comprehensive overview of the hazards that threaten Mississippi, goals and objectives have been developed to mitigate potential losses from those hazards.

Summary of Changes – 2023 Comprehensive State Hazard Mitigation Program

In updating the 2004 State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Plan, a total of 60 local plans were reviewed. An additional 32 approved local hazard mitigation plans were reviewed for the 2010 plan. For the 2013 plan update, a total of 104 local hazard mitigation plans were reviewed. For the 2018 plan update, a total of 34 local plans were reviewed. For the 2023 plan update, a total of 44 local plans were reviewed, which included college plans. The overall decrease in local plans is due to the state moving more toward regional hazard mitigation plans. This section was updated with a commitment to improve on ways to reduce losses from natural/manmade hazards and to adequately reflect changes in development. A summary of changes is listed below:

Goals and Objectives (section 4.1) – Goals and objectives are described based on the updated hazard identification risk assessment and reconsideration of goals and objectives from the previously approved plan. One new objective was added to Goal 1. A total of 4 objectives had wording updated. The goals and objectives of local plans were reviewed. All tables and graphics/figures were updated with new data.

State Capabilities (section 4.2) – State agencies reviewed their capabilities and provided updates describing how their means and resources can aid mitigation efforts. Any obstacles and/or challenges related to capabilities and possible solutions have been added. All information was updated based on agency responses. The Mitigation Programs Table was reviewed and updated.

Local Capabilities Assessment (section 4.3) – Local capabilities were reviewed, analyzed, and evaluated for effectiveness and for improvement. All tables and graphics/figures were updated with new data.

Mitigation Measures (section 4.4) – Eight new mitigation projects were added. These actions are noted as “New Mitigation Actions for 2023” in Table 4.4.2. Six projects were completed. All tables and graphics/figures were updated with new data.

Table 4.5.1 has been updated from the 2018 plan to include funding sources that are still active for the “2023 Plan Update”.

4.1 Goals and Objectives

44 CFR 201.4(c)(3)(i) – The State mitigation strategy shall include the following elements:

A mitigation strategy that provides the State’s blueprint for reducing the losses identified in the risk assessment. This section shall include:

A description of State goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce potential losses.

This section describes the mission, goals, and objectives of the Mississippi State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the process used to update the goals and objectives in the 2023 update planning process. The state is tracking progress toward accomplishing the plan goals and improving alignment with local mitigation strategies (goals, objectives, and actions). The framework of the state’s mitigation strategy has four parts: mission, goals, objectives, and actions, which are defined as the following:

- The mission is a philosophical or value statement that states the purpose and primary function of the plan.
- The goals describe the overall direction that the State will take to reach their mission.
- The objectives link the goals and actions and help organize the plan for efficient implementation and evaluation.
- The actions describe the activities or projects used to support the accomplishment of the goals and mission.

During the 2023 update process, the Hazard Mitigation Council reviewed the mission statement, the goals, and objectives from the previously approved 2018 hazard mitigation plan. The Hazard Mitigation Council determined that the mission statement would remain the same. The goals remain valid and were reaffirmed, and one objective would be added to Goal 1. A total of 4 objectives had wording added. The 2023 mission, goals, and objectives are the following:

Mission: To develop and maintain a disaster-resilient, sustainable Mississippi through perpetual planning and review of a comprehensive statewide mitigation strategy.

Goal 1 – Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from natural hazards.

- Objective 1.1** Protect critical facilities, infrastructure, and systems
- Objective 1.2** Reduce the number of at-risk, repetitive loss, and SRL properties
- Objective 1.3** Reduce potential damage to future buildings and infrastructure and Increase resilience to disasters.
- Objective 1.4** Develop and maintain hazards-related research, modeling, data, and analysis to support program and project implementation
- Objective 1.5** Identify needs and appropriate projects from post disaster damage assessments
- Objective 1.6** Preserve, create, and restore natural systems to serve as natural mitigation functions
- Objective 1.7** Protect historic and cultural resources
- Objective 1.8** Provide State and local agencies with a statewide communications network with an interoperable, highly reliable, fast access, and a public safety-grade communication system for use during events that threaten the health and welfare of the citizens of Mississippi.
- Objective 1.9** Promote State identified mitigation initiatives, such as saferooms, storm shelters, severe weather warning systems, emergency generators, and public outreach campaigns.
- Objective 1.10** Mitigate risk and reduce the number of high hazard potential dams.

Goal 2 – Build and enhance local mitigation capabilities.

- Objective 2.1** Support and provide guidance for local hazard mitigation planning and projects.
- Objective 2.2** Encourage the adoption, improvement, and enforcement of local codes, ordinances, and Land use planning.
- Objective 2.3** Provide and promote technical assistance and training to local governments.
- Objective 2.4** Identify and provide financial incentives and funding opportunities.

Goal 3 – Improve public education and awareness.

- Objective 3.1** Develop and improve outreach programs and materials to increase awareness to the public and private sector about climate adaptation principles, risk, and mitigation in Mississippi.
- Objective 3.2** Promote and utilize existing hazard mitigation education programs from state, federal, and nonprofit sources.
- Objective 3.3** Develop tailored outreach strategies for vulnerable, underserved populations, such as tourists, disabled persons, children, the elderly, non-English speakers, and low-income residents.

Goal 4 – Sustain and enhance a coordinated state mitigation program.

- Objective 4.1** Strengthen coordination, communication, capabilities, and partnerships with all levels of government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations.
- Objective 4.2** Institutionalize hazard mitigation as integrated state policy.
- Objective 4.3** Implement, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy and promote successes.

Process for Updating Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the 2004 plan were a compilation of previous goals and objectives from the Mississippi 409 plan, as well as those being implemented through other state agencies involved in the mitigation planning process. As part of the 2007 plan update, the goals and objectives from the 2004 plan were reviewed and revised to address current and anticipated future conditions. On April 22, 2010 the Hazard Mitigation Council met to assess the goals and objectives from the previously approved 2007 hazard mitigation plan. The Council determined that the goals and objectives still remain valid and would not be changed in the 2010 update. On January 23, 2013, the Hazard Mitigation Council met to assess the goals and objectives from the 2010 hazard mitigation plan. The Mitigation Council determined that the goals and objectives still remain valid and would remain the same for the 2013 plan hazard mitigation plan. On March 8, 2018, the Hazard Mitigation Council met to assess the goals and objectives from the 2013 hazard mitigation plan. The Mitigation Council determined that the goals remain valid, but one objective would be added to Goal 1. Starting March 10, 2023, the Hazard Mitigation Council reviewed the mission, goals, and objectives from the 2018 hazard mitigation plan. A final determination was made on July 27, 2023, that the mission statement and goals remained valid, but one objective was added to Goal 1, and additions would be made to four objectives. The review for the 2023 update was based on the following:

- The updated statewide risk assessment, which includes changes in growth and development, recent state and federal declared events, enhanced vulnerability assessments, and analysis of local risk assessments;
- Assessment of changes and challenges in state and local capabilities since the 2018 plan;
- Types and status of mitigation actions from the 2018 state plan;
- Analysis of the similarities and differences of the state mitigation plan goals with local mitigation plan goals and objectives; and
- The development of a more integrated strategic plan framework for aligning goals, objectives, and actions.

As a result of this review, the Hazard Mitigation Council mission statement, goals, and objectives for the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan were determined.

The key issues identified in the statewide risk assessment and the analysis of local risk assessments can be found in Section 3 Risk Assessment. Information on the changes in state and local mitigation capabilities is summarized in Sections 4.2 State Capability Assessment and 4.3 Local Capability Assessment. The following section describes how the local mitigation plan goals and objectives were reviewed and considered during the 2023 update. Section 4.4 Mitigation Actions includes detailed and updated mitigation measures designed to meet the designated goals and objectives. Progress on these actions is evaluated in Sections 4.4 and Section 4.5 Effective Use of Available Mitigation Funding.

Review of Local Goals and Objectives

The Hazard Mitigation Council analyzed the goals and objectives of FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plans in Mississippi to assess their consistency with state goals and objectives. The analysis involved calculating the percentage of local plans (out of a total of 44 plans) that have a similar goal or objective to each of the goals and objectives in the 2023 Mississippi State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The data collection involved some interpretation because many local goals and objectives addressed multiple issues. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 4.1.1

Table 4.1.1: Local/Regional Plans with a Goal or Objective Similar to State Plan Goals and Objectives

2018 Mississippi State Mitigation Goals (G) and Objectives (O)	Local/Regional Plans with Similar Goal	Local/Regional Plans with Similar Objectives	Local/Regional Plans with Similar Goal or Objectives	Relation to 2023 Updated Goals and Objectives
G1 Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from natural hazards	95%	12%	100%	Goal is the Same
G2 Build and enhance local mitigation capabilities	86%	64%	76%	Goal is the Same
G3 Improve public education and awareness	67%	31%	95%	Goal is the Same
G4 Sustain and enhance a coordinated State mitigation program	81%	24%	88%	Goal is the Same
O1.1 Protect critical facilities, infrastructure, and systems	57%	79%	100%	Objective is the Same
O1.2 Reduce the number of at-risk and repetitive loss properties	17%	67%	67%	Objective is the Same
O1.3 Reduce potential damage to future buildings and infrastructure and increase resilience to disasters.	36%	36%	60%	Objective wording has changed.
O1.4 Develop and maintain hazards-related research, modeling, data, and analysis to support program and project implementation.	10%	67%	67%	Objective is the Same
O1.5 Identify needs and appropriate projects from post disaster damage assessments	2%	14%	14%	Objective is the Same
O1.6 Preserve, create, and restore natural systems to serve natural mitigation functions	2%	2%	5%	Objective is the Same
O1.7 Protect historic and cultural resources	5%	2%	7%	Objective is the Same
O1.8 Provide State and local agencies statewide communications with an interoperable, highly reliable, fast access, public safety-grade communication system for use during events that threaten the health and welfare of the citizens of Mississippi.	5%	19%	24%	Objective is the Same
O1.9 Promote State identified mitigation initiatives, such as saferooms, storm shelters, severe weather warning systems, emergency generators, and public outreach campaigns.	7%	79%	83%	Objective wording has changed.
O1.10 Mitigate risk and reduce the number of high hazard dams.	0%	1%	1%	New Objective
O2.1 Support and provide guidance for local hazard mitigation planning and projects.	64%	76%	83%	Objective is the Same
O2.2 Encourage the adoption, improvement, and enforcement of local codes, ordinances, and land use planning.	10%	29%	29%	Objective is the Same
O2.3 Provide and promote technical assistance and training to local governments.	5%	26%	31%	Objective is the Same
O2.4 Identify and provide financial incentives and funding opportunities.	5%	17%	19%	Objective is the Same
O3.1 Develop and improve outreach programs and materials to increase awareness to the public and private sector about Climate adaptation principles, risk, and mitigation in Mississippi.	69%	64%	79%	Objective wording has changed
O3.2 Promote and utilize existing hazard mitigation education programs from state, federal, and nonprofit sources.	2%	12%	12%	Objective is the Same
O3.3 Develop tailored outreach strategies for vulnerable, underserved populations, such as tourists, disabled persons, children and the elderly, non-English speakers, and low-income residents.	0%	10%	10%	Objective wording has changed
O4.1 Strengthen coordination, communication, capabilities, and partnerships with all levels of government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations	10%	48%	50%	Objective is the Same
O4.2 Institutionalize hazard mitigation as integrated State policy	2%	2%	5%	Objective is the Same
O4.3 Implement, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy and promote successes	67%	67%	81%	Objective is the Same

The State goals most represented in local plans are Goal 1 and Goal 3. State Goal 1: Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from natural hazards. When compared to local goals and objectives, The percentage of local plans had a goal or objective to minimize loss from natural hazards was 100%.

Ninety-five percent of local plans have a goal similar to State Goal 3: Improve public education and awareness. In addition, the state objective 1.1: Protect critical facilities, infrastructure, and systems received the highest percentage of similar goals or objectives in local plans (100 percent). While 1.6 Preserve, create, and restore natural systems to serve as natural mitigation functions, 1.7 Protect historic and cultural resources, and 4.2 Institutionalize hazard mitigation as integrated state policy, had the lowest percentages of all the objectives (each were less than 10 percent).

The Hazard Mitigation Council also analyzed other goals and objectives that occur commonly in local plans; some differ from State goals and objectives. Table 4.1.2 lists common goals and objectives in local plans and the percent of plans that contain the similar goal or objective.

Protect/improve critical facilities was the issue most common in local plans. Objective 1.1 in the state plan also addresses this issue. Promoting local hazard mitigation plans was a frequent goal or objective in local plans (88 percent). Eighty-eight percent of local/DRU plans seek to Improve or retrofit, is close to State Objective 1.2. Involving and/or educating public officials in natural hazards mitigation and Improve communication systems share common issues with State Goal 3 and Objective 3.1. Objective 3.2 and Objective 4.1 share common issues.

Table 4.1.2: Other Goals and Objectives Common in Local and Regional Plans

<i>Common Goals and Objectives in Local and Regional Plans</i>	<i>Percentage of Local and Regional Plans with Goal or Objective</i>
Protect/ improve critical facilities	95%
Promote local hazard mitigation plans	88%
Improve emergency response operations	36%
Increase local capacity for mitigation and emergency management	67%
Involve and/or educate public officials in natural hazards mitigation	81%
Enhance public warning and information systems	69%
Monitor effectiveness of measures and initiatives	64%
Identify and address repetitive loss properties	57%
Reduce damage to future buildings and infrastructure	74%
Increase property acquisitions	2%
Integrate mitigation in land use planning	7%
Promote the National Flood Insurance Program	19%
Encourage jurisdictions to implement and share GIS system	5%
Improve and retrofit	88%
Protect business continuity and economic vitality	33%
Improve sheltering capabilities	33%
Plan for continuity of local government operations	31%
Plan for vulnerable populations	14%
Develop or improve storm water/drainage programs	12%
Improve communications systems	79%
Support State identified initiatives	2%
Improve evacuation capabilities	7%
Seek funding for mitigation	19%
Increase community resilience to disasters	80%
Reduce number of high hazard dams	1%
Enhance the number of emergency generators	1%
Enhance public outreach campaigns for vulnerable and underserved	86%
Increase awareness of climate adaptation principles	0%

4.2 State Capabilities

44 CFR 201.4(c)(3)(ii) – The State mitigation strategy shall include the following elements:

A mitigation strategy that provides the State’s blueprint for reducing the losses identified in the risk assessment. This section shall include:

A discussion of the State’s pre- and post-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities to mitigate the hazards in the area, including: an evaluation of State laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to hazard mitigation as well as to development in hazard-prone areas.

4.2.1 State Policy and Programs

The State of Mississippi authorizes local governments to regulate development in flood-prone hazard areas. The State has not assumed authority to oversee development in flood-prone or hazard areas. Similarly, while the State has passed enabling legislation for local governments to zone and to adopt building codes, it has not sought the authority to do so.

All state agencies with state-owned or leased buildings that are located in a special flood hazard area are required to carry the maximum amount of flood insurance. The premiums are paid out of the agencies operating budget.

State funding capabilities for hazard mitigation projects: mitigation projects require a non-federal match of 25% or more. Mitigation projects do not have a State identified funding source. Projects throughout the State are implemented with a non-federal match from budgeted funds, CDBG funds or in-kind match. The applicant or sub-grantee will be provided administrative and technical assistance to implement a proposed project. Administrative and management cost are available to the state and local governments that participate in federal mitigation grant programs.

The following are eligible federal funds available to contribute to the 75 / 25 local matches for overall funding:

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Funds,
- Appalachian Regional Commission Funds
- Indian Health Service Funds
- Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) to fund elevation, relocation, demolition, and floodproofing costs,
- Small Business Administration funds, and
- Federal Housing Administration loan funds.

Each State agency from the 2023 plan was afforded the opportunity to review their mitigation capabilities from the existing standard plan and provide updates to their current agency capabilities. This was accomplished by personal contact with agencies represented at the Hazard Mitigation Council meetings and by email.

For those agencies who were not physically present at these events, an email which included a copy of their 2018 capability response, instructions as to how to evaluate their capabilities, and a request for them to review and update their capability response. The agencies who did not have changes are noted as no change from the 2018 submittal in the agency capabilities listed below.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 33-15-7 Et. Seq.

The Office of Mitigation is responsible for coordinating disaster loss reduction programs, initiatives, and policies throughout the State of Mississippi. Disaster loss reduction measures are carried out through disaster reduction programs, initiatives, and policies through the development of State and local Hazard Mitigation plans and the implementation of strategies identified in the plans.

The Office of Mitigation administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant program, the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Assistance Program and Risk Map Program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, and Severe Repetitive Loss Program. The Office of Mitigation's Staff has grown from six to currently thirteen personnel. Floodplain Management, Grants and Planning Staff are assigned to all six districts in the state. Mitigation Office Staff have been extensively trained in Benefit Cost Analysis, Grants Management, National Flood Insurance Program, Plan Review, CAV, CAC, environmental, project application review, HAZUS and NEMIS Entry.

The Mitigation Grants Bureau administers hazard mitigation grants to State and local governments. These grants include mitigation planning grants, drainage projects, acquisition of high-risk flood structures, retrofitting critical facilities, warning systems, saferooms and storm shelters, and other cost-effective measures identified in the State and local government's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Mitigation Grants Bureau has developed a web site, <https://my.msema.org> that allows local governments/eligible applicants to submit applications online.

The Mitigation Planning Bureau within the Bureau of Mitigation is responsible for maintaining and updating the State of Mississippi Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan, which documents statewide hazard risk and the capability to mitigate the risk. The Planning Bureau also works with other state agencies, regional planning authorities, and local governments in the development of mitigation plans and strategies. The Mitigation Plans Bureau also provides technical assistance and training to local governments and state agencies in the development of their local hazard mitigation plans and keeps the local governments apprised of any new advances or policy changes in hazard mitigation planning.

The Floodplain Management Bureau serves as the only compliance/regulatory focused bureau within the Agency. It is charged with the management of the Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) which consists of providing oversight for the 335 participating National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities and the 28 Community Rating System (CRS) members within the state.

A compliant community membership in the NFIP provides both the citizens and their communities with the opportunity to utilize the federal flood policies to protect their property and qualify for various grant and disaster assistance programs. As of October 2022, this program has resulted in 52,901 individual flood insurance policies that equate to an insured flood damage coverage of \$14.2 billion dollars. There have been 65,275 claims paid since 1978, in the amount of \$3.1 billion dollars. The average yearly premium in Mississippi is \$777.95

The Bureau's staff conducts an average of 60 Community Assistance Visits (CAV) and compliance inspections per year. These inspections ensure the compliance of the communities with the NFIP, which enables them to participate in the five Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, the State's Hazard Mitigation Planning process, and the various disaster assistance programs administered by the federal government. Additionally, there is an average of 11 FPM training sessions or workshops conducted per year, as well as numerous technical assistance actions to State and local associations and to community governments.

The FPM Bureau is tasked with coordinating the agency's portion of the Risk Map Program. Risk Map expands traditional flood mapping to include risk assessment and mitigation planning. Risk Map is meant to better inform communities as they make decisions related to reducing flood risk by implementing all mitigation actions. This project calls for 4 meetings: Discovery, Flood Risk Review, Resilience, and Final/COO and Public. This bureau will support meeting for technical information. If flood map work occurs in the community, then the FPM will help by guiding local official with map adoption. The FPM Bureau will assist MDEQ on performing project outreach activities.

The Floodplain Management Bureau continues to conduct specialized training for state and local officials, such as offering the national Certified Floodplain Manager examination as a tool to both increase the professionalism and knowledge base within the floodplain management field. Since the inception of the CFM program within the United States, there have been many Mississippians certified as floodplain managers.

Department of Agriculture and Commerce

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for Mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 69-1-1 (19720 Et. Seq.

The Department performs a regulatory function in the areas of sanitary inspections of grocery stores; agriculture theft; meat inspection; fruit and vegetable inspection; feed, seed, fertilizer and soil and plant inspection; weights and measure. The Department operates a seed testing laboratory, a metrology laboratory, and a grain moisture testing laboratory. The mitigation function of the agency is to ensure a sanitary food supply where the Department has authority.

Department of Archives and History

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 39-5-1.

This agency has custody of and maintains care of all state records and material pertaining to the history of Mississippi. It also administers the State Records Management Program. It aids mitigation by supplying information on the frequency and severity of past disasters and the effectiveness of recovery efforts. It also supplies historical information on sites of proposed mitigation projects. Archives and History is a first response agency and is responsible for responding after a disaster to retrieve and stabilize record recovery for government offices. According to Federal Section 106 Review – Archives and History is required to make comment on debris removal on any project involving federal funding. The agency is collaborating with MEMA to develop a GIS data system in order to have that data (what is in place/existing) prior to a disaster.

Department of Audit

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Constitution, 1890. Art. V, 134.

The State Auditor's Office conducts training of local governments and state agencies regarding the proper purchasing of emergency equipment, hazard mitigation equipment, and grant monitoring. Additionally, the State Auditor's Office aids mitigation by providing information on the state's physical and financial resources and their locations.

Information Technology Services

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 25-53-5.

This agency is responsible for: the cost-effective acquisition of data processing equipment and services for use by state agencies; computer communication facilities to provide necessary services to state government; engaging in the long-term planning of equipment acquisition for state agencies, and training state personnel in the use of equipment and programs. Information Technology Services (ITS) aids mitigation by maintaining communication and information networks and ensuring adequately trained personnel to operate them.

As a member of the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), ITS maintains the Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse, which is designed to house the Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM). The MDEM is comprised of the following GIS data layers: Geodetic Control, Elevation and Bathymetry, Orthoimage, Hydrography, Transportation, Government Boundaries, and Cadastral. The Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse will be accessible to local governments, state and federal agencies, planning and development districts, and private entities in support of disaster mitigation, planning, and recovery.

Mississippi Development Authority

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Marketing and Communications Division

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated 33-15-2

Timely communication during and after a disaster to prevent loss of life and to mitigation public danger and property damage. Specifically, mitigation of business-related damage.

The MDA Communications Director serves also as the State's CIO/Public Information Officer (PIO) acting as a key member of the agency's emergency response team to perform essential functions including handling all media inquiries, organizing press conferences and press releases, and responding to information inquiries from Mississippi businesses and industries.

Under MEMA ESF 11 and 15, the PIO coordinates where appropriate with the Joint Information Center at MEMA and may provide communication support to MEMA during and after a disaster. When needed, the agency may activate a call center. Mitigation and minimization of damage through timely communication is a key objective of this function.

Community Services Division

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 57-1-5 (1984 supplement).

Administration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funding for the non-Federal share of mitigation projects.

The Community Services Division creates a climate favorable to community growth and development. It administers the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and aids mitigation by funding the non-Federal share of hazard mitigation projects.

Department of Environmental Quality

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 49-2-9 Et. Seq.

The Department of Environmental Quality promulgates rules and regulations; receives and expends state and federal funds, conducts studies on alternate uses of natural resources; and responds to incidents that threaten them. It aids mitigation by protecting the state's natural resources and regulating their use. MDEQ and MEMA serve as State Technical Partners in the Risk MAP Program and as active participants in the Mississippi Digital Earth Model and Remote Initiative.

Senate Bill 2822 provides funding and parameters for the Mississippi Municipality & County Water Infrastructure Grant Program Act (MCWI), which is derived from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). MDEQ will produce Rules and Regulations as to the administration of the program and funds received by counties and municipalities designated for the development and enhancement of new water, wastewater, and storm water to increase the resiliency of infrastructure in Mississippi. Additionally, MDEQ has expanded ability to respond and collaborate with our State and Federal Partners in natural disaster related impacts such as debris disposal management, dam safety, hazardous material management and wastewater treatment system recovery.

Department of Marine Resources

Authority for Mitigation: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 49-15-11 (1972)

This agency aids hazard mitigation through (1) buyout programs, (2) preservation, creation, restoration, and enhancement activities, (3) education and outreach programs, and (4) our Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program. With buyouts, we partner with federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, and the private sector to identify susceptible, repetitive-loss properties and move them into public ownership through donation, purchase, or other means. These partnerships also facilitate our preservation, creation, restoration, and enhancement programs. The State currently holds title to more than 41,000 acres of sensitive coastal that are managed by the Coastal Preserves Program. In addition to the state-owned lands within the coastal preserves, the USFWS manages 3,000 acres at the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the National Park Service, the Gulf Islands National Seashore manages 6,486 acres within Cat, Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands. Collectively, this includes 51,256 acres of preservation land within three counties of Mississippi.

Our education and outreach programs are through partnerships with local academic institutions, other state and federal agencies, and the private sector. We focus on environmental conservations, sustainable development, and sound environmental stewardship. The Clean and Resilient Marina Program calls for the "promotion and expansion of resilient and environmentally responsible operations and best management practices at marinas." It builds on the Gulf of Mexico States' Proven Clean Marina Certification Programs. This improved program Complements Clean Marina practices already in place and provides additional recommendations to strengthen local marinas' ability to withstand natural and man-made disasters.

Department of Public Safety

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) aids mitigation by enforcing traffic laws and regulations on Mississippi highways and roads. It issues and renews driver's licenses, furnishes qualified personnel to take part in investigations, and provides assistance to communities during emergencies and disasters.

This department also houses the Office of Homeland Security. The Mississippi Office of Homeland Security assists by providing funding to state and local agencies. This funding is used to purchase preparedness equipment, provide training and certification to first responders, develop plans and standard operation guidelines for agencies and response teams, and to exercise and evaluate these response plans.

DPS also works with MDOT and Louisiana State Police during emergencies to provide logistical and security support consistent with contraflow operations on our Interstates. DPS also now has the capability to feed and fully support our first responders when deployed to a disaster area. DPS has also added an additional helicopter designated to assist in search and rescue operations as well as having a heavy lift capability.

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, And Parks

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. §49-1-29; §49-4-1, Et. Seq.

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks aids in hazard mitigation through its conservation and protection of wildlife habitats, and freshwater and estuarine fisheries and ecosystems.

Institutions of Higher Learning

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 37-101-1.

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, through its eight universities, which includes The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), provides capabilities in support of state hazard mitigation in a variety of ways. IHL contributes to statewide hazard mitigation efforts through education and research. IHL enrolls approximately 90,000 students and graduates close to 20,000 per year. Many of the over 2,100 funded research projects help prepare Mississippi to respond to future challenges, including preventing and responding to hazards.

IHL directly participates in Mississippi Emergency Management's preparation and response efforts, serving important roles with Mississippi's State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. In addition to UMMC's important roles with ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services, IHL also supports ESF 6 Mass Care-Human Service. IHL maintains a Disaster Response Plan which assists universities to coordinate and supply resources when and where needed. In addition to physical resources, like temporary housing, expertise and human resources, like emergency responders or translators, are available.

Universities possess many capabilities that mitigate hazards. The following are a few recent examples. In response to the pandemic, and with MEMA's coordination, university staff and students were able to provide much needed respirators to hospitals. Universities prevent and respond to risks of violence on campuses through education, the provision of counseling services, the creation of assessment and response teams, and through law enforcement training. IHL participates in the NFIP flood insurance program, and as part of its larger property insurance program, benefits from routine engineer inspections across its campuses. Cyber security improvements, and related educational programs, mitigate the risk of cyber incidents and prepare the state's cybersecurity workforce. Universities maintain disaster resistant university plans, which coordinate with local stakeholders. These plans include rapid communication and notification systems to warn students, faculty, and staff about impending threats from severe weather or security concerns. IHL has disaster mitigation contracts in place that include preferred-client status so as to expedite deployment. Universities provide numerous courses and programs in disaster response, cyber security, risk management, leadership, and many disciplines that aid preparation and response to hazards. Universities train staff to respond to emergencies and some have implemented designated best available areas of refuge.

The four research universities collaborate on important research into risks to coastal communities such as the BP oil spill, national defense, and climate change. An IHL Board of Trustees initiative on energy efficiency has saved universities more than \$200 million and improved the sustainability of university campuses. In regard to hazards posed by climate change, universities engage in numerous initiatives, research, and programs. Examples include sustainability programs, energy efficiency investments, shoreline, water quality, water security, and irrigation efficiency work, crop productivity research, recycling and cleanup programs, and transportation management initiatives. Extension services reach all areas of Mississippi.

Mississippi Insurance Department

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 83-1-1 Et. Seq.

The Insurance Department executes all laws relative to insurance companies, corporations, associations, and their agents and adjusters. It aids mitigation by licensing and regulating manufacturers and dealers of mobile homes; enforcing the LP gas inspection program; and administering the Standard Fire Code. The State Fire Marshal's office is located in the Department of Insurance.

Since 2005, the following changes have been created, made, or supported by the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) which support hazard mitigation:

- The creation and continued progress of the MID Hurricane Katrina Mediation Program which can now be used to mediate future disaster claims.
- The creation and continued progress of the MID Hurricane Katrina Arbitration Program which may also be used in arbitration of future claims.
- The development and continued use of a Flood Insurance Outreach program.
- The development and continued use of an updated Storm Preparedness web site.
- Support from MID and the State Fire Marshal's office of the state legislation which created the Building Codes Council which advocates stronger building codes for coastal communities.
- Regulation which now requires the licensing of public adjusters in Mississippi
- Policy holder Bill of Rights regulation which will assist consumers in completely understanding homeowner policy coverage
- Working with Governor's office in securing CDBG grant funds to assist funding for the Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association, which will aid in lowering premium costs for both homeowner's and businesses
- Championed passage of the Wind Pool Bill which sets in place future state funding for the program

*NOTE: The State Fire Academy, a sub-agency of the Mississippi Insurance Department, submitted its plans separately.

Mississippi Library Commission

Authority for mitigation: Mississippi Code 1972, Annotated, 39-3-107.

The Library Commission gives advice to libraries and communities on establishing and maintaining libraries; accepts and uses funds to establish, stimulate, increase, improve, and equalize library services; adopts rules/regulations relative to the allocation of state aid funds to public library systems; and operates a library to support libraries, state government, and the public. The agency's mission statement is "The Mississippi Library Commission is committed-through leadership, advocacy, and service – to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians."

To accomplish this mission, the Library Commission:

1. Operates a secure, state-of-the-art 62,000 sq. ft. facility at 3881 Eastwood Drive in Jackson, MS. The five-story building, of poured concrete and steel, includes: one below-ground level; wired and wireless high-speed Internet connectivity; a natural gas-powered generator to support basic functions, including data center, in power outages; 100+ windows throughout the building that open; meeting rooms equipment with distance learning capabilities and kitchen facilities; computer training facilities; public access computers; large parking lots; large, open research facilities; and a state-of-the-art data center to support Internet services to Mississippi public libraries & the agency's networking needs.
2. Operates a large library with traditional and electronic information resources and a highly qualified research staff to respond to requests for information and in-depth research; provides interlibrary loan services for specific titles and loans materials on a short-term and long-term basis to libraries, state government, and the general public; serves as the only library for the blind and physically disabled in the state; Is the only patents and trademarks library in the state; is a depositor for federal publications and the depository of all publicly released publications of state government.
3. Provides consulting services to library staffs, trustees, and local governments on establishing and maintaining library services.
4. Provides grant funds, federal and state, to public libraries.
5. Works with public libraries statewide.

People have access to public library services in all 82 MS counties. All 236 public libraries are managed by trained, dedicated staff with local community knowledge, skills to assist the public and high-speed Internet capabilities available through multiple public access computers. Most have meeting room facilities with kitchen facilities, large reading rooms, comfortable seating, study tables, etc.

6. Is a member of the statewide cultural alliance comprised of the MS Arts Commission, the MS Department of Archives & History, the MS Humanities Council, and the Library Commission.

The purpose of the alliance is to coordinate responses in case of an emergency; to encourage local cooperation among cultural organizations (i.e. libraries, museums, visual & performing arts groups, etc.); to secure funds, supplies, manpower, and facilities to protect cultural heritage such as local histories, city & county records, art works, buildings, etc. before and after a disaster.

In case of an emergency the Library Commission:

- Serves as clearinghouse for evacuated or stranded public library employees and public library systems to ensure communication outside disaster area.
- Provides public library systems with access to remote office space/equipment/supplies to ensure business continuity.

- Secures and delivers needed resources (supplies, equipment, labor, library materials, etc.) to affected libraries.
- Identifies and seeks outside funding and assistance.
- Connects affected libraries with funders, opportunities, suppliers, vendors, counselors, etc.
- Advocates for libraries at local, state, and national levels on:
 - Central community roles of libraries including communications; connectivity; comfortable, safe environment; staff trained to assist; meeting facilities; etc.
 - Funding needs.
 - Role of libraries as early responders in times of disaster.
- Modifies rules & regulations to accommodate affected libraries & libraries serving the affected public (evacuees, law enforcement, military, relief workers, volunteers, etc.).
- Serves as spokesperson with state, national, and international media.
- Seeks speaking opportunities to tell library story and story of lessons learned.
- People turn to libraries in times of emergency for information, for access, for comfort, and for a place of refuge. After Katrina, this fact was validated as evacuees sought shelter further inland or returned to affected areas.
- Supports work of libraries serving the affected public in many ways including:
 - Reestablishing public library service as quickly as possible.
 - Setting up alternate ways to deliver services through temporary facilities, donated bookmobiles, information kiosks, satellite Internet connectivity, etc.
 - Using trained library staff to assist people, relief workers, city/county government, etc.
 - Serving as communication centers; volunteer coordination centers; relief centers and early responders.
 - Expanding library hours to accommodate people in need;
 - Issuing library cards to anyone temporarily living in community;
 - Designating library computers for relief-efforts-only to for completion of FEMA and insurance forms online, to contact friends and family, and to search for assistance;
 - Offering free photocopy and fax services.
 - Using library facilities to accommodate relief workers and relief efforts; serving as relief centers for water/ice, blue tarp distribution, makeshift shower facilities, food stamp card distribution, etc.

The Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi library community have a great deal to contribute to mitigation before and after an emergency. The library garners public trust: despite being a public institution, it is not perceived as “the government”. People turn to libraries in times of emergency for information, for access, for comfort, and for a place of refuge. After Hurricane Katrina, this fact was validated as evacuees sought shelter further inland or returned to affected areas. Several factors make libraries ideal as early responders to emergencies: the library staff is trained to assist the public; libraries have multiple points-of-access to high-speed connectivity, which facilitates communication; and in many instances, the facilities can accommodate larger groups of people.

Mississippi Automated Resource Information Systems (MARIS)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 57-13-23.

Mitigation capability: MARIS stores, processes, extracts, and disseminates useful information on the state's natural and cultural resources. The Policy Committee is made up of representatives from 22 state agencies. The agency aids mitigation by developing and promoting use of uniform standards for geographic information systems used in state agencies.

Mississippi Department of Transportation

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 65-1-13.

The following is a brief description of the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) on-going Hazard mitigation capabilities.

1. Construction, reconstruction and maintenance of transportation facilities vital to evacuation, response, and re-entry. This includes but is not limited to seismic retrofitting of bridges, the upgrading of traffic control devices after destruction, construction of transportation facilities to avoid flood prone areas whenever possible, and other precautionary design work – including wetlands mitigation – which reduces risk before, during and after an emergency.
2. Education and communication outreach programs to include information provided to the general public concerning Contraflow, pet evacuation, and general preparedness.
3. Training for MDOT response personnel at all levels for a wide range of natural and man-made hazards.
4. In-house emergency coordination staff increased from 4 in 2005 to 15 today; this group is MDOT's ESF-1 representative at the State Emergency Operations Center.
5. Maintenance of a Comprehensive Emergency Transportation Response Plan which is updated regularly.
6. Emergency preparedness for a 72-hour window of self-sufficient after a disaster. This is accomplished through improvements made to emergency supplies, storage facilities, acquiring sufficient fuel reserves, as well as housing, food and water for transportation emergency workers.
7. Improvements in communication capabilities through the purchase of additional satellite radio units to serve as redundant communications backup. In addition, a mobile communications platform and a command/control center have been made operational.
8. Evaluation of standard operating procedures in all areas, but specifically within procurement to enable the agency to function more efficiently and quickly in the purchase of emergency supplies.
9. Provision of remote traffic sensing, which will aid in traffic management during evacuations and re-entries.
10. Development of partnerships with various state, federal and/or local agencies to save lives and reduce future losses. These include:
 - a) The GIS Coordinating Council in the development of the Mississippi Digital Earth Mapping Initiative.
 - b) Key emergency response agencies to aid in providing fuel. These agencies include the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Department of Health, and Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

11. Acquiring travel trailers to provide housing accommodations for transportation emergency workers during extended events.
12. Placement of three Mobilization Centers in northwest Mississippi to provide for command/control and serve as a base of operations to support earthquake emergency response activities.

Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (d/b/a Mississippi Public Broadcasting)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 37-63-1 Et. Seq.

Mitigation capability: Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) is a public service agency, providing the citizens of the state with educational, public service and Informative programming that enlightens and inspires. MPB serves the people of Mississippi as the primary source for statewide emergency information, utilizing its network of radio and television transmitters and towers. During a disaster, MPB supports MEMA with technical and production staff for press conferences and emergency alerts to give out vital information so citizens know where to go for food, water, and or shelter. MPB works with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to identify MPB FM frequencies on evacuation routes. When a mandatory evacuation is ordered, MPB provides updates via its statewide radio network. In the event of a state of emergency, MPB Radio will broadcast crucial information if a need for information exists. That is one aspect of what MPB provides to the citizens of Mississippi.

Mississippi Forestry Commission

Authority for Mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated § 49-19-3(b).

The Mississippi Forestry Commission, by statute, has the responsibility “To take such action so as to provide and maintain the organized means, as deemed necessary and expedient, to prevent, control and extinguish forest fires...”

Established in 1926, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), protects the state’s valuable forest resources from wildfire, manages approximately 485,000 acres of forested 16th Section Public School Trust Lands. The MFC also delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Their mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy. There are approximately 19.2 million forested acres in Mississippi.

The MFC has apportioned Mississippi into four (4) administrative regions, each with full complements of staffed bulldozer/plow units utilized to suppress wildfires. Their Operations Center and aviation resources provide the capability of coordinating wildland fire mitigation efforts. The commission uses the Incident Command System when engaged in wildland fire suppression efforts (and other natural disaster response situations) to determine where the MFC’s resources are needed to support mitigation and recovery efforts.

The Public Information and Outreach Department provides the capability to inform and educate the public and private sectors. It also supports all Mississippi Forestry Commission program areas by providing information dissemination, educational presentations, and public relations support. A variety of mass media delivery methods are used in order to reach the public in the most effective manner. The MFC’s Firewise Coordinator and outreach officers are actively engaged in promoting how individuals and communities can take measures to protect life and property from wildfires.

Office of The Attorney General

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Constitution, 1890. Art. VI, 173.

The Attorney General's Office has a staff of attorneys to represent state agencies and officials in the areas of litigation, opinion processing, governmental affairs, public integrity investigations, and public interest advocacy. It aids mitigation by interpreting state law and providing legal counsel to state agencies.

Office of the Governor

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Constitution, 1890. Art. V, 116; Miss. Code 1972 Ann. §7-5-1; Miss. Code 1972 Ann. §33-15-1 *et seq*; Miss. Code 1972 Ann. §33-15-403; and other authority.

The Office of the Governor contributes and coordinates mitigation efforts as the Constitutional Office of Chief Executive of the State of Mississippi in various ways including "general direction and control of the Emergency Management Agency... [;]" emergency management of the state and MEMA's promotion of the state's emergency preparedness; the authority to enter reciprocal aid agreements with other states and federal government; sponsoring and developing mutual aid plans and agreements between political subdivisions of the state; and other mitigation efforts as authorized by law.

The recent past under these authorities, the Governor created the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal response to Hurricane Katrina. The Governor created the Office of Recovery and Renewal within the Governor's Office which was later codified as the Office of Disaster Assistance Coordination within the Office of the Governor. Miss. Code 1972 Ann. §33-15-403.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Constitution, 1890. Art. V, 128.

The Lieutenant Governor will preside over the Senate, rule on points of order, assign bills to committees, nominate standing committees of the senate, and appoint all select and conference committees as passed by the Senate. An ex officio member of the Senate Rules Committee and member of the Legislative Budget Committee. May vote only in the case of a tie, may speak from the floor while the Senate is in Committee of the Whole, and signs all finally adopted bill and resolutions.

Public Service Commission

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Authority for Mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 77-1-1 (1990).

The duty and responsibility of the Public Service Commission is to regulate communication, electric, gas, water and sewer utilities that are under the supervision and regulation of the commission. Primary mitigation responsibility is to ensure that the facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience, safety and necessity of the public. The Public Service Commission also helps to identify threats to public utilities by natural hazards.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 69-27-2 (1984 supplement)

This agency is responsible for coordinating the programs of soil and water conservation districts. It aids mitigation by securing cooperation and assistance from Federal and other State agencies. The agency studies, evaluates, and classifies land use problems and needs; distributes funds, and manages the agricultural and non-point source pollution program. The Commission's contribution to hazard mitigation is to develop an awareness and to mitigate local pollution problems.

Mississippi Community College Board

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 37-4-3 (1986 supplement).

Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) through the fifteen community colleges, contributes to statewide mitigation efforts through assigned supporting roles in the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Here, MCCB provides mitigation support to Emergency Support Function (s): #6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services; and #8, Public Health and Medical Services, and Ebola Virus Disease Incident mitigation. The support or assistance is provided through resources, facilities, and/or other assistance requested.

The community college instructions further contribute to hazard mitigation through their educational programs to prepare for and overcome natural disasters. This is accomplished through community service programs and career technical programs in the various districts. Due to the many locations statewide, community colleges also provide facilities for the delivery of shelter and supplies to victims. Community colleges strive to promote, strengthen, and coordinate emergency response in order to better identify and support state mitigation efforts.

State Department of Health

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for Mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 41-3-15 (1972).

Providing protection to the public from threats to health and safety from unsanitary conditions relating to food, drinking water and sewage, unnecessary exposure to radiation and unhealthy and unsafe conditions in health care facilities, childcare facilities, and the workplace. Helps identify threats to potable water supply caused by natural hazards.

State Fire Academy

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 45-11-7 (1988 supplement).

The Fire Academy trains and educates persons engaged in municipal, county, and industrial fire protections and trains local law enforcement officers in arson investigation.

The Fire Academy is in compliance with the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) under the Presidential Directive. Also, the Academy offers NIMS courses state-wide to all emergency response personnel through a federally funded grant.

Water Development Districts

(No change from 2018 submittal)

Pat Harrison Water Management District, Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 51-13-103, 51-15-103, 51-9-105.

These watershed management districts are responsible for regulating the waters within their jurisdictions in order to conserve, protect, and develop them to provide adequate, sanitary water supply, control flooding, and ensure irrigation water when needed.

Board of Animal Health

(No change from the 2018 submittal)

Authority for Mitigation: Miss. Code of 1972, Annotated. § 69-15-1.

To deal with all contagious and infectious diseases of animals in the opinion of the Board as may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated with power to make, promulgate, and enforce such rules so as to prevent the introduction and spread of those diseases.

Department of Finance and Administration

Authority for mitigation: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 33-15-307(5)

The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is responsible for managing and administering state finances and programs. Its primary mitigation responsibility is to ascertain if amounts requisitioned by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) from the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund are within the limits set forth in statute and transfer appropriate amounts from the Working Cash Stabilization Fund to the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund. DFA also administers the Disaster Recovery Fund and the Emergency Aid to Local Government Loans and Grant Program, provides administrative support to the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)/MEMA in connection with the Special Community Disaster Loan Program (SCDL). DFA provides daily support to MEMA insofar as routine and extraordinary fiscal, budget and procurement activities.

4.2.2 Evaluation of Mitigation Actions and Activities

The Hazard Mitigation Council will review the mitigation actions and activities included in the 2023 Plan on a semiannual basis. The evaluation process will include updates on such items as timeline, funding source, responsible entity, and project status. In addition, the Council will also review current programs and initiatives listed in Table 4.2.2.1 (Details of these programs are outlined in Section 2.3.3 of this Plan). Any desired or necessary changes to the mitigation actions or programs will be communicated to MEMA and other stakeholders.

**TABLE 4.2.2.1
Mitigation Programs**

Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness	Emergency Management Preparedness Grant	Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMGP)	Natural Hazards Plan
Community Development Block Grants	Forestry-Disaster Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Plan	Homeland Security Plan	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Federal Dam Safety Program	National Flood Insurance Program	HMGP Post-Fire Assistance
Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development	Hazard Mitigation Assistance	Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)
State Emergency Response Commission	Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD)	Pre-Disaster Management (PDM)	Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program

As events dictate; such as a pre- and post-disaster review and other situations that may affect the progress of the mitigation actions, the Council will conduct additional meetings. The Council may determine new actions and/or funding opportunities that may develop upon the course of events. The Council will communicate to MEMA any necessary changes they deem necessary.

The Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Section 404) defines applicant eligibility criteria, describes the application process, and outlines the resources and procedures for management of Hazard mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects and their associated program funding. Although the HMGP funding is disaster declaration-dependent, many mitigation projects are identified through the local hazard mitigation plans and may be implemented with available funding as determined by the State. The Administrative Plan provides the process in which to manage post-disaster programs. The State will manage and administer FEMA funding in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations.

4.2.3 Hazard Management Capabilities

A summary of obstacles, challenges and proposed solutions for state capabilities and potential strategies for overcoming challenges are provided below. Changes since the previous plan approval have been addressed. In reference to building codes, the State of Mississippi law authorizes local governments to undertake these activities, but does not require them to do so. The State continues to encourage communities to adopt codes and ordinance. Some state agencies responded stating that no obstacles or challenges were identified in capabilities, including the Office of the Governor and Mississippi Department of Finance and Accounting, and others provided challenges in the area of funding and staff shortage, including the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

MEMA has responded to the challenges that numerous disasters brought to Mississippi by increasing their hazard management capabilities. For example, construction of a state-of-the-art facility to house their headquarters. This facility provides the resources necessary in preparing and responding to impending disasters. MEMA also recognized the need for additional, trained staff to accommodate the increase in mitigation projects. To assist local governments and eligible applicants in completing mitigation applications online, a "Notice of Intent" should be sent to mitigationgrants@mema.ms.gov. A MEMA Mitigation Specialist will contact the local government. An HMPG grant application must be completed by the local government to be considered for funding. MEMA submits the project to FEMA for review and approval. If approved, MEMA receives FEMA mitigation funds to reimburse local governments for approved projects. A complete description of MEMA's and other state agencies capabilities can be reviewed in Section 4.2.1.

Institutions of Higher Learning responded stating that challenges or obstacles to hazard mitigation involve the need for resources and increased funding. While IHL is positioned well to adapt to many challenges through its educational programs, challenges posed by inflation and economic pressures result in higher costs for facility construction and preventative maintenance, insurance, payroll, energy, and the cost of doing business generally. One such challenge involves IHL seeking funds to support pay in order to be competitive when compared to regional averages.

Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (d/b/a Mississippi Public Broadcasting) response states that there are many needs the agency faces to keep the citizens informed, enlightened, and entertained. MPB has an infrastructure need of over \$23 million. Equipment at all eight of its tower sites need to be replaced including replacing old transmitters, microwaves, and tower repairs. The legislature has appropriated \$2 million per year over the past three years. It's not clear if that funding will continue year to year. MPB will request additional funding each year.

MARIS response states that currently the only obstacle is an ongoing shortage due to 2020 passing of a senior staff member. Work is underway to refill the position with a legislative ask this Fall. The ability to host and deliver data is unaffected. Only the ability to process new incoming data is negatively affected.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality responds challenges and solutions stating that MDEQ has identified several internal and external factors that will influence the agency's ability to achieve its targeted capabilities. The agency has been strategically planning for these possibilities and will, as it has in the past, strive to meet these challenges proactively.

Before discussing specific influential factors, it is important to note that, while MDEQ has been able to meet the required capabilities in the past, our ability to continue to meet the goals has become increasingly difficult. Financial challenges coupled with high staff turnover rates over the last several years have resulted in the agency operating on very lean staffing levels. As it relates to the factors below, any additional fiscal or workforce setback could greatly affect our ability to meet the targeted capabilities, and more importantly, jeopardize our ability to meet the agency's core mission.

A. Internal Factors

i. Recruitment and Retention of Professional Staff

The single most significant internal or external factor that could jeopardize MDEQ's success in achieving its targeted performance goals is the agency's ability to recruit and retain qualified engineers, scientists, information technology, and other specialized professionals. In FY2022, 107 of the 348 MDEQ employees on staff have less than five years of service (30.75% of agency employees). In FY 2014, 79 (20% of agency employees) had less than five years of service. Additionally, only 10.34% of our current staff have 10 to 15 years of experience. Historically, the Agency maintained approximately 20% in the 10 to 15 year-range. To keep pace with the ever-changing requirements of today's regulatory and business landscapes, MDEQ staff must be on the cutting edge of environmental science and engineering, as well as information technology, which supports the core efforts of the agency. The staff must be able to completely understand and act upon new and changing federal regulations, new developments in environmental science, and new technologies when they write permits, ensure compliance, and explore opportunities to benefit Mississippi. It is imperative that MDEQ have technically proficient staff in place, appropriate for the expanding opportunities in the state's economy.

Over the past few years, significant private sector job growth and salary increases have strained the agency's ability to recruit and retain technical staff. MDEQ's challenge to offer competitive compensation has drastically affected its efforts to successfully compete with private industry and other governmental organizations who are offering higher salaries. For example, since June 2021 MDEQ has lost 30 employees for annual salary increases ranging from \$5,000 to \$75,000. MDEQ is aggressively recruiting statewide holding on-campus interviews and attending career fairs, but it is growing more difficult to hire people who are willing to make the commitment to state service, especially in high demand fields such as engineering, science, and information technology.

New Employees: MDEQ has, for some time now, served as a training ground for college graduates who leave for better opportunities in the private sector, many times within the first two years of employment. This "revolving door" has cost the agency monetarily and jeopardizes the continuity of valuable expertise. Additionally, management has become increasingly challenged by a developing pattern of expending significant agency resources to train new staff only to have them leave just as a high degree of productivity is achieved. More importantly, staffing turnover adversely affects the regulated community. Industry leaders remind us regularly that they need MDEQ to have trained staff who can address the highly technical issues they face regarding ever-changing federal regulations.

Retirement-eligible Employees: Retirements in recent years have spiked due to more staff retiring as soon as they become eligible. Relative to past trends, fewer senior staff are remaining employed at the agency beyond 25 years, with many seeking a "second career" in the private sector. Accordingly, retaining institutional knowledge is a struggle. Over the last several years, the agency sustained major losses in upper and mid-level management personnel due to retirements.

MDEQ currently has a total of 348 employees. Between 2016 and 2021, MDEQ has lost 161 employees to resignations and 100 employees to retirement (261 total employees). This equates to 46% of MDEQ's 348 employee workforce. In addition, over 18% of our current workforce is retirement eligible, and 36.5 % of our current workforce can retire within the next five years. These trends are not sustainable for training and retaining highly technical staff.

ii. Loss of Institutional Knowledge

Historically, MDEQ has seen turnover from both ends of the workforce: retirees and entry-level employees. Over the last several years, MDEQ experienced heavy losses in both upper and mid-level management to retirements and resignations. The significant loss of institutional knowledge held by individuals in their respective areas, combined with the trickledown effect of replacing them and our difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified staff, are taking a toll on our ability to meet the performance goals as well as our obligations to EPA. We continue to lose programmatic knowledge faster than we can replace it, compromising our ability to meet our performance goals.

iii. Managing Limited Resources to Meet Expectations

Over the past several years, there has been an unprecedented convergence of new environmental regulations, emerging science and growing public awareness and participation. MDEQ is committed to public transparency and open communication, and staff is required to be responsive to public questions and input. For example, the permitting process includes a period of time for public comments, and public meetings are often held. With the growing access to information, people, both individually and in organized groups, are more involved than ever. As a public agency, MDEQ expects and welcomes public participation. However, managing the agency's limited resources to meet the public's expectations for more, detailed information is a growing challenge. In addition, staff is spending more time preparing for the possibility of challenges and correcting misinformation that is spread through rumors and the internet.

B. External Factors

i. Regulatory Workload

When new federal regulations are proposed or existing federal regulations change, the demands on MDEQ staff increase significantly. When the EPA proposes a new rule, or changes an existing rule, MDEQ staff must carefully research and determine the potential impact on Mississippi, engage with the people and industries that might be impacted, provide education and compliance assistance to affected industries, and be prepared to revise or completely rewrite portions of the Mississippi regulations. MDEQ staff must be experts in environmental science and engineering and also be highly competent communicators to adequately safeguard Mississippi's interests.

MDEQ has to administer ever-expanding and changing regulatory programs including tightening of National Air Ambient Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act; the re-defining of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act; the Stream Protection Rule under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Program; and new electronic documentation and data management requirements. Managing such mandates

at the state level requires a great deal of work by MDEQ staff and, the cost of maintaining competent staff continues to increase. While the agency actively prepares for potential impacts of new or changing federal regulations, their scope and timing is uncertain. MDEQ is committed to being a leader in new technologies, technical assistance, outreach, transparency, sound engineering, and applied science, but federal regulations and environmental issues are continually evolving. MDEQ needs the resources to be prepared to address these complex issues.

i. Manmade and Natural Disasters

MDEQ has specific Emergency Support Functions in the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, including being the Primary Agency for Oil and Hazardous Materials. MDEQ also plays a major role as a Support Agency for nine other functions in the Plan such as Public Works and Engineering, which include Dam Safety, Debris Management, and Wastewater. While statewide media attention is directed at the agency when there is a large event like a hurricane or the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, MDEQ's role in manmade and natural disasters is an ongoing job. MDEQ maintains 24-hour on-call response capabilities throughout the state for a variety of events that include: highway responses, maritime responses, train derailments, industrial releases, fish kills, and dam failures. MDEQ's role in the response to disasters and in the recovery afterwards continues to grow. It is difficult to predict how and when these events will occur and what MDEQ resources and expertise will be needed. During large-scale events, response capacity of the Emergency Response staff may be exceeded and staff from a variety of departmental roles may be called away from their primary responsibilities to assist. This, in turn, affects the Agency's ability to timely and efficiently deal with day-to-day operations.

In addition, MDEQ staff members respond when unprecedented severe weather events create widespread flooding and tornados. These events further demonstrate the importance of the dam safety and debris disposal programs. Severe weather events create an increased waste-disposal need throughout the state, which leads to landfills being filled with debris that was not anticipated. Meanwhile, the state's inventory of High Hazard dams has increased because of the growth in downstream development throughout the state. The failure of these dams would threaten lives and property. Finally, as local economies are more and more connected to communities throughout the world, Mississippi must be prepared to respond to pandemics while being able to continue core government functions.

The agency is uniquely qualified to provide the technical expertise needed to protect health and welfare and the environment in the time of manmade and natural disasters but must also be able to provide necessary staffing in such situations. Predicting the unprecedented is nearly impossible, but MDEQ is committed to living up to its reputation of responding to disasters of all different kinds without sacrificing its core responsibilities.

C. Internal Management Systems

MDEQ utilizes staff and technology to ensure that the operation of its environmental programs and its internal operations are effective, efficient, and ethical.

MDEQ uses information and project management systems whereby assigned work can be readily and continuously tracked. These systems provide accountability through management tools designed to assist managing workloads. Managers can evaluate a group's or an individual's cycle times, productivity,

commitments, schedules, and other pertinent information. Numerous Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and checklists have been developed to ensure that state and federal requirements are met and best practices are used in an efficient and effective manner. Files are maintained to ensure accountability and transparency, and data is backed up to an offsite location in the event recovery is needed. For federally-delegated programs, MDEQ participates with EPA in various federal oversight evaluation programs, including program performance audits, such as the State Review Framework, which evaluate program effectiveness and consistency.

MDEQ programs undergo periodic reviews of financial records and for program compliance. These reviews/audits can be conducted by federal entities, the Office of the State Auditor, or independent audit firms.

MDEQ's Office of Administrative Services oversees the department's finances, financial reporting, risk management, and internal auditing, subject to strict accounting principles, as well as specific contracting and procurement rules and procedures.

D. Potential Solutions

As many of the obstacles that MDEQ faces in meeting its capabilities relates to budgetary constraints, the Agency can only operate with what funds have been appropriated. As meeting capabilities becomes too difficult to achieve with state personnel, hiring contract labor is one potential solution. Additionally, MDEQ may be able to lean on Federal partners (EPA and USCG) to assist in meeting those capabilities.

The Mississippi Library Commission responds on obstacles/challenges related to the capability to perform these duties would be:

- Lack of funding for any emergency supplies
- Potentially lack of staff to fulfill large needs
- Potentially lack of power, internet, water if emergency was at MLC

Potential to overcome challenges:

- Adequate emergency funding
- Emergency procurement guidance/exception
- Volunteers

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks provided the below challenges in meeting their capabilities:

- State Government competing with the private sector in recruiting and retaining employees. This is especially difficult in areas where the skillset requires specific education in the areas of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- Unprecedented challenges in recruiting, hiring and retaining Law Enforcement Officers.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History responds to challenges stating that things that could cause delay or inability of MDAH to perform these functions may include, but not limited to, funding, staffing, disasters which prevent completion of the assignment, supplies, laws or regulations which prevent, delay or prohibit the execution of the assistance efforts.

The Mississippi Department of Health capability obstacles/challenges and solutions are provided below:

- Staffing
- Communication
- Aging Infrastructure
- Funding

Proposed Solutions:

- Increased collaboration/coordination among internal stakeholders (Departments within the Office Health Protection).
- Increased utilization of available notification systems (Juvare).
- Seek legislative support for possible fee increases, seek additional grant opportunities for funding opportunities.

4.3: Local Capabilities Assessment

44 CRF 201.4(c)(3)(ii) – The State mitigation strategy shall include the following elements:

A mitigation strategy that provides the State's blueprint for reducing the losses identified in the risk assessment. This section shall include:

A general description and analysis of the effectiveness of local mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities.

The local capability assessment provides a general description of local mitigation capabilities in Mississippi, including examples of successful policies and programs, and an analysis of the effectiveness of these capabilities based on local evaluations. Local capabilities are the existing programs and policies through which local governments implement mitigation actions to reduce potential disaster losses. The assessment concludes with a discussion of challenges and opportunities to implementing and strengthening local capabilities.

Methodology

The State analyzed the local capabilities identified in FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plans in Mississippi to provide an updated general description of local mitigation capabilities and to assess the challenges and opportunities to improving local capabilities. Additional information on the effectiveness of local mitigation capabilities and opportunities and challenges for building local capabilities was gathered through a survey distributed State Hazard Mitigation Council and partners, all county emergency managers, tribal agencies, and stakeholders responsible for economic development, land use and development, housing, health and social services, infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, agencies providing fundamental services in the community, colleges and universities, private entities, private nonprofits, port authorities and utility businesses.

Local Policies, Programs, and Capabilities

Planning, building, zoning, floodplain management, and fire codes are functions of local government. State law authorizes local governments to undertake these activities, but does not require them to do so. Regulations and their enforcement will vary between communities throughout the state. The effectiveness of local mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities is directly related to the level of adoption and degree of enforcement. The State has encouraged communities to adopt codes and ordinances and has provided Model A and Model B-E ordinances for this purpose. Through mitigation planning, local governments can identify the strengths and weaknesses in their mitigation capabilities and implement strategies to improve these. A general description of the types of local mitigation capabilities in Mississippi follows.

Land Use Planning

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 17-1-11 et. Seq.

Title 17, Chapter 1 permits municipal and county governments to adopt zoning regulations for the purpose of ensuring the most appropriate use of community lands and to provide for the preparation, adoption, amendment, extension, and carrying out of a comprehensive plan for the purpose of bringing about coordinated physical development in accordance with present and future needs. Chapter 1 also authorizes

the establishment of local planning commissions to advise municipal and county governments in matters pertaining to physical planning, subdivision of land, zoning ordinances, building set back lines, and enforcement of regulations. Title 17 further authorizes any two or more counties or municipalities to establish regional planning commissions composed of representatives from the participating counties and municipalities. Regional planning commissions are established to advise local governments on problems related to acquisition, planning, construction, development, financing, control, use, improvement, and disposition of buildings and other structures, facilities, goods, and services.

No local land use plans are mandated by state law. State law does specify that the city or county legislative body must legally adopt a comprehensive plan to put it into effect. The state also requires that the zoning be based upon and consistent with the legally adopted plan. If a local government chooses to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan, the law does specify a list of elements that must be included, but no natural hazards element is required.

Building, Fire, and Other Codes

Authority: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated. 19-5-9.

Title 19, Chapter 5 authorizes certain counties to adopt, as minimum standards, building codes published by a nationally recognized code group.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 21-19-25.

Under Title 21, Governing authorities of any municipality are authorized to adopt building, plumbing, electrical, gas, sanitary, and other codes to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 21-19-21.

Title 21, Chapter 19 authorizes municipal authorities to pass fire safety regulations relating to structures and buildings used as residences or businesses. Chapter 19 further permits local authorities to inspect all buildings and land and take down, remove, or rehabilitate, at the owner's expense, properties found to be unsafe with respect to fire hazard.

Mississippi does not adopt or enforce a statewide building code for all structures, nor does it mandate a code for residential construction. It is up to local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce building codes.

House Bill 1406, passed in 2006, creates the Mississippi Building Code Council. It also requires five coastal counties, Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Stone, and Pearl River, and the municipalities located there, to enforce all the wind and flood mitigation requirements prescribed by the 2003 International Residential Code and the 2003 International Building Code. The Mississippi Building Codes Council adopted the 2003 International Building Code and 2003 International Residential Code for the state, but does not require local jurisdictions to adopt building codes, but requires that they use the International Codes if they do adopt codes.

Local Emergency Management

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 33-15-17

Local governments are authorized to establish organizations for emergency management with a director having responsibility for the organization's administration and operation. Local emergency management organizations may be composed of a single county or municipality or two or more counties or municipalities. Local emergency management organizations are further authorized to enter into mutual aid agreements with other public and private agencies in the state.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 2 1-19-23.

The Statewide Mutual Aid Compact, or SMAC, began in 1995 by MEMA to provide a more effective use of resources in times of disaster. It provides a way for cities and counties to request and receive help from each other when local resources are exhausted. SMAC provides a mechanism for assistance to come from different parts of the state. It addresses the issues of liability, compensation, direction and control in a uniform manner. SMAC allows members of the compact to have a mutual aid agreement with both the state and other compact members.

All 82 counties and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) in Mississippi now have a full or part-time emergency management program as well as a designated emergency management or civil defense director. In accordance with **Title 33, Chapter 15 Mississippi Code of 72, Annotated**, each county will develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with Mississippi's CEMP. All 82 counties' Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) are on file with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Water Management and Flood Control Districts

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 51-29-1 et. Seq.; 51-31-1 Et seq.

Counties may form drainage districts for the purpose of developing, maintaining, and improving drainage systems to prevent flood-related damage.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 51-35-1

Title 51, Chapter 35 authorizes and empowers commissioners of any drainage districts organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi to give satisfactory assurances to the United States or any agency thereof that any and all flood control works, constructed either within or without the district by the United States or any agency thereof, shall be maintained.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 51-35-303.

Title 51, Chapter 35 authorizes creation of flood and drainage control districts to control the waters of the rivers of the State of Mississippi or their tributaries and their overflow waters for lands and properties along the waterways and rivers of the State.

Authority: Miss Code 1972, Annotated. 51-8-1 Et seq.

Chapter 8 authorizes the formation of master water management districts composed of two or more existing drainage or water management districts, parts of existing districts, or territory not included in any district. Formation of a master water management district is contingent on the approval of a certain percentage of landowners within the proposed district. Master water management districts may cooperate with federal agencies in projects designed to prevent flood damage, improve drainage, and foster conservation of water resources.

Flood Insurance

Authority: Miss. Code 1972, Annotated 29-13-1.

Title 29, Chapter 13 authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to purchase and maintain business property insurance and business personal property insurance and all state-owned buildings and/or contents as required by federal law and regulations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as is necessary for receiving public assistance or reimbursement for repair, reconstruction, replacement or other damage to those buildings and/or contents caused by Hurricane Katrina Disaster of 2005 or subsequent disasters.

The Department of Finance and Administration is required to purchase and maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program as required by federal law on state-owned buildings and/or contents. To meet the requirements of participation in such program, the department is further required to adopt floodplain management criteria and procedures in accordance with rules and regulations of 24 CFR, Chapter X, Subchapter B (National Flood Insurance Program), established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-448) as amended and by the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) as amended, and any supplemental changes to such rules and regulations.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has identified flood hazards in Mississippi communities. Presently, 81 counties, one water supply district (Pearl River Valley), and 253 municipalities participate in the NFIP, for a total of 335 communities.

Tables of Community Mitigation Capability Assessment

Table 4.3.1 and Table 4.3.2 in the previously approved 2018 Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Plan displayed local capabilities related to existing planning and policy mechanisms. The tables provided statuses for each county and city on the following capabilities:

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participation
- Number of Flood Insurance Policies within NFIP participating jurisdictions
- Community Rating System (CRS) participation
- Comprehensive/master/general plan
- Hazard mitigation plan
- Residential building code
- Commercial building official
- Building Code Effectiveness Grading System (BCEGS) rating for residential buildings
- Building Code Effectiveness Grading System (BCEGS) rating for commercial buildings
- Zoning code
- Subdivision regulations
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Continuity of Operation Plan
- Open Space Management Plan

- Stormwater Management Plan
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Fire code rating

During the 2023 update process, information was collected from the FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plans and was used to update the table and provide additional information on capabilities. These fields were updated, and additional information was collected on CRS participation and rating and building code type. Some local plans did not provide information on each of these capabilities. Table 4.3.1 displays the number of counties and cities that reported whether they had each capability or not, and of those counties and cities, the percent with each capability.

**Table 4.3.1
Mitigation Capabilities of Counties and Cities
Identified in Local Plans**

Capability	Counties		Cities	
	Number Reporting	Percent with Capability	Number Reporting	Percent With Capability
Comprehensive Plan	82	100%	246	82%
Building Code	16	20%	141	47%
Building Official	19	23%	91	30%
Zoning Ordinance	19	23%	106	35%
Subdivision Ordinance	23	28%	128	43%
Floodplain Ordinance*	81	99%	250	83%
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	4	5%	8	3%
Continuity of Operation Plan	40	49%	41	14%
Open Space Management Plan	11	13%	24	8%
Stormwater Management Plan	11	13%	56	19%
Disaster Recovery Plan	5	6%	1	.03%
Fire Code	1	1%	48	16%

*Adoption of floodplain ordinance is assured based on participation in the NFIP, as calculated from the NFIP Community Status Book Report, November 15, 2022.

As shown in Table 4.3.1, an overall percentage of cities vs counties capabilities are about equal. Comprehensive emergency management plans and floodplain ordinances are the capability, of those tracked, that the highest percentage of counties (99.5 percent) and cities (82.5 percent) have in place. In approved local plans that identified whether building codes had been adopted or not, 20 percent of counties and 47 percent of cities had adopted building codes.

All 82 counties have adopted comprehensive emergency management plans, and all counties have FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans at the time of this assessment. By reviewing and incorporating these local hazard mitigation plans with the state plan, a more comprehensive approach to reducing future losses from natural hazards is implemented. All levels of government can effectively prepare for, respond and recover from emergency and disasters.

Table 4.3.2 shows the changes in local participation in the NFIP, CRS, and BCEGS from 2018 to 2022. The NFIP Participation total for communities increased by 4 communities. BCEGS Rating increased from 45 cities and counties to 47 cities and counties.

**Table: 4.3.2
Change in Select Capabilities since the 2018 Plan**

Capability	2018	2022
NFIP Participation Total	330	334
NFIP Participation Suspended	0	0
NFIP Not in Program with Hazard Area Identified	35	33
CRS Participation	32,0 retrograde	32,3 retrograde
BCEGS Rating	45 cities and counties	47 cities and counties

NFIP Community Status Book Report as of November 15, 2022; CRS report current as of April 1, 2022.

Effectiveness of Local Mitigation Capabilities

At the MEMA District Meetings with local emergency management directors and meetings with the local, the Mitigation Planning Staff distributed a paper state plan survey. The survey was also emailed or mailed to Building Association members, Floodplain Managers, State of Mississippi Mitigation Council, local colleges, tribal agencies, businesses, private nonprofits, hospitals, churches, local officials, stakeholders, partners, and citizens. The survey was also placed on state agencies websites. The survey was designed to gather information about options on the effectiveness of local mitigation capabilities. Fifty-five completed surveys were evaluated. It is important to note that this data is limited by the small sample size.

The survey asked respondents to give their opinion on the level of effectiveness of different types of local capabilities (e.g., tools, policies, programs) for implementing mitigation actions in their community or region. Respondents ranked local capabilities on a scale from one to four, with one being the least effective and four being the most effective. The capability among those listed, which was ranked as the most effective by the highest number of respondents (46 percent) was emergency operations plan. This was followed by public information/education and building code (31 percent), comprehensive plan (30 percent), local/regional emergency planning committee (28 percent), floodplain ordinance NFIP (26 percent). The capability in which the most respondents (9 percent) ranked as least effective for mitigation was subdivision ordinance. Figure 4.3.1 shows the average ranking of each capability.

**Figure 4.3.1:
Average Ranking of Effectiveness of Local Capabilities**

Capabilities	Effectiveness on a Scale from One to Four
Emergency Operation Plan	46%
Public Information/Education Programs	31%
Building Code	31%
Comprehensive Plan	30%
Local/Regional Emergency Planning Committee	28%
Floodplain Ordinance/NFIP	26%
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program	22%
Capital Improvement Plan	15%
Zoning	13%
Stormwater Management Plan/Ordinance	13%
Subdivision Ordinance	9%

Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Local Capabilities

Survey respondents were asked five open-ended questions about 1) the manmade hazards that concern you, 2) the challenges or weaknesses in hazards mitigation capabilities in their region, 3) the opportunities for improvement in local capabilities, 4) the increase or decrease in natural hazard frequency, duration, and intensity, and 5) the steps local government can take to reduce or eliminate the risks of future hazard damages. The most common response to the question about manmade hazards of concern was terrorism (CBRNE, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives). It was followed by active shooter, then hazardous waste spills. The most common response to the question about challenges or weaknesses was lack of funding. Some responses were general and others were specific to storm shelters, individual saferooms, notification, training, and equipment. It was followed by communication and lack of staffing. The most common response to the question about improvement opportunities for local capabilities was funding. It was followed by education and communication.

Collaboration with all agencies, resource and information sharing, ability to hire emergency response personnel, improvement in infrastructure, improvement in new construction, identification of risks, state and federal support for water system, and leadership understanding what hazard mitigation mean and being familiar with their plan were also listed as improvement opportunities by respondents.

The most common response to the question in the last 10 years, have you noticed an increase or decrease in the frequency, duration, and intensity of any of the following hazards was tornado. It was followed by flooding and severe storms. The most common response to the question what steps you think local government can take to reduce or eliminate the risks of future hazard damages in your neighborhood or business was obtain funding for safe houses and shelters. It was followed by institute multiple ways to contact public during severe weather event.

Based upon the survey data and the analysis of local programs, policies, and capabilities from local plans and state resources, the following challenges and opportunities for strengthening local capabilities were identified:

Intergovernmental Assistance and Coordination

Support from the state and the federal government is critical to improving local mitigation capabilities. Training and workshops may be the most important types of assistance the state and federal government can provide, particularly related to planning and program grant applications and in developing effective mitigation projects.

Coordination with other Planning Efforts

Some local plans describe other planning projects that implement mitigation measures. These include watershed plans and coastal impact assistance plans. Coordination with these other planning efforts can improve local governments' capabilities through accomplishing multiple objectives and leveraging additional funding sources.

Adoption and Enforcement of Codes and Ordinances

Codes and ordinances may be the greatest opportunity and challenge for local governments. One of the last 3 editions of International Building Code and International Residential Code mandated statewide for jurisdictions and any other codes by the Mississippi Building Code Council. However, there was an opt-out clause for municipalities for 120 days after the law became effective on August 1, 2014. As of April 2015, over 2/3 of cities and over 1/2 of counties had chosen to adopt these requirements.

Many hazard mitigation plans emphasize the importance of land use planning and regulations for mitigation. Many also comment on the unlikelihood of getting them adopted due to the rural nature of their area and the perceived stigma attached to zoning by many rural residents. Several plans describe the difficulty in inspecting buildings and enforcing codes due to lack of staffing and funding capabilities.

An example of an implementation program that has been successful is in Pearl River County, Mississippi. After Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi Legislature mandated the adoption of the International Building Code and International Residential Code in five coastal counties including Pearl River County. The cities of Picayune and Poplarville have also adopted building codes. They are working toward consolidating building permits and inspections as a mitigation tool to ensure uniform enforcement of standards for construction in flood hazard zones, wind construction standards, and building codes. The three jurisdictions and the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation contributed funding for a comprehensive and coordinated step-by-step guide to implement the International Building Codes countywide to protect lives and minimize damage to property.

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plans

The State has nine regional hazard mitigation plans to cover the majority of jurisdictions in the State. This has proven to be more efficient with the available funding. This has proven to be more cost effective and efficient. Regional planning efforts offer an opportunity to coordinate land use issues to prevent one jurisdiction from adversely affecting the other and to integrate the mitigation plan with other regional plans.

Contractors go through the state bidding process. The lowest bid is selected, provided that there are no issues. There is a total of nine regional hazard mitigation plans in the state. There are jurisdictions that chose to opt out of the regional hazard mitigation plans, but they are covered under county, multi-jurisdiction or single jurisdiction hazard mitigation plans. Planning and technical resources are available to the local governments

Floodplain Management

The state and many local governments recognize floodplain management and the NFIP as highly effective location mitigation capabilities and as primary opportunities to strengthen local capabilities. The State can do this through continuing to enhance its program that provides information and support for new communities to participate in the NFIP and CRS and for existing participants to promote and enforce their floodplain management programs.

Mitigation Grants

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's Office of Mitigation is responsible for coordinating disaster loss reduction programs, initiatives and policies throughout the state. Disaster loss reduction measures are carried out through the development of state and local hazard mitigation plans and the implementation of those plans.

The Office of Mitigation administers hazard mitigation grant programs to state and local governments, qualifying nonprofits and tribal organizations. Grant programs include the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and the Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program, which funds the mitigation of high loss insured properties through the National Flood Insurance Program. The following listed projects are eligible for mitigation funding: 1) hazard mitigation, 2) retrofit of critical facilities, 3) acquisition, elevation, relocation or drainage improvements of repetitive flood loss structures, 4) minor localized flood reduction projects, 5) construction or upgrade of general population shelters, 6) enhancement of development codes and standards, 7) saferooms and storm shelters, 8) generators for critical facilities, and 9) warning systems. The State notifies potential applicants via applicant briefings. The applicants submit a notice of intent to the Mitigation Grants Bureau and the applicant is notified of approval or denial of the notice of intent.

Local Funding

Funding for mitigation planning and projects remains one of the greatest challenges for improving local capabilities. Local plans indicate that most local governments use federal funds for mitigation and have met match requirements through in-kind services or their general operating fund. A dedicated tax revenue source for mitigation is difficult to implement as tax increases are unpopular with the public. A tax designated to targeted, tangible benefits, such as funding an emergency manager position and/or an advance warning system, may be more acceptable to the public. The state can improve local success with federal funding programs by efficiently managing the programs and providing assistance to local governments with applications, ideas for meeting match requirements, and continued eligibility.

One approach that communities are using to overcome the funding obstacle is improving integration with other local plans and programs, such as capital improvement plans and storm water management programs, to help achieve mitigation through other community objectives. Improved public education and awareness of hazard vulnerabilities and mitigation options also may help to garner more funding for mitigation through tax dollars and private sources. The best time to implement this approach is often in the window of opportunity after a disaster.

Impact of Hurricane Katrina

Many local plans were written prior to Hurricane Katrina. Several updates have occurred, including most jurisdiction being covered under regional hazard mitigation plans. Since Hurricane Katrina, the following changes have been made:

- Intergovernmental agency communication has improved.
- Additional emergency generators to operate critical facilities during and after a disaster.
- Increased emergency sheltering capabilities.
- Redundancy on local communications.
- Hardening of emergency shelters.
- Widening of road systems and development of unincorporated areas to smart codes.
- Hardening infrastructure, sewer systems, etc.
- Adoption of higher standards for reconstruction to create more disaster-resistant structures.

4.4: Mitigation Measures

44 CFR 201.4(c)(3)(iii) – State plans shall include an identification, evaluation, and prioritization of cost-effective, environmentally sound, and technically feasible mitigation actions and activities the State is considering and an explanation of how each activity contributes to the overall mitigation strategy. This section should be linked to local plans, where specific local actions and projects are identified.

The State of Mississippi through the Mississippi Standard Mitigation Plan has identified and prioritized mitigation measures. These measures are grouped by the following types:

- Dam and Levee Failure
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Tropical Cyclone (Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone)
- Multi-Hazard
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Extreme Winter Storm
- Drought
- Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
- Cyberterrorism
- Infectious Disease/Pandemic

These measures are classified in the following strategies:

- Prevention
- Property Protection
- Public Education and Awareness
- Technical Assistance
- Natural Resource Protection
- Emergency Services
- Structural Projects

After each profile was identified, prioritized and classified, it was evaluated against the goals and objectives adopted by the Hazard Mitigation Council as described in Section 4.1. In order to warrant a mitigation action profile, the project had to address one or more of the goals and tie specifically to an objective within the goal. The Hazard Mitigation Council determined that the goals from the 2018 plan remained valid and were consistent with the hazards and vulnerabilities identified in the 2023 plan update. Listed below is a recap of the goals reassessed and adopted by the Hazard Mitigation Council for the 2023 update.

- **Goal 1** – Minimize loss of life, injury, and damage to property, the economy, and the environment from natural hazards
- **Goal 2** – Build and enhance local mitigation capabilities
- **Goal 3** – Improve public education and awareness
- **Goal 4** – Sustain and enhance a coordinate state mitigation program

Table (4.4.2) gives updated information about these measures with each measure uniquely identified by the following parameters:

Project Number – Each measure is numbered within each type.

Type – Each measure is listed by type of hazard with general measures or those addressing more than one hazard listed by type “multi-hazard”.

Project Name – Each measure has been given a name that briefly describes the measure.

Agency – A State agency with primary responsibility has been identified even though more than one Federal, State or Local agency may be involved. Each agency identified is a member of the Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council.

Funding Strategy – A primary funding source has been identified. Additional funding sources may be utilized to supplement the primary funds. Section 4.5 provides information regarding the funding sources including type of assistance and agency/contact in Table 4.5.1. The table has been updated from the 2018 plan to include programs not identified or available in the 2018 plan. These programs include the reference “2023 Plan Update” in the Program/Activity column.

Completion – The year of completion has been identified. Some measures are completed on an annual basis, meaning continuous or occurring every year. Table 4.4.1 identifies the mitigation strategies and the status of each project from the 2018 plan, and Table 4.4.2 identifies the updated 2023 mitigation strategies.

Priority – Each measure has been ranked as high, medium or low priority. The basis of the rankings is identified below:

- **High** – Activities for which funding sources are readily available or are vital to the state’s reconstruction or recovery efforts.
- **Medium** – Assigned to activities that are identified as long-range in nature or for which funding is not presently available but may be in the relatively near future.
- **Low** – Assigned to activities for which there is no clear method of funding, or may not ever be funded, and are not critical to the state’s reconstruction and recovery efforts.

Status – Projects noted in Table 4.4.1 with an ongoing status mean that the action is being completed, but the project has not ended. The project continues each year as funding is available.

Table 4.4.2 is not intended to capture all the pertinent data regarding the mitigation action. Project profile/progress reports are provided in Appendix 7.3.1, which gives additional data including goals and objectives referenced in Section 4.1. These project profile/progress reports serve as an interactive information

sheet to communicate the latest information regarding the mitigation action. The project managers update project profile/progress reports showing the current status and progress made in the implementation of a mitigation project. Appendix 7.3.1 and Section 5.3 Funding Priority and Prioritizing Alternatives also describe prioritization process for mitigation actions.

During the 2023 update of the state hazard mitigation plan, the hazard mitigation council reviewed the actions in the previous plan to provide status updates and to identify actions completed or not completed. Table 4.4.1 provides a summary of the results. Six projects were completed; no projects were deleted. Table 4.4.2 provides the updated actions for the 2023 plan. Eight mitigation projects were added and are noted in Table 4.4.2 as “New Action for 2023”. There were no changes in priorities.

The mitigation tables and project profiles will be used interchangeably to assist with implementation of the projects. The sorted tables include a summary of each mitigation action. Details are given in the project profiles which include the goals and objectives of each mitigation profile. MEMA maintains a Mitigation Action Notebook that includes updated information as it is available. This information is being incorporated into each of the 67 project profiles, which are updated with information from MEMA and other lead agencies.

Local Mitigation Actions

The state has developed a database of all FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans. Because of the large size of the database, it is not incorporated as part of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, but is available at Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

The database allows the state to link state actions to local actions and to help identify new state actions. For instance, the state has an action to promote the National Weather Service’s StormReady certification program for local communities. The database can be used to quickly identify which local governments have identified mitigation actions related to the StormReady program.

The state also plans to use this database as part of a more comprehensive system of prioritizing local projects for funding, tracking those projects that have been funded, and monitoring the effectiveness of implemented local projects. As local hazard mitigation plans are approved, the identified mitigation actions will be added to the database, so that it remains current. The hazard mitigation plans in this database contain actions that have been identified and prioritized by local governments based upon their unique processes for determining actions that are technically feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound. Prior to any funding from state or federal sources, more detailed benefit-cost analysis of actions will occur during the project development and grant application phases.

For the 2023 plan update, each local hazard mitigation plan was reviewed. The State of Mississippi Hazard Mitigation Council used the STAPLE/E (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental) criteria to analyze the cost-effectiveness of each State project. Mitigation actions were screened for implementation with consideration that they must comply with federal and state requirements. Each project was reviewed to determine if it was cost-effective environmentally sound, and technically feasible. The updated projects resulted from a number of council meetings. Some projects have been more effective than others. Based upon progress of mitigation actions and capabilities, updated risk assessment, and review of mitigation priorities, effective mitigation actions have been identified and prioritized. The high hazard potential dam mitigation actions were prioritized based on assessments and studies to determine which proposed projects will reduce the most risk to lives and property downstream. Further information on prioritization is forthcoming, pending FEMA rollout. For the 2023 update, eight new mitigation actions were added.

**Table 4.4.1:
Status of Mississippi Mitigation Actions from 2018 Plan**

Project No.	Type	Strategy	Project Name	Agency	Project Cost (\$)	Funding Strategy	Completion	Priority	Status
1	Dam Safety	Prevention	Permitting New Dams and Regulatory Compliance	MDEQ	\$332,500	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing status
2	Dam Safety	Outreach and Education	Public Education and Outreach	MEDQ	\$17,500	Budget	2021	H	Ongoing status
3	Dam Safety	Prevention	Inundation Maps/EAPs for High Hazard Watershed Dams	MDEQ	\$80,000	Budget	2022	H	Ongoing status
5	Dam Safety	Structural	Repair and Rehab Dams	MDEQ	\$1,000,000	Private	Annual	H	Ongoing status
7	Dam Safety	Prevention	Enforce Implementation of 2006 Dam Safety Legislation	MDEQ	\$250,000	Budget	2022	H	Ongoing status
9	Dam Safety	Technical Assistance	Information Management for Inundation Area Vulnerabilities	MDEQ	\$100,000	HMGP	Annual	H	Complete
10	Dam Safety	Prevention	Probable Maximum Precipitation Update Study	MDEQ	\$500,000	HMGP	2023	H	Ongoing status
1	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Review and Update HAZUS-MH Data Base	MEMA	\$70,000	HMGP	2021	H	Ongoing funding shortfall
2	Earthquake	Prevention	HAZUS-MH Project Implementation for Local Initiatives	MEMA	\$10,000,000	HMGP	2023	H	Ongoing status
3	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Compile New Soil Evaluations	MDEQ	\$40,000	Budget	2022	M	Ongoing status
5	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	HAZUS-MH Update with Pipeline Locations	MEMA	\$10,000	Budget	2021	M	Ongoing delayed funding shortfall
6	Earthquake	Outreach and Education	Partnership Programs for Collaborating Programs with other States	MEMA	\$10,000	Budget	2022	H	Ongoing status
10	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Monitor State of Comprehensive Infrastructure Retrofit	MDOT	\$1,000,000	Budget	2022	H	Complete
11	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Information Management System for Critical Infrastructure	MDEQ	\$50,000	HMGP	2022	H	Ongoing status
1	Flood	Outreach and Education	Map Modernization: New Firm Adoption by Communities	MEMA	\$20,000	CAP	Annual	H	Ongoing status
4	Flood	Technical Assistance	Community Rating System: Program Implementation	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	M	Ongoing status
5	Flood	Property Protection	Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss Structures: Target Group Mitigation	MEMA	\$10,000,000	FMA	2023	M	Ongoing status

6	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation: Model Ordinance Adoption	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	M	Ongoing status
7	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation: Floodplain Management Workshops	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	M	Ongoing status
8	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation Certified Floodplain Manager Accreditation	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	H	Ongoing status
9	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation: State Floodplain Management Association	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	M	Ongoing status
11	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation: Community Assistance Contact and Visit	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	H	Ongoing status
12	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation Education and Outreach	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2023	H	Ongoing status
13	Flood	Technical Assistance	Assessing Vulnerability by Jurisdiction	MEMA	\$100,000	FMA	2023	H	Ongoing status
15	Flood	Technical Assistance	Information Management System for Critical Infrastructure	MEMA	\$100,000	FMA	2023	H	delayed lack of staff/funding
16	Flood	Structural	Community Assistance for Flood Warning Systems	MEMA	\$1,000,000	FMA	2023	H	Ongoing pending funding
21	Flood	Property Protection	Continue to Support floodproofing and hardening of water/wastewater systems	MDEQ	\$100,000,000	CDBB	2023	H	Ongoing status
23	Flood	Technical Assistance	Support updating of storm water ordinances to address future development	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP-SSSE	2022	H	Ongoing status
24	Flood	Technical Assistance	Support Local Capital Improvement Infrastructure Planning	MDEQ	\$7,000	CAP-SSSE	2022	H	Ongoing status
26	Flood	Technical Assistance	GI Inventory of Hazardous Waste/Materials Storage Facilities	MDEQ	\$150,000	HMGP	2023	H	Ongoing status
28	Flood	Technical Assistance	Provide HAZUS flood runs to each county	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2023	H	Complete
30	Flood	Technical Assistance	Develop a comprehensive GIS based inventory of levees	MDEQ	\$50,000	PDM	2020	H	Ongoing status
31	Flood	Property Protection	Implement Flood Mitigation projects	MEMA	\$10,000,000	USACE, BRIC, FMA	2023	H	Ongoing status
2	Hurricane	Outreach and Education	Public Information Forums and Fairs Statewide	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing status
4	Hurricane	Technical Assistance	Local Review of Building Codes and Flood Protection Ordinances	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2023	H	Ongoing status
5	Hurricane	Technical Assistance	State Modernization Team Review of Coastal Flooding	MEMA	\$50,000	CAP	2020	H	Ongoing status

6	Hurricane	Structural	USACOE Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program	MDMR	\$160,000,000	USACE	2023	H	Ongoing status, delayed
7	Hurricane	Structural	USACOE Mississippi Coastal Comprehensive Plan	MDMR	\$3,000,000	USACE	2023	H	Ongoing status, delayed
11	Hurricane	Structural	Implement Regional Utility Systems	MDEQ	\$200,000,000	CDBG	2023	H	Ongoing status
12	Hurricane	Structural	Support Mitigation with Natural Barriers	MDMR	\$100,000,000	USACE	2023	H	Ongoing status, funding shortfall
14	Hurricane	Structural	Construction of Gulf Coast Regional Office/First Responders' Building	MDOT	\$3,963,128	Budget	2023	H	Complete
2	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	HMA Grant Application Training	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2023	H	Ongoing status
4	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	"Storm Ready" Community Education	MEMA	\$27,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing status
6	All Hazard	Technical Assistance	Develop Local Hazard Mitigation Planning	MEMA	\$7,000	HMGP	Annual	H	Ongoing status
9	Multi-Hazard	Emergency Services	Provide Auxiliary Power Source for All Critical Facilities	MEMA	\$10,000,000	HMGP	2023	H	Ongoing status
11	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Coordinated Emergency Action Plans for Health Care Facilities	MSDH	\$400,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing status
13	Multi-Hazard	Resources Protection	Wet Debris Management for Access, Water Quality and Environmental	MDMR	\$10,000,000	USACE	2023	H	Ongoing delayed due to funding
15	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Complete/enhance inventory of state owned/operated facilities	MDFA	\$500,000	HMGP	2023	H	Complete
18	Multi-Hazard	Emergency Services	Increase Shelter Capacity in each County	MEMA	\$2,300,000	HMGP	Annual	H	Ongoing
20	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Prepare information Management System for Plan Updates for 2023	MEMA	\$20,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing
21	Multi-Hazard	Prevention/Property Protection	Track Project Implementation Progress for Mitigation Actions	MEMA	\$20,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing
22	Multi-Hazard	Resources Protection	Develop GIS Database for Archives and History on Cultural Resources	MDAH	\$100,000	HMGP	2020	H	Ongoing
25	Multi-Hazard	Structural	Encourage Use of Non-Hazardous Materials in Critical Facilities	MDEQ	\$7,000	Budget	Annual	H	Complete
26	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	Yearly Information Meetings for Medical Community	MSDH	\$50,000	Budget	2020	M	Ongoing
27	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Sheltering needs assessment	MDHS	\$50,000	HMGP	2023	H	Ongoing
29	Multi-Hazard	Prevention	Mitigation Grants to Eligible Applicants for	MEMA	\$196,836	HMGP	Annual	H	Ongoing

			Emergency Warning Systems						
30	Multi-Hazard	Structural	Individual Assistance for "Safe Room" Program	MEMA	\$500,000	HMGP	2023	H	Suspended at this time.
32	Multi-Hazard	Structural	FEMA 361 Safe Rooms and Continuity of Government Shelters	MEMA	\$20,000,000	HMGP	2020	H	Ongoing
1	Sea Level Rise	Outreach and Education	Education and Outreach for Coastal MS on impacts of Sea Level Rise	MEMA	\$5,000	Budget	2023	L	Ongoing
1	Tornado	Technical Assistance	Implement Wind Retrofit Projects	MEMA	\$29,888,707	Budget	2022	M	Ongoing
7	Tornado	Outreach and Education	Public Outreach and Education for Homebuilders and Developers	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2022	H	Ongoing
1	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	FireWise Program Workshops	MFC	\$100,000	USFC	Annual	H	Ongoing
2	Wildfire	Technical Assistance	Community Wildfire Protection Plans	MFC	\$100,000	USFC	Annual	H	Ongoing
3	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	Train Local VFD's in FireWise	MFC	\$500,000	USFC	Annual	H	Ongoing
4	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	Communication and Partnership Initiatives with VFD's	MFC	\$100,000	USFC	Annual	H	Ongoing
5	Wildfire	Technical Assistance	Information Management for Areas at Risk Based on County Wildfire Plans	MFC	\$350,000	USFC	Annual	H	Ongoing
2	Winter Storm	Outreach and Education	Public Education and Outreach	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	Annual	H	Ongoing

**Table 4.4.2:
Mississippi Mitigation Actions 2023 – 2028 Sorted by Type**

Project No.	Type	Strategy	Project Name	Agency	Project Cost (\$)	Funding Strategy	Completion	Priority
1	Dam Safety	Prevention	Permitting New Dams and Regulatory Compliance	MDEQ	\$332,500	Budget	Annual	H
2	Dam Safety	Outreach and Education	Public Education and Outreach	MDEQ	\$17,500	Budget	2028	H
3	Dam Safety	Prevention	Inundation Maps/EAPs for High Hazard Watershed Dams	MDEQ	\$80,000	Budget, HHPD	2028	H
5	Dam Safety	Structural	Repair and Rehab Dams	MDEQ	\$1,000,000	HHPD, Private	Annual	H
7	Dam Safety	Prevention	Enforce Implementation of 2006 Dam Safety Legislation	MDEQ	\$250,000	Budget	2028	H
10	Dam Safety	Prevention	Probable Maximum Precipitation Update Study	MDEQ	\$500,000	HMGP	2028	H

11	Dam Safety	Prevention	New Action for 2023 Increase Capacity of the State Dam Safety Program	MDEQ	200,000	HMGP, Budget, HHPD, USACE	Annual	H
12	Dam Safety	Prevention	New Action for 2023 Provide tools to assist Dam Safety Personnel help those that could be impacted by dam failure	MDEQ	100,000	HHPD, Budget	Annual	H
13	Dam Safety	Outreach and Education	New Action for 2023 Advise Communities living upstream and downstream of dams on Planning and Evacuation Procedures	MDEQ	100,000	Budget	Annual	H
1	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Review and Update HAZUS-MH Data Base	MEMA	\$70,000	HMGP	2028	H
2	Earthquake	Prevention	HAZUS-MH Project Implementation for Local Initiatives	MEMA	\$10,000,000	HMGP	2028	H
3	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Compile New Soil Evaluations	MDEQ	\$40,000	Budget	2028	M
5	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	HAZUS-MH Update with Pipeline Locations	MEMA	\$10,000	Budget	2028	M
6	Earthquake	Outreach and Education	Partnership Programs for Collaborating Programs with other States	MEMA	\$10,000	Budget	2028	H
11	Earthquake	Technical Assistance	Information Management System for Critical Infrastructure	MDEQ	\$50,000	HMGP	2028	H
1	Flood	Outreach and Education	Map Modernization: New Firm Adoption by Communities	MEMA	\$20,000	CAP	Annual	H
4	Flood	Technical Assistance	Community Rating System: Program Implementation	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	M
5	Flood	Property Protection	Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss Structures: Target Group Mitigation	MEMA	\$10,000,000	FMA	2028	M
6	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation: Model Ordinance Adoption	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	M
7	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation: Floodplain Management Workshops	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	M
8	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation Certified Floodplain Manager Accreditation	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	H
9	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation: State Floodplain Management Association	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	M
11	Flood	Technical Assistance	NFIP Implementation: Community Assistance Contact and Visit	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	H
12	Flood	Outreach and Education	NFIP Implementation Education and Outreach	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP	2028	H
13	Flood	Technical Assistance	Assessing Vulnerability by Jurisdiction	MEMA	\$100,000	FMA	2028	H
15	Flood	Technical Assistance	Information Management System for Critical Infrastructure	MEMA	\$100,000	FMA	2028	H
16	Flood	Structural	Community Assistance for Flood Warning Systems	MEMA	\$1,000,000	FMA	2028	H

21	Flood	Property Protection	Continue to Support floodproofing and hardening of water/wastewater systems	MDEQ	\$100,000,000	CDBB	2028	H
23	Flood	Technical Assistance	Support updating of storm water ordinances to address future development	MEMA	\$7,000	CAP-SSSE	2028	H
24	Flood	Technical Assistance	Support Local Capital Improvement Infrastructure Planning	MDEQ	\$7,000	CAP-SSSE	2028	H
26	Flood	Technical Assistance	GI Inventory of Hazardous Waste/Materials Storage Facilities	MDEQ	\$150,000	HMGP	2028	H
30	Flood	Technical Assistance	Develop a comprehensive GIS based inventory of levees	MDEQ	\$50,000	PDM	2028	H
31	Flood	Property Protection	Implement Flood Mitigation projects	MEMA	\$10,000,000	USACE, BRIC, FMA	2028	H
2	Hurricane	Outreach and Education	Public Information Forums and Fairs Statewide	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	Annual	H
4	Hurricane	Technical Assistance	Local Review of Building Codes and Flood Protection Ordinances	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2028	H
5	Hurricane	Technical Assistance	State Modernization Team Review of Coastal Flooding	MEMA	\$50,000	CAP	2028	H
6	Hurricane	Structural	USACOE Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program	MDMR	\$160,000,000	USACOE	2028	H
7	Hurricane	Structural	USACOE Mississippi Coastal Comprehensive Plan	MDMR	\$3,000,000	USACOE	2028	H
11	Hurricane	Structural	Implement Regional Utility Systems	MDEQ	\$200,000,000	CDBG	2028	H
12	Hurricane	Structural	Support Mitigation with Natural Barriers	MDMR	\$100,000,000	USACOE	2028	H
2	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	HMA Grant Application Training	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2028	H
4	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	"Storm Ready" Community Education	MEMA	\$27,000	Budget	Annual	H
6	All Hazards	Technical Assistance	Develop Local Hazard Mitigation Planning	MEMA	\$7,000	HMGP	Annual	H
9	Multi-Hazard	Emergency Services	Provide Auxiliary Power Source for All Critical Facilities	MEMA	\$10,000,000	HMGP	2028	H
11	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Coordinated Emergency Action Plans for Health Care Facilities	MSDH	\$400,000	Budget	Annual	H
13	Multi-Hazard	Resources Protection	Wet Debris Management for Access, Water Quality and Environmental	MDMR	\$10,000,000	USACOE	2028	H
18	Multi-Hazard	Emergency Services	Increase Shelter Capacity in each County	MEMA	\$2,300,000	HMGP	Annual	H
20	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Prepare information Management System for Plan Updates for 2013	MEMA	\$20,000	Budget	Annual	H
21	Multi-Hazard	Prevention/Property Protection	Track Project Implementation Progress for Mitigation Actions	MEMA	\$20,000	Budget	Annual	H
22	Multi-Hazard	Resources Protection	Develop GIS Database for Archives and History on Cultural Resources	MDAH	\$100,000	HMGP	2028	H

26	Multi-Hazard	Outreach and Education	Yearly Information Meetings for Medical Community	MSDH	\$50,000	Budget	2028	M
27	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	Sheltering needs assessment	MDHS	\$50,000	HMGP	2028	H
29	Multi-Hazard	Prevention	Mitigation Grants to Eligible Applicants for Emergency Warning Systems	MEMA	\$196,836	HMGP	Annual	H
30	Multi-Hazard	Structural	Individual Assistance for "Safe Room" Program	MEMA	\$500,000	HMGP	2028	Suspended at this time
32	Multi-Hazard	Structural	FEMA 361 Safe Rooms and Continuity of Government Shelters	MEMA	\$20,000,000	HMGP	2028	H
33	Multi-Hazard	Emergency Services	New Action for 2023 MSDH Standby Power /System (Generator) Project-Phases I-III	MSDH	\$6,595,706.25	HMGP	2024	H
34	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	New Action for 2023 Shelter Capacity Assessment	MDHS	\$50,000	HMGP	2025	H
35	Multi-Hazard	Structural	New Action for 2023 MEMA HMGP Saferooms	MEMA	\$2,575,000	HMGP	2028	H
36	Multi-Hazard	Technical Assistance	New Action for 2023 Assist in obtaining vulnerability jurisdiction, climate change, and probability data for future State Plan HIRA updates	MEMA	\$10,000	Budget, HMGP	2028	H
1	Sea Level Rise	Outreach and Education	Education and Outreach for Coastal MS on impacts of Sea Level Rise	MEMA	\$5,000	Budget	2028	L
2	Climate Change	Technical Assistance	New Action for 2023 Funding for tools that provide climate projection data and effects on State assets and population vulnerability	MEMA	\$20,000	Budget, HMGP	2028	H
1	Tornado	Technical Assistance	Implement Wind Retrofit Projects	MEMA	\$29,888,707	Budget	2028	M
7	Tornado	Outreach and Education	Public Outreach and Education for Homebuilders and Developers	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	2028	H
1	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	FireWise Program Workshops	MFC	\$100,000	USFC	Annual	H
2	Wildfire	Technical Assistance	Community Wildfire Protection Plans	MFC	\$100,000	USFC	Annual	H
3	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	Train Local VFD's in FireWise	MFC	\$500,000	USFC	Annual	H
4	Wildfire	Outreach and Education	Communication and Partnership Initiatives with VFD's	MFC	\$100,000	USFC, U&CF	Annual	H
5	Wildfire	Technical Assistance	Information Management for Areas at Risk Based on County Wildfire Plans	MFC	\$350,000	USFC, CFP	Annual	H
2	Winter Storm	Outreach and Education	Public Education and Outreach	MEMA	\$7,000	Budget	Annual	H

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

\$ 681,293,249.25

4.5: Funding Sources

44 CFR 201.4(c)(3)(iv) – The State mitigation strategy shall include the following elements:

A mitigation strategy that provides the State’s blueprint for reducing the losses identified in the risk assessment. This section shall include:

Identification of current and potential sources of Federal, State, local or private funding to implement mitigation activities.

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the State of Mississippi received \$434 million in Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funds and \$4 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to mitigate the effects. Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, Mississippi has had 30 smaller federally declared disasters. The remaining Katrina funds and the HMA funds from the more recent declared disasters will continue to fund the mitigation initiatives that began because of Hurricane Katrina.

Statewide Initiatives

The following statewide initiatives were funded through HMGP funds:

- The Statewide Generator Initiative – provides funding for generators for critical facilities.
- The Statewide College/University and Municipality Siren Initiative – provides funding for warning systems on junior and senior colleges as well as funding for counties and cities.
- The Statewide Saferoom/Storm Shelter Initiative – provides funding for individual and community storm shelters so that during a tornado or severe thunderstorm, the citizens of Mississippi have a safe place to go.
- Public Outreach Campaigns

The State under MEMA’s guidance, has funded in addition to the statewide initiatives, the following projects:

- Acquisition Projects
- Drainage Projects
- Planning Grants
- Retrofits and enhancement of development codes and standards
- Standards Projects
- Elevation
- Repetitive Flood Loss Structures

Under the Flood Mitigation Assistance, the State has provided funding for the following:

- Acquisition Projects
- Planning Grants

MEMA has also provided funding for my.msema.org, a web-based program that allows eligible applicants to submit project applications online.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is being funded under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)/Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).

As can be seen from a review of the successful mitigation projects in Mississippi, it is very typical to leverage projects with multiple sources of funding. Table 4.5.1 provides a matrix that addresses the current and potential sources of funding for federal/state/local hazard mitigation programs, activities, and initiatives. The matrix identifies the program activity, type of assistance, and the responsible agency and point of contact.

The following “Programs/Activities” are addressed in the matrix on the following pages:

- General Emergency grants, loans, and assistance;
- Floods/Flood Control grants, loans, and assistance;
- Earthquake grants, loans, and assistance;
- All-Hazard Mapping grants, loans, and assistance;
- Ancillary Flood & Natural Resource Projects grants, loans, and assistance;
- Basic and Applied Research/Development grants, loans, and assistance;
- Other Planning Information, including Demographics, Societal Data, Transportation, Agricultural, Industrial, and Other Commercial Economic Statistics;
- Business Continuity Planning;
- Grants, loans, and technical assistance in addressing rehabilitation, health, safety, and emergency (fire, ambulance, sirens, etc.) Facilities and equipment needs in primarily low income rural areas.

This table has been updated from the 2018 plan to include programs/activities that were not defined or available and are designated with the notation of 2023 Update.

**Table 4.5.1
Funding Sources**

Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
General Emergency Grants, Loans & Assistance	Pre/Post Disaster Mitigation, Relief, Recovery, Training, & Technical Assistance	
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Provides grants to states and communities for the implementation of long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Disaster Mitigation Planning and Technical Assistance	Provides technical and planning assistance for capacity building and mitigation project activities focusing on creating disaster resistant jobs and workplaces	Department of Commerce (DOC), Economic Development Administration (EDA) www.doc.gov/eda N. Mississippi (404) 730-3020 S. Mississippi (859) 224-7426 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
USDA Smith-Lever Special Needs Funding (2023 Plan Update)	Grants to State Extension Services at 1862 Land-Grant institutions to support education-based approaches to addressing emergency preparedness and disasters.	USDA Housing and Environmental Health (800) 414-1226
Pre-Disaster Mitigation	Provides funding and technical assistance to communities and states to implement pre-disaster mitigation projects and planning.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (2023 Plan Update)	BRIC is FEMA's new mitigation grant program, replacing the Agency's prior pre-disaster (PDM) grant program. It gives states, local communities, tribes and territories funding to address future risks to natural disasters, including ones involving: wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding. BRIC also offers help to communities in the form of non-financial Direct Technical Assistance that can provide holistic hazard mitigation planning and project support.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS) (2023 Plan Update)	Funds plans for the development and conservation of water resources, dam safety, flood damage reduction and floodplain management.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief Planning Division (978) 318-8737

Emergency Management I Mitigation Training	Offers training in disaster mitigation, preparedness, planning.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Post-Disaster Economic Recovery Grants and Assistance	Provides grant funding to assist in the long-term economic recovery of communities, industries, and firms adversely impacted by disasters.	Department of Commerce (DOC), Economic Development Administration (EDA) N. Mississippi (404) 730-3020 S. Mississippi (859) 224-7426
Cares Act Economic Recovery Corps and Equity Impact Investments Programs (2023 Plan Update)	Designed to provide support to underserved communities across the country in their efforts to develop successful economic development plans and projects. The program adds human capital to local organizations focused on improving economic resilience and competitiveness in distressed regions across the county and provides technical assistance to enable organizations serving underserved populations and communities to participate in economic development planning and projects.	Department of Commerce (DOC), Economic Development Administration (EDA) N. Mississippi (404) 730-3020 S. Mississippi (859) 224-7426
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (2023 Plan Update)	The EDA has published an Addendum to its Fiscal Year 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity making funds in CARES Act available to eligible grantees in communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.	Department of Commerce (DOC), Economic Development Administration (EDA) N. Mississippi (404) 730-3020 S. Mississippi (859) 224-7426
Development Infrastructure Grant Program (DIP)	DIP is a grant program that is available to fund publicly owned infrastructure. Funding from this program can be used by municipalities and counties to assist with the location or expansion of businesses. Usage of the funds must be directly related to the construction, renovation, or expansion of industry.	Mississippi Development Authority CDBG Program Tel: (601) 359-3179
Job Protection Grant Program	Provides “at risk” industries that have been operating in the state for at least three years and that have lost jobs or are at risk to lose jobs because such jobs have been outsourced. Funding from this program can be used by “at risk” industries that retain jobs in Mississippi and improve productivity.	Mississippi Development Authority CDBG Program Tel: (601) 359-3552
Mississippi Rail Grant Program (RAIL)	RAIL is designed for making grants to railroads to finance projects to promote economic growth in the state of Mississippi. Funding for this program is derived from appropriations or funds otherwise made available by the State Legislature.	Mississippi Development Authority-Financial Resources Tel: (601) 359-2498
Community Disaster Loan Program	Provides funds to any eligible jurisdiction in a designated disaster area that has suffered a substantial loss of tax and other revenue.	FEMA (800) 621-3362 www.fema.gov
Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)	The RBEG supports the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas (less than 50,000 population) It creates jobs and	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Office (601) 965-4316

	stimulate rural economics by providing real estate improvements, equipment, and working capital.	
Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Program	Provides grants to communities and counties for the purpose of providing infrastructure to support economic development.	HUD National Office Community Planning and Development Office of Economic Development (800) 998-9999
Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)	Provides technical assistance, business development, and planning in rural communities with exceptional need	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Office (601) 965-4316
Rural Impact Fund Grant Program	Provides grants to construct or improve public infrastructure to promote job creation in rural areas.	Mississippi Development Authority-Financial Resources Tel: (601) 359-3179
Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant Program	Provides grants to promote economic growth by improving public infrastructure.	Mississippi Development Authority-Financial Resources Tel: (601) 359-3179

Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Water Resources, Flood Control, Pollution Abatement, and Soil Conservation Programs	Acts as local sponsor for member counties on federal projects and programs associated with water resources, flood control, pollution abatement, and soil conservation. Provides limited financial assistance on such projects	Pearl River Basin Development District (601) 354-6301
Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP) Program	Makes loans to counties or municipalities to construct or improve public infrastructure.	Mississippi Development Authority Tel: (601) 359-3179
Mississippi Economic Redevelopment Program	Provides funding to counties or municipalities to remediate and develop an environmentally contaminated site.	Office of the Governor (601) 359-3150
Delta Regional Authority Grant Program	Helps economically distressed communities in the DRA area to leverage other funds focused on improving infrastructure, transportation, and business development.	Mississippi Development Authority Office of Strategic Initiatives (601) 359-6656
Appalachian Regional Commission	Provides matching funds for communities in the ARC area for making infrastructure improvements to encourage economic development and a higher quality of life.	Mississippi Development Authority Appalachian Regional Office (662) 844-1184
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	Provides assistance for mitigation, management, and control of fires which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.	FEMA (770) 220-5200 https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program

Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	Provides reimbursement to states and localities only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs.	FEMA (800) 621-3362 www.fema.gov
Dry Fire Hydrant Program	Assists communities within the district through funding assistance to increase rural fire protection where dry fire hydrants are constructed at known water sources to fill up the equipment tanks of a rural fire department.	Pat Harrison Waterway District (601) 264-5951
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Mosquito Control Grant Program	Provides funding to counties and communities in the Go Zone for the start-up or enhancement of an existing mosquito control program.	Mississippi Department of Health Office of Epidemiology (601) 576-7725
Transportation Enhancement Program	Provides funding for various activities that enhance existing or historic transportation facilities including environmental mitigation of run-off pollution	Mississippi Department of Transportation Office of Intermodal Planning (601) 359-7025
Public Library Capital Improvement Subgrant Program	Provide grants to public libraries for capital improvements, renovation and/or repair of existing facilities	Mississippi Library Commission (800) 647-7542
Public Assistance Program (Infrastructure)	Provides grants to states and communities to repair damaged infrastructure and public facilities and to help restore government or government-related services. Mitigation funding is available for work related to damaged components of the eligible building or structure.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program State-Administered Public Infrastructure Grants	Public Facilities: Provides grants to counties and municipalities to improve infrastructure to eliminate an existing health threat to residents, primarily of low- and moderate-income households. (Includes water and sewer facilities, flood and drainage facilities, fire protection, roads and bridges.) Economic Development: Provides grants to counties and municipalities to provide infrastructure on behalf of a business/industry that commits to job creation or job retention.	Mississippi Development Authority CDBG Program Community Services Division Tel: (601) 359-3179
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program	Provides grants to entitled cities to improve public infrastructure, primarily benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.	US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Communities Division Office of Block Grant Assistance (202) 708-1577

Entitlement Communities Program	Entitlement Communities include Jackson, Hattiesburg, Pascagoula, Moss Point, Biloxi, and Gulfport.	State Field Office Community Planning and Development (601) 965-4700, ext. 3140
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Funds (CDBG-MIT) (2023 Plan Update)	Provides assistance to eligible applicants in areas impacted by recent disasters to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigation risks and reduce future losses.	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development T: 202-708-1112 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362
Disaster Recovery Initiative	Provides grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation).	HUD State Field Office Community Planning and Development (601) 965-4700, ext. 3140 HUD National Office Community Planning and Development Office of Block Grant Assistance (202) 708-3587, ext. 4538 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Public Housing Modernization Reserve for Disasters and Emergencies	Provides funding to Public Housing Agencies for development, financing, and modernization needs resulting from natural disasters (including elevation, flood proofing, and retrofit).	HUD Director, Office of Capital Improvements: (202) 708-1640 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant (2023 Plan Update)	Provides an opportunity for the Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.	U.S. Dept of Transportation Office of Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Tel: 202-366-0301 www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants@dot.gov
Indian Housing Assistance (Housing Improvement Program)	Provides grants and technical assistance to substantially eliminate sub-standard Indian housing.	Department of Interior (DOI) – Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Division of Housing Assistance, Office of Tribal Services: (202) 208-3100
Section 504 Loans for Housing	Offers repair loans, grants and technical assistance to very low-income senior homeowners living in rural areas to repair their homes and remove health and safety hazards	US Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Housing Service (RHS) State RHS Field Office (601) 965-4325 (800) 548-0071 Or National RHS Headquarters Housing and Community Facilities Programs (202) 720-4323

Section 502 Loan and Guaranteed Loan Program	Provides loans, loan guarantees, and technical assistance to very low and low-income applicants to purchase, build, or rehabilitate a home in rural area	USDA – RHS State RHS Field Office (601) 965-4325 (800) 548-0071 Or National RHS Headquarters Housing and Community Facilities Programs (202) 720-4323
Farm Ownership Loans	Provides direct loans, guaranteed/insured loans, and technical assistance to farmers so that they may develop, construct, improve, or repair farm homes, farms, and service buildings, and to make other needed improvements	USADA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) FSA State Field Office (601) 965-4300 Or FSA National Office (601) 720-3865
Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program	The STORM Act authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants to states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories and the District of Columbia to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters.	Federal Emergency Management Agency If an eligible entity is interested in assistance with their capitalization grant application, they should contact the team at FEMA-STORMRLF@fema.dhs.gov
(2023 Plan Update)		
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
HOME Investments Partnerships Programs	Provides grant funding to States, local governments and consortia for permanent and transitional housing (including support for property acquisition and rehabilitation) for low-income persons.	HUD Community Planning and Development Office of Affordable Housing (877) 833-2483 (800) 225-5342 Mississippi Home Corporation 735 Riverside Dr, Jackson, Ms 39202 (601) 718-4636 (601) 718-4613
Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)	Provides grants to non-profit organizations to purchase home sites and improve infrastructure needed for volunteer-based homeownership programs for low-income families	HUD Community Planning and Development Office of Affordable Housing (877) 833-2483 (800) 225-5342
Homeownership Zone (HOZ) Program	Provides grants to communities to reclaim vacant and blighted properties, to increase homeownership and to promote economic revitalization	HUD Community Planning and Development Office of Affordable Housing (877) 833-2483 (800) 225-5342
Rural Development Assistance – Housing	Provides grants, loans, and technical assistance in addressing rehabilitation, health and safety needs in primarily low-income rural areas. Declaration of major disaster necessary.	USDA – RHS State RHS Field Office (601) 965-4325 (800) 548-0071 Or National RHS Headquarters Housing and Community Facilities Programs (202) 720-4323

Rural Development Assistance – Utilities	Provide direct and guaranteed rural economic loans and business-enterprise grants to address utility issues and development needs	USDA-Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Program Support National Headquarters (202) 720-9540 State Rural Development Office (601) 965-5460
Rural Development Assistance – Community Facilities Loans and Grants Program	Provides grants and loans in addressing rehabilitation, health, safety, and emergency (fire, ambulance, sirens, etc.) facilities and equipment needs in rural communities and primarily in low income areas	USDA – RHS State RHS Field Office (601) 965-4325 (800) 548-0071 Or National RHS Headquarters Housing and Community Facilities Programs (202) 720-4323
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Rural Community Fire Protection	Provides grants for rural fire projects, truck acquisition, or other assistance.	Mississippi State Fire Marshal (601) 359-1061 (888) 648-0877
Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program	Provides loan guarantees to public entities for community and economic development (including mitigation measures).	HUD State Field Office Community Planning and Development (601) 965-4757 HUD National Headquarters Section 108 Office (202) 708-1871
Program/Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Floods/Flood Control Grants, Loans & Assistance	Floods/Flood Control Technical/Planning Assistance and Program Support	
National Flood Insurance Program	Makes available flood insurance to residents of communities that adopt and enforce minimum floodplain management requirements.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Flood Mitigation Assistance	Provides grants to States and communities for pre-disaster mitigation to help reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program. Requires flood mitigation plan to be developed by the applicant.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Flood Control Planning Assistance	Provides technical and planning assistance for the preparation of	Department of Defense (DOD) US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

	comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources.	Floodplain Management Staff of Appropriate Regional Office: N. MS – Memphis District: (901) 544-3401 C. MS – Vicksburg District: (601) 631-5126 S. MS – Mobile District: (334) 690-2495
Floodplain Management Services	Provides technical and planning assistance at the local, regional, or national level needed to support effective floodplain management.	Department of Defense (DOD) US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Floodplain Management Staff of Appropriate Regional Office: N. MS – Memphis District: (901) 544-3401 C. MS – Vicksburg District: (601) 631-5126 S. MS – Mobile District: (334) 690-2495 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Works Projects Grants Flood Control and Water Management	Assists communities within the district to eliminate long and short-term flooding and drainage problems.	Pat Harrison, Waterway District (601) 264-5951
Land Protection	Provides technical assistance for run-off retardation and soil erosion prevention to reduce hazards to life and property.	USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division National NRCS Office (202) 720-8851 State NRCS Conservationist (601) 863-3911
Earthquake Grants, Loans & Assistance	Earthquake Mitigation, Relief, Recovery, Technical/Planning/Training Grant/Loan Assistance and Program Support.	
National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program	Provides technical and planning assistance for activities associated with earthquake hazards mitigation	FEMA, Dept. of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Institute of Standards and Technology FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation Earthquake Program Manager (770) 220-5426 MEMA, Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org

Geological Survey Program	Acquires, maintains and manages basic geological data; identifies and evaluates geological hazards. The Geological Survey program assists citizens, industry, and government in the wise use of the state's minerals, land, and water resources.	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Office of Geology (601) 961-5500
Other Earthquake Hazards Reduction Programs	Provides training, planning and technical assistance under grants to States or local jurisdictions.	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation Earthquake Program Manager (770) 220-5426 DOI-USGS Earthquake Program Coordinator (888) 275-8747 Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (901) 544-3570 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
All-Hazard Mapping Grants, Loans & Assistance & Technical Assistance	All-Hazard Analysis & Mapping of Flood Plains, Watersheds, Earthquake Areas, At-Risk Populations.	
National Flood Insurance Program: Flood Mapping:	Offers flood insurance rate maps and flood plain management maps for all NFIP communities;	FEMA Region IV NFIP & Mitigation (770) 220-5200 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org
National Flood Insurance Program: Technical Mapping Advisory Council	Offers technical guidance and advice to coordinate FEMA map modernization efforts for the National Flood Insurance Program.	DOI-USGS National Mapping Division (888) 392-8545 MDEQ Office of Geology and Geospatial Resources Division Remote Sensing and GIS (601) 961-5506 MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org

Stream Gaging and Flood Forecasting Network	Operates a network of over 7,200 stream gaging stations that provide data on river flood characteristics and issues flood warnings and river forecasts to reduce flood damages.	<p>USGS National Office of Surface Water (703) 648-5977</p> <p>USGS State Office (601) 933-2900</p> <p>National Weather Service Office of Hydrology (301) 427-9855</p>
Mapping Standards Support	Provides expertise in mapping and digital data standards to support the National Flood Insurance Program	<p>DOI-USGS</p> <p>USGS National Mapping Division (888) 392-8545</p> <p>MDEQ Office of Geology Geospatial Resources Division (601) 961-5506</p>
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program	Provides seismic mapping for U.S.	<p>DOI-USGS Earthquake Program Coordinator (703) 648-6785</p> <p>FEMA, Region IV Mitigation Division Earthquake Program Manager (770) 220-5426</p> <p>MEMA Office of Mitigation Tel: (601) 933-6362 Fax: (601) 933-6800 www.msema.org</p>

Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Ancillary Flood & Natural Resource Projects Grants, Loans & Assistance	Watershed Management, Clean Water, Conservation, Environmental, Forestry, Grant/Loan Assistance, Technical Aid, and Program Support	
Natural Resources Financial Assistance	Assist communities with funding for projects that protect the natural environment.	USDA National Resources Conservation Service (833) 663-8732 MDEQ Tel: (601) 961-5158
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Provides technical, educational, and loan and grant assistance to encourage environmental enhancement Air Pollution Control Environmental Services Hazardous Substance Emergency Relief Hazardous Waste Brownfields Pilot Projects, Fees and Taxes, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup, Natural Resources Damage Assessments, Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup, Voluntary Cleanup Program Financial Incentives Solid Waste Management Technical Assistance Water Pollution Control State Construction Wastewater Grant Program State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)	NRCS EQIP Program Manager (202) 720-8851 www.nrcs.usda.gov NRCS State Office (601) 965-5196 Or NRCS County Offices Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (601) 961-5171
Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants	Provides grants to designated states and tribal agencies to implement their approved non-point source management	US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water Chief, Non-Point Source Control Branch

	programs, including support for nonpoint source programs such as technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and regulatory programs.	(202) 566-1155 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (601) 961-5171
Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Provides loans at actual or below-market interest rates to help build, repair, relocate, or replace wastewater treatment plants.	EPA, Office of Water State Revolving Fund Branch (202) 260-7359 A list of Regional Offices is available upon request
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants (2023 Plan Update)	Funding is used to build, repair, and improve public water systems and waste collection and treatment systems.	USDA Rural Development 601-863-3862 www.rd.usda.gov
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Wetlands Protection – Development Grants	Provides grants to support the development and enhancement of State and tribal wetlands protection programs.	EPA National Wetlands Regional Office are available at https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/forms/contact-us-about-wetlands Or EPA Region IV Chief, Wetlands Section (404) 562-9405 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (601) 961-5171
Watershed Protection, Flood Prevention, and Soil and Water Conservation Program	Provides technical and financial assistance for installing works of improvement to protect, develop, and utilize land or water resources in watersheds under 250,000 acres.	US Department of Agriculture (USDA) – National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division National NRCS Office (202) 720-8851
Watershed Surveys and Planning Small Watershed Protection Act (PL 566)	Provides surveys and planning studies for appraising water and related resources and formulating alternative plans for conservation use and development. Provides grants and advisory counseling services to assist with planning and implementing improvement.	USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division National NRCS Office (202) 720-8851 State NRCS Conservationist (601) 863-3947
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Provides technical and financial assistance for relief from imminent hazards in small watersheds, and to reduce vulnerability of life and property in small watershed areas damaged by natural hazard events.	USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division National NRCS Office (202) 720-8851 State NRCS Conservationist (601) 863-3947

Wetlands Reserve Program	Provides financial and technical assistance to protect and restore wetlands through easements and restoration agreements.	USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division National NRCS Office (202) 720-8851 State NRCS Conservationist (601) 863-3947
Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment	Provides for ecosystem restoration by modifying structures and/or operations or water resources projects constructed by the USACE, or restoring areas where a USACE project contributed to the degradation of an area	DOD-USACE Chief of Planning @ appropriate USACE Regional Office (212) 264-7813
Aquatic Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Provides direct support for carrying out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will improve the quality of the environment.	DOD-USACE Chief of Planning @ appropriate USACE Regional Office (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (212) 264-7813
Coastal Zone Management Program	The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) provides federal funding and technical assistance to better manage our coastal resources.	NOAA Office for Coastal Management 2234 South Hobson Ave Charleston, SC 29405-2413
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Beneficial Uses of Dredged Materials	Provides direct assistance for projects that protect, restore, and create aquatic and ecologically related habitats, including wetlands, in connection with dredging an authorized Federal navigation project.	DOD-USACE Chief of Planning @ appropriate USACE Regional Office (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (212) 264-7813
National Cooperative Soil Survey	Maintains soil surveys of counties or other areas to assist with farming, conservation, mitigation or related purposes.	USDA-NRCS Soil Survey Division (202) 720-4593
Land Acquisition	Acquires or purchases easements on high-quality lands and waters for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System	DOI-Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Southeast Region Division of Realty (404) 679-7199
Transfers of Inventory Farm Properties to Federal and State Agencies for Conservation Purposes	Transfers title of certain inventory farm properties owned by FSA to Federal and State agencies for conservation purposes (including the restoration of wetlands and floodplain areas to reduce future flood potential)	US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) – Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs National Office (202) 720-3467 State Field Office (601) 965-4300
Federal Land Transfer / Federal Land to Parks Program	Identifies, assesses, and transfers available Federal real property for acquisition for State and local parks and recreation, such as open space.	DOI-National Parks Service (NPS) Federal Lands to Parks Office Southeast Region (404) 507-5689

		Federal Lands to Parks Leader NPS National Office: (202) 354-6915
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats.	DOI – FWS Southeast Regional Ecological Services (404) 679-7138 State Field Office (601) 965-4900
Forest Tree Seedlings	Produces and distributes quality seedlings to assure forest regeneration and to sustain Mississippi's forest resources.	Regeneration Forester Mississippi Forestry Commission (601) 359-1386
Mississippi Reforestation Tax Credit	Promotes reforestation on private, non-industrial lands. A Mississippi Tax Credit on up to 50% of the cost of approved hardwood and pine reforestation practices.	Mississippi Forestry Commission Tel: (601) 359-1386 Fax: (601) 359-1349 www.mfc.state.ms.us
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Forest Health	Assists timber owners in forest pest management by conducting forest pest surveys and evaluation. Recommendations on practices to salvage lumber, reduce and prevent damage from pests, will be provided to landowners upon request.	Mississippi Forestry Commission Tel: (601) 359-1386 Fax: (601) 359-1349 www.mfc.state.ms.us
Forest Land Enhancement Program	Promotes long-term sustainability of private, no-industrial forestlands. Cost-share assistance is available.	Contact your County Forester
Landowner Services	Offers a variety of forest management services to private non-industrial owners of relatively small acreages. Most technical assistance and forestry advice is free to the landowner. Direct services, such as plowing fire lanes, tree planting, and timber-marking are available for a fee.	Contact your County Forester
Forest Resource Development Program	Provides financial assistance to eligible landowners for establishing and improving a crop of trees. This program helps offset a landowner's expense by sharing the cost implementing one or more forestry practices.	Mississippi Forestry Commission Tel: (601) 359-1386 Fax: (601) 359-1349 www.mfc.state.ms.us/landownerassistance

Conservation Contracts	Assists debt reduction for delinquent and non-delinquent borrowers in exchange for conservation contracts placed on environmentally sensitive real property that secures FSA loans.	USDA-FSA Farm Loan Programs FSA National Office: (202) 720-3467 FSA State Office (601) 965-4300
Historic Preservation Fund Grants	Provides grants to assist communities in carrying out historic preservation activities.	DOI-National Park Service Mississippi Department of Archives and History (601) 576-6940
The Foundation Directory	Provides annual source of information about grants & loans from federal and private sources. Available for a fee.	The Foundation Center (800) 424-9836 www.foundationcenter.org
Federal and Foundation Assistance Monitor	Provides semi-monthly reports on federal and private grants. Available for a fee	CD Publications 8204 Fenton Street Silver Springs, MD 20910 Tel: (301) 588-6380 www.cdpublications.com
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Environmental Grantmaking Foundations	Provides a comprehensive list of foundations that support environmental nonprofit activities and programs. Available for a fee.	
Environmental Grantmaking Foundations	Provides a comprehensive list of foundations that support environmental nonprofit activities and programs. Available for a fee.	Resources for Global Sustainability, Inc. Cary, North Carolina (800) 724-1857
Basic & Applied Research/Development Grants, Loans & Assistance	Research and Educational Assistance Information, Grants / Loans and Technical Assistance	
Center for Integration of Natural Disaster Information	Develops and evaluates technology for information integration and dissemination	Department of Interior (DOI) US Geological Survey (USGS) (888) 275-8747 www.usgs.gov
Hazard Reduction Program	Provides funding for research and related educational activities on hazards	National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Engineering, Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems (703) 292-8360
Decision, Risk, and Management Science Program	Provides funding for research and related educational activities on risk, perception, communication, and management (primarily technological hazards)	NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Science, Division of Social Behavioral and Economic Research, Decision,

		Risk, and Management Science Program (DRMS) (703) 292-7263 www.nsf.gov/sbe.drms
Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology Program	Provides funding for research and related educational activities on topics such as ethics, values, and the assessment, communication, management, and perception of risk	NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Science, Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science and Technology Program (703) 292-7279
National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) in Earth Sciences	Research into basic and applied earth and building sciences	NSF Directorate for Geosciences Division of Earth Sciences (703) 292-8550
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
Other Planning Information, Including Demographics Societal Data, Transportation, Agricultural, Industrial & Other Commercial Economic Statistics	Low and/or No Cost Information Helpful for Determining At-Risk Populations and Potential Economic Damages & Information to Help Determine Avoidance of Losses.	
Demographics, Societal Statistics and Economic Statistics	Provides free Planning Information Concerning Jobs, Business and Economic Statistics, Population and Housing Statistics, and Help with Census Products (i.e. statistics, maps, reports, etc.), State Government, etc. Note: For statistics regarding clean water, wetlands, conservation, disasters, natural resources, rivers, and other subjects covered separately in this document, use the contact information provided in those subject areas.	U.S. Census Bureau Washington, D.C. 20233 General telephone inquiries: (800) 923-8282 www.census.gov Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) 1441 L Street NW Washington, D.C. 20230 Public Information Office (202) 606-9900 BEA Order Desk (800) 704-0415 Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Information Services 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Room 2860 Washington, D.C. 20212 (800) 877-8339 (202) 691-5200

		www.bls.gov
University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies	Disseminates U.S. Census data, provides technical assistance in the collection and analysis of Census and other demographic and social data, and undertakes research on population issues.	University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts Center for Population Studies (662) 915-7288
Program / Activity	Type of Assistance	Agency & Contact
National Climactic Data	Maintains the largest active archive of national weather data, produces numerous climate publications, and responds to data requests	U.S. Dept. of Commerce National Climactic Data Center (828) 271-4800
State Climactic Data (2023 Plan Update)	Provides current weather information and forecasts, maintains an active archive of weather data for the state, and responds to data requests	Office of the Mississippi State Climatologist Dr. Mike Brown (662) 325-0600