

Chapter 6 Coordination with Local Mitigation Planning Efforts

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

§201.4(c)(4) A section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning that includes the following:

- (i) A description of the State process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local mitigation plans;*
- (ii) A description of the State process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the State Mitigation Plan; and*
- (iii) Criteria for prioritizing communities and local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding programs, which should include consideration for communities with the highest risks, repetitive loss properties, and most intense development pressures. Further, that for non-planning grants, a principal criterion for prioritizing grants shall be the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of proposed projects and their associated costs.*

6.1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

This section has been revised and updated by VDEM mitigation planning coordinators and has been reviewed by the CVHMSC. Updated information on local hazard mitigation plans in the Commonwealth has been included. Since the 2007 plan approval, all 39 cities, 95 counties, and 127 towns have FEMA approved hazard mitigation plans. A natural transgression from the plan approval process to the plan implementation and revision process has been in motion since 2007. VDEM local hazard mitigation support will be discussed throughout this section to include support for original plan development and plan updates, as well as distribution of funding for plan development and updates. Prioritization of local funding, and technical assistance is also discussed.

6.2 Defining the “local planning jurisdictions”

One of the key issues facing the Commonwealth as it started the mitigation planning process was to define “locality” sufficiently to meet current FEMA standards. The definition of a “locality” provided in the DMA2K regulations was written to encompass the broad variety of community types across the U.S. As such, it was much broader than Virginia’s political organization. In order to simplify the planning process as much as possible, the FEMA and Virginia regulatory definitions were researched and a Virginia-specific definition of those “communities” that would be required to take part in the hazard mitigation planning process was developed. The basis of the DMA2000 local government definition is the National Flood Insurance Program definition of a “locality” (Dave Thomas, FEMA Region III, personal communication, July 8, 2003). It was



FEMA Region III's position that the definition of a locality responsible for development of a hazard mitigation plan is:

Any area or political subdivision within the Commonwealth of Virginia as defined by the Code of Virginia that has authority to create, adopt and/or enforce land use, zoning, or subdivision ordinances and regulations for the areas within its boundaries.

While the NFIP definition includes Native American tribes and organizations in its description, Virginia does not currently have any federally recognized native organizations or authorized tribal organizations. As a result, those categories were not included in the definition above.

Within the Commonwealth of Virginia, this definition encompasses the counties, cities, and incorporated towns recognized by the *Code of Virginia*. Virginia counties, cities, and incorporated towns have independent land use management authority within their respective boundaries. The Planning District Commissions (PDC) are regional planning organizations that provide technical and planning support to the localities within their respective regions. However, while the PDCs do perform land use planning at the request of their localities, they cannot implement or enforce the plans they create for those localities. Implementation and enforcement remain the responsibility of the cities, counties, and towns for which plans were developed.

The Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes 39 cities, 95 counties, and 190 incorporated towns. There also are 21 planning district commissions in Virginia. A complete list of these localities is provided in Appendix F. Based on the DMA2000 regulations and the "locality" definition provided above, each of Virginia's cities, counties, and towns are required to develop or take an active role in the development of a hazard mitigation plan for their respective areas. The PDCs are not required to develop a separate hazard mitigation plan for their regions, as they do not have the enforcement authority of the cities, counties, and incorporated towns. However, as described in Section 6.3.5(d), it was the intent of the Commonwealth of Virginia to combine as many of the mitigation plans as possible into regional, multi-jurisdictional plans using the PDCs as the planning agency for these efforts.

6.3 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

To support the development of local hazard mitigation plans, the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) provided assistance to local and regional jurisdictions through several mediums once interim guidance, training materials and pre-disaster mitigation funding for §322 plan development became available during spring, 2002. At that time, VDEM staff in partnership with the Department of Conservation & Recreation's Floodplain Management Program (DCR) and FEMA began an aggressive campaign to initiate local hazard mitigation planning:



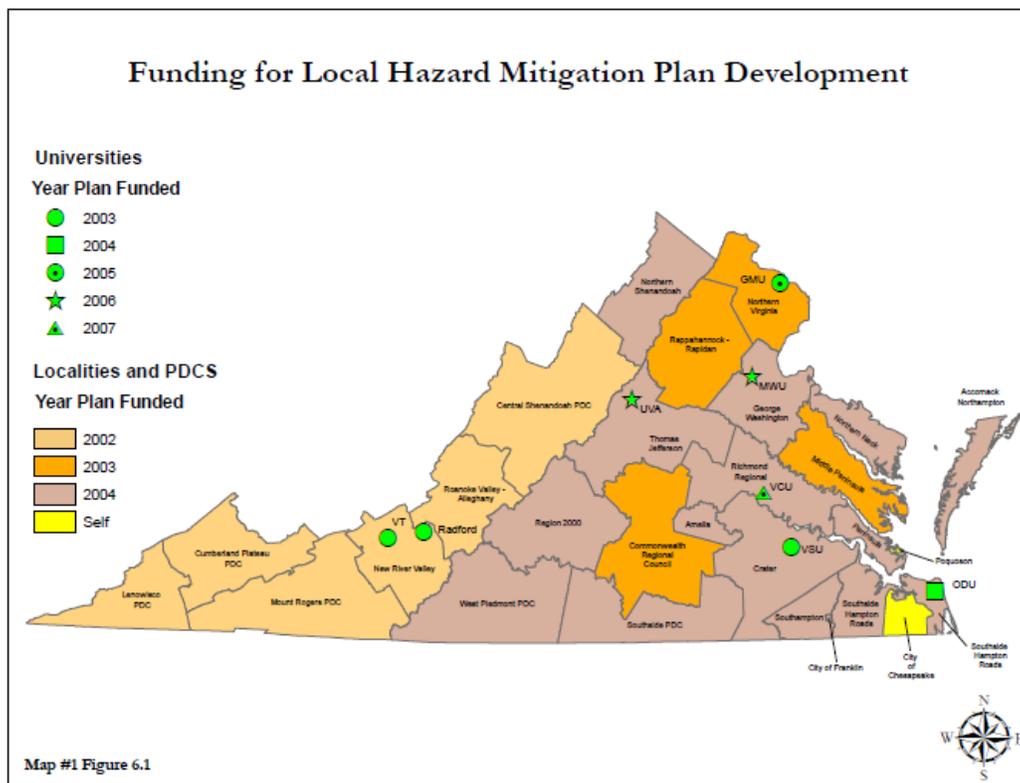
- (1) Staff prioritized local plan development and distributed 2002 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) funds to six regional planning district commissions that encompassed local governments in southwest Virginia, the Roanoke Valley and the central Shenandoah Valley;
- (2) A workshop to provide multi-jurisdictional instruction on how to conduct the local mitigation planning process was created and delivered in March, 2003;
- (3) Local mitigation planning assistance guidance was developed;
- (4) Direct planning and technical assistance to jurisdictions developing plans was provided; and
- (5) Presentations to state professional organizations at conferences and workshops were given that detailed the requirements of DMA2000 and the Commonwealth's efforts to meet those requirements.

A table of all of the DMA2000 meetings, workshops, and presentations from 2002 – 2004 can be found in Appendix C.

6.4 Distribution of Hazard Mitigation Planning Funds

This section has been reviewed and updated to display mitigation funds that have been distributed throughout the Commonwealth for this plan revision.

6.4.1 Funding for Plan Development



The VDEM originally planned to distribute the limited 2002 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) §322 and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) planning funds to regions of the Commonwealth with greater risks of hazard events and/or with dense populations. However, repeated catastrophic flooding in southwest Virginia resulted in three Presidential Disaster Declarations from July 2001 through May 2002. These events elevated the interest of local officials in mitigation. This opportunity led to the funding of initial local plans for the following organizations:

- LENEWISCO Planning District Commission (PDM 2002)
- Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (PDM 2002)
- Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (PDM 2002)
- New River Planning District Commission (FMA 2002)
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (PDM 2002)
- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (PDM 2002)
- Town of Bluefield (VA-DR-1386, 2002)
- Commonwealth Regional Council (Former Piedmont PDC), (VA-DR-1411, 2003)
- Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (VA-DR-1406, 2003)
- City of Chesapeake (Self Funded)
- City of Poquoson (Self Funded)

VDEM supported 2 successful regional plan applications for the FY2003 PDM cycle, they included:

- Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission

In August of 2003, FEMA published guidance for public universities to develop Disaster Resistant University Plans. Disaster Resistant University plans take the hazard mitigation planning process and apply it in a university setting. These plans often involve a building by building analysis resulting in detailed vulnerabilities against potential hazards that may impact a university and its students, staff, and visitors. For the FY2003 PDM funding cycle, VDEM also submitted applications for 5 DRU plans, they were as follows:

- Virginia State University
- Radford University
- Old Dominion University
- Virginia Tech
- George Mason University

Virginia State University, Radford University, and Virginia Tech were all awarded PDM funds for the FY2003 cycle. George Mason University was eventually awarded funds through the FY2005 PDM cycle, and Old Dominion



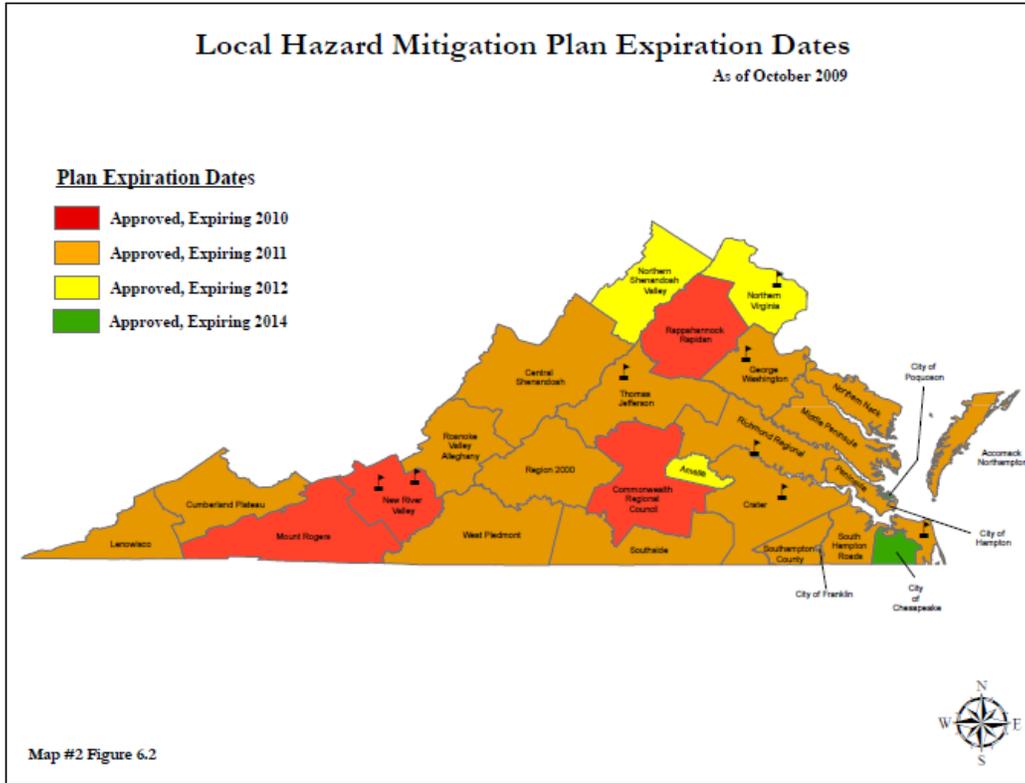
University received state and federal funds through VA DR-1491 Hurricane Isabel. VA DR-1544, PDM 2006, and VA DR-1661 funds supported DRU plans for the University of Mary Washington, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University respectively. As a result there are 8 DRU plans in the Commonwealth.

Following distribution of the FY2003 PDM funds, Hurricane Isabel devastated Virginia on September 18, 2003. The 90-day estimate for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding, along with a commitment from the Commonwealth of Virginia to match HMGP 7% planning monies, allowed the Commonwealth to distribute funds to remaining planning district commissions and regional local coalitions to initiate their \$322 plans. The local plans that were funded through VA-DR-1491, Hurricane Isabel, 7% HMGP planning funds included:

- Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
- Richmond Regional Commission
- CRATER Planning District Commission
- Northern Neck Planning District Commission
- Virginia's Region 2000
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- George Washington Regional Commission (formerly RADCO)
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- The Peninsula HMP Group
- The Southside Hampton Roads HMP Group
- Southside Planning District Commission
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
- City of Franklin
- Southampton County
- Amelia County

State and Federal funds as a result of Hurricane Isabel were integral in local hazard mitigation plan development in Commonwealth, supporting 15 of the 27 local plans. Due to the limited funding for hazard mitigation planning and the competitiveness of PDM, the Commonwealth could not have financially supported the development of all 27 local hazard mitigation plans without VA-DR-1491.





6.4.2 Funding for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Revisions

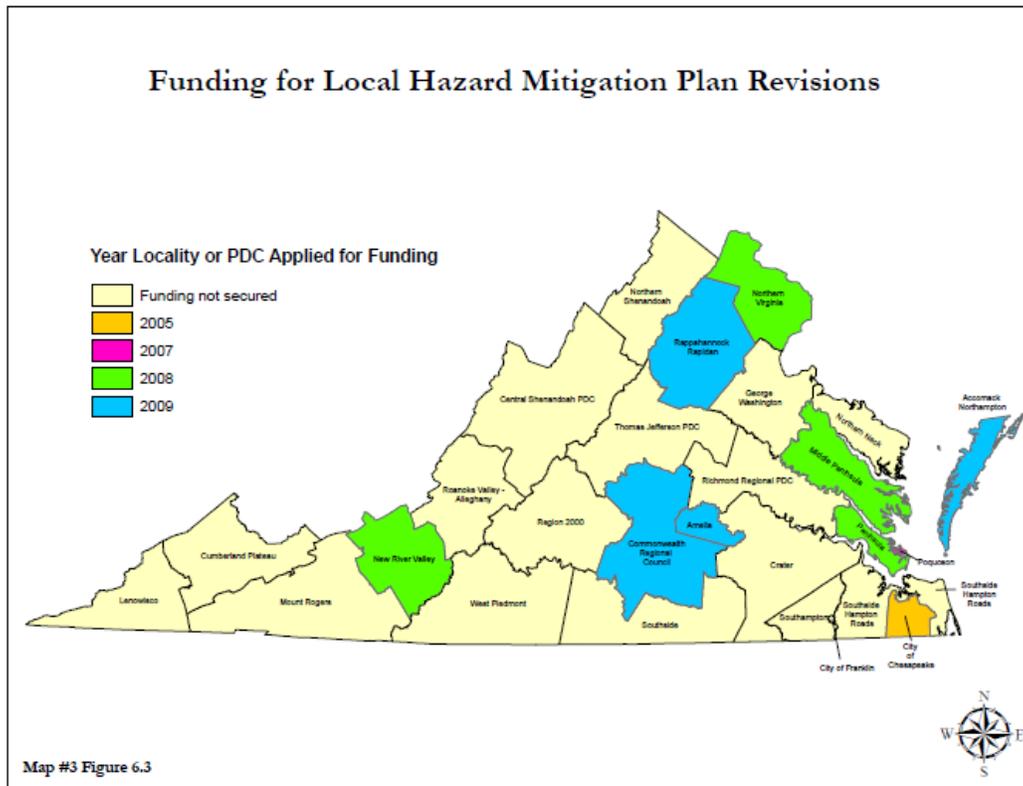
FEMA requires that all local hazard mitigation plans be reviewed, updated, re-approved by FEMA, and re-adopted at the local level every five years to remain eligible for the five HMA grant programs. Figure 6.2 shows the expiration dates of all 27 local hazard mitigation plans in the Commonwealth. At this point in time all of the cities, counties, and the majority of towns are covered by a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. Appendix F displays each regional plan and the jurisdictions that have FEMA approval.

Of the original 27 plans, funding has been secured for 9 plan revisions. They were funded as follows:

- City of Chesapeake (PDM 2005)
- City of Poquoson (FMA 2007)
- Middle Peninsula (FMA 2008, PDM 2009)
- City of Hampton – Peninsula Group (PDM 2008)
- Arlington County – Northern Virginia (L-PDM 2008)
- Radford University – New River Valley (L-PDM 2008)
- Accomack-Northampton (FMA 2009)
- Commonwealth Regional Council (PDM 2009)
- Rappahannock-Rapidan (PDM 2009)

Radford University and the City of Arlington were awarded Congressional Directives through the FY2008 PDM grant cycle. VDEM mitigation staff worked with Radford and Arlington to re-scope their project proposals to be eligible projects and fund two regional plan revisions, New River Valley and Northern Virginia. The funding source is designated with the L-PDM acronym.

6.4.3 Future Funding or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Revisions



For the FY2010 HMA grant cycle 12 planning applications were submitted by PDC's to revise their multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans. With any luck all of these plans will be funded through the FY2010 cycle as most of the plans in the Commonwealth expire in 2011 as indicated in Figure 6.3. Without any planning funding available from open disasters, the competitiveness of the PDM program may keep the Commonwealth from maintaining it's current coverage of local hazard mitigation plans. These applications include :

- Central Shenandoah
- Richmond Regional and CRATER (Joint Application)
- Southside Hampton Roads
- West Piedmont
- Region 2000
- George Washington
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

- Mount Rogers
- Cumberland Plateau
- Northern Neck
- Thomas Jefferson
- Franklin and Southampton County

6.4.4 Overall Summary of Funding for Local Plans

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Commonwealth of Virginia, and local planning grant sub-recipients have contributed close to \$4 Million dollars to develop and revise local hazard mitigation plans in the Commonwealth. This displays the commitment of the federal government, the state, and localities to effectively identify local risks and develop cost-effective actions to reduce those risks. For examples of successful mitigation projects in the Commonwealth please refer to Appendix 11. For mitigation success stories, and Loss Avoidance Studies please refer to Appendix 6. A distribution of annual funds and cost shares can be found on table 6.1. Note that historically the state has provided sum-sufficient funds to assist only when there is a presidentially declared disaster, and the HMGP is available.

Table 6.1 Funding for Local Plans and DRUs

Funding Source	Local Share	State Share	Federal Share	Award Amount
FMA 2002	\$12,431	\$0	\$37,292	\$49,722
PDM 2002	\$99,578	\$0	\$298,735	\$398,313
HMGP 1386	\$2,655	\$10,620	\$39,825	\$53,100
HMGP 1406	\$6,173	\$24,691	\$92,593	\$123,457
HMGP 1411	\$5,696	\$22,785	\$85,443	\$113,924
PDM 2003	\$65,633	\$0	\$181,500	\$247,133
HMGP 1491	\$68,643	\$274,571	\$1,029,641	\$1,372,855
PDM 2005	\$105,895	\$0	\$317,685	\$423,580
HMGP 1544	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$75,000	\$100,000
PDM 2006	\$50,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$200,000
HMGP 1661	\$12,686	\$50,744	\$190,291	\$253,721
FMA 2007	\$8,208	\$0	\$24,623	\$32,831
FMA 2008	\$27,449	\$0	\$51,107	\$75,827
PDM 2008	\$69,750	\$0	\$209,250	\$279,000
FMA 2009	\$13,700	\$0	\$41,100	\$54,800
PDM 2009	\$43,876	\$0	\$131,628	\$175,504
Total	\$597,373	\$403,411	\$2,955,713	\$3,953,767



6.4.5 Prioritizing Funding for Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

It is essential to prioritize funding for local hazard mitigation plan revisions to ensure that all local jurisdictions that are at risk remain eligible to apply for funds through FEMA's HMA programs. The prioritization criteria from the previous plan were reviewed and the following criteria will be used to prioritize local hazard mitigation plan revisions for HMA grants for FY2010 and on. For the prioritization of non-planning grants, a benefit cost analysis is performed and those projects that provide the most benefits versus the cost will receive a higher priority. An example of how FY2010 HMA applications were prioritized can be found in Appendix L.

- A. **Expiration Date:** It is VDEM's goal that all local jurisdictions on the Commonwealth remain eligible for HMA funds to reduce risk and assist in maintaining critical societal functions. Local hazard mitigation plans that expire sooner will be given priority over plans that expire at a later date.
- B. **Hazard History and Probability:** Localities/Regions that are located in a geographic area that has experienced a long history of events and damages will more than likely experience similar events in the near to distant future. These jurisdictions are therefore more vulnerable to damages from future events and therefore should be given priority over jurisdictions that do not have as high of a risk.
- C. **Population and Population Growth:** Localities/Regions that have a higher population are at a higher risk of injuries and fatalities should a disaster occur. Also where there is greater population there is more infrastructures that could potentially sustain damages. The Commonwealth's mitigation vision is to reduce the impacts of hazards on humans as well as economic and natural resources throughout the state.
- D. **Regional Plans:** Multi-Jurisdictional or regional plans are more cost effective methods of developing hazard mitigation plans. With limited mitigation planning staff at the state level, it is important the local plans continue to remain regionalized to the extent possible.
- E. **Plan Implementation:** To determine which localities/regions have a higher need for a local hazard mitigation plan can be determined by how much of the plan has been implemented. If localities/regions are actively participating in reducing risk through HMA grants or other funding sources then they will receive a higher priority than those localities/regions that are not.
- F. **Recent Disaster (HMGP Only):** The jurisdiction/region in which a recent disaster declaration has occurred will have a higher priority for receiving funds to revise the hazard mitigation plan that those jurisdictions/regions



outside of the impacted area. If the jurisdiction/region impacted already has secured funding for plan revision, then the closest jurisdictions/region outside of the impacted area that have not secured funding will receive highest priority.

- G. Areas with Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss: Areas with higher numbers of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties are an indicator of repetitive damages. These locations will be targeted for mitigation projects through HMA grants to reduce the amount of insurance claims against the NFIP.
- H. Budget and Scope of Work: The budget and scope of work are an important factor in the national Pre-Disaster Mitigation review. It is important that the state review the budget and scope of work in the same light as VDEM will be managing these grants on the state level.

6.5 Providing Support for Plan Revisions

As well as assisting in providing financial support for local hazard mitigation plan revisions, VDEM mitigation planning staff has been working with each local plan since 2007 to encourage plan implementation and to meet annually to discuss progress of mitigation action items. An interactive Hazard Mitigation Toolkit was developed by VDEM mitigation planning staff and distributed to each of the 27 local and regional plan sponsors during the fall of 2007 and the winter of 2008. The toolkit includes a combination of FEMA and VDEM planning guidance as well as HMA grant guidance. There are various worksheets, FAQ's, and examples to provide the user with a "one-stop-shop" for local mitigation planning. This toolkit also facilitates plan implementation and provides a reporting mechanism for annual strategy status updates for plan revision as required by the 44 CFR Part 201.6.

VDEM mitigation planning staff then contacted each PDC point of contact to schedule a meeting with their steering committees to present and discuss the toolkit. Each year VDEM sends out a revised toolkit and again reaches out to set up meetings if necessary to discuss the process. A listing of these meetings and presentations can be found in Chapter 8, pages 2-3. Not only has the toolkit helped local jurisdictions keep track of mitigation activities since the plan was approved, it also allows the plan to be a living document encouraging local and regional committees to meet annually and discuss potential plan updates. The 2009 version of the toolkit can be found on VDEM's website:
http://www.vaemergency.com/recover/mitigation/mitigation_toolkit.cfm.



6.6 Providing technical assistance

Development and update of local §322 plans and DRU plans is supported by two mitigation planning coordinators within the Recovery and Mitigation Division of the Department of Emergency Management. This support includes:

- Participation and presentations in local meetings and conferences;
- Availability by phone for consultation, trouble-shooting and technical assistance;
- Development of draft plan outlines for use at local and regional levels;
- Compilation of hazard data at the state level where possible for distribution to and use by DRU staff and local plan contacts (for consistency and to kick start the hazard assessment process where possible);
- Provision of local training workshops for local plan Steering Committee members and planning agency and DRU staff;
- Cross-walk review of draft plan sections and final plan prior to submission to FEMA Region III for final approval;
- Provision of support to local jurisdictions and universities during the plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation and update process;
- Support of local and regional contacts in developing HMA applications, grants management and project closeout;
- Provide assistance in improving local risk assessment information and providing GIS support where appropriate.

Through the generous Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP), FEMA Region III supported the Virginia local planning effort through provision of technical assistance, training workshops and cross-walk review as described above. URS Corporation was the lead agency for this assistance, but Dewberry and Greenhorne and O'Meara augmented URS support. This cooperative effort has been essential to the successful completion, approval and adoption of local plans. Since the Commonwealth has not had a federal declaration since VA-DR-1661 in September of 2006, HMTAP resources have not been available for local plan revisions. However, mitigation planning coordinators have been active in supporting the successful completion, approval, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Information on the revised HIRA from Chapter 3 will be made available to the local plans as they go through the 5 year revision process. GIS files are being organized and will be made available to the local planning contacts for integration into the local plan revisions.

VDEM mitigation planning staff is in the process of developing a knowledge base of the FEMA HAZUS software. VDEM mitigation planning staff has taken an introductory course, HAZUS Basic HM course, and the flood module and are



scheduled to take the hurricane course at the Emergency Management Institute. As a result of the revised HIRA in Chapter 3, mitigation planning coordinators see the benefit of the software and hopefully in the near future can be to provide technical assistance to local planning committees.

6.7 Local hazard mitigation planning workshops

On March 7, 2003, VDEM presented a one-day hazard mitigation planning workshop in Radford, Virginia, for the Southwest Virginia planning district commissions and the Town of Bluefield that were currently developing mitigation plans. The workshops compressed the FEMA two-day local workshop into a customized Virginia format that could be presented within one-day.

During fall, 2003, the VDEM Training Program presented four additional local mitigation planning workshops using the conventional FEMA materials and a two-day format. These workshops were conducted in Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and Richmond during late 2003. Planning and emergency management staff attended these workshops, which were conducted following Hurricane Isabel. Similar to the interest in Southwest Virginia following the 2001 and 2002 floods, interest in mitigation planning was high for coastal and urban localities following Hurricane Isabel.

As the remaining communities in the Commonwealth initiated mitigation planning efforts, VDEM and FEMA presented additional planning workshops. The 2004 and 2005 workshops were supported by a Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP) contract through FEMA Region III. These new sessions were presented in two one-day sessions across the Commonwealth. The first one-day session addressed the beginning of the planning process through the completion of the HIRA. The second one-day session was provided once during fall 2004 and repeated three times in March, 2005 to those localities and planning district commissions with completed HIRAs. The second workshop covered the development of mitigation strategies through plan implementation and adoption.

More recently, VDEM mitigation staff revised and taught the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop for Local Governments which was designed for those responsible for developing and/or implementing mitigation projects. The Stafford Act Section 322 requirements were addressed, including the components of All-hazard Mitigation Plan development. Hazard mitigation principles and Virginia mitigation success stories and best practices were also covered in this course. The two two-day courses took place on February 21-22, 2006 in Newport News and on March 7-8, 2006 in Roanoke.

On March 7-8, 2007 VDEM mitigation staff taught the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop in Richmond with 33 students in attendance. 2008 saw two workshops in Richmond on May 13-14 with 26 in attendance and in Fairfax on June 16-17 with 24 in attendance. In 2009 one workshop was taught in Fairfax on June 2-3 with 25 in attendance, and back to back workshops in Richmond on



September 15 – 18th with a total of 45 in attendance. There are tentatively four Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshops on the VDEM training calendar for 2010 located in Tazewell County, City of Roanoke, City of Waynesboro, and King George County.

6.8 Local mitigation planning assistance guides

Several training aides have been distributed to those engaged in local mitigation planning:



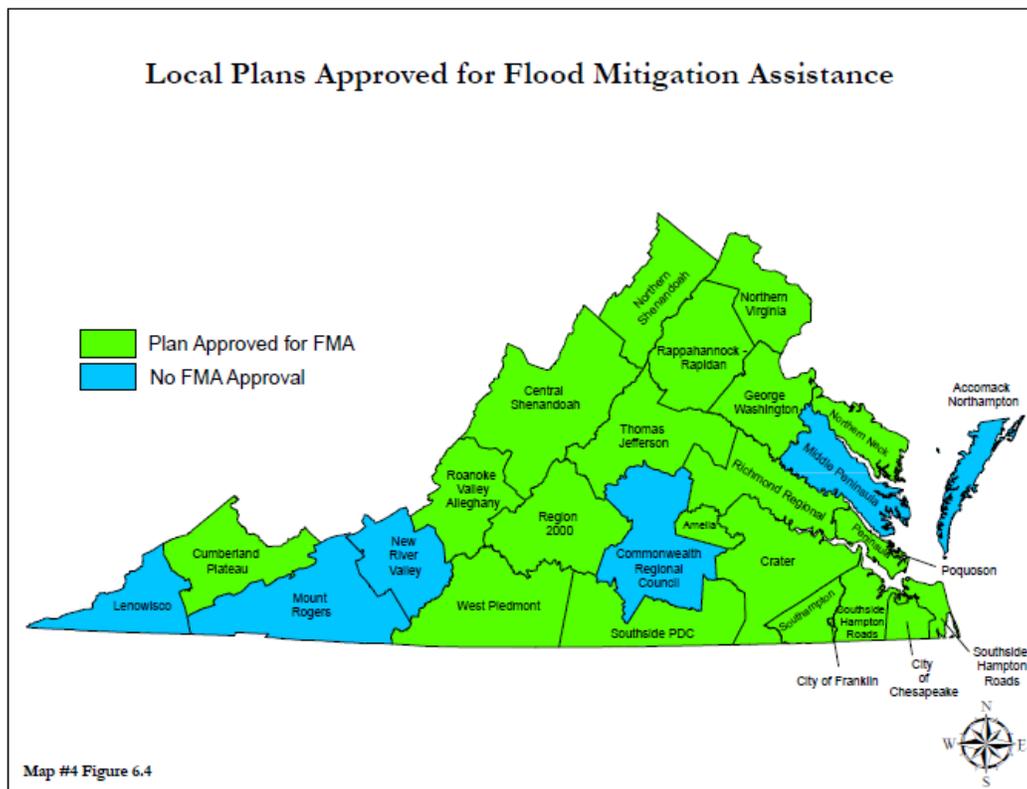
The primary training aide has been the *How to Guide* Series developed by FEMA. These have been critical tools vital to plan development, in particular in hazard identification and risk assessment. This series has been distributed widely to those engaged in local planning in printed, digital and CD formats. These documents are also incorporated into the Virginia Hazard Mitigation Toolkit.

6.9 State Support of Local Mitigation Projects

Most local hazard mitigation projects have been funded through the disaster-related HMGP. The Mitigation Administration Plan outlines the process used to solicit and select HMGP-funded projects. A copy of the current plan is provided in Appendix K. Similar procedures are used for the 4 annual HMA programs, but not within the context of a post-disaster recovery effort. For more information on state support for local mitigation projects please see Chapter 8, pages 2-7.

The Commonwealth has been supportive of development of Flood Mitigation Plans to support eligibility of Flood Mitigation Assistance grant projects for more than ten years. With the inception of all-hazard mitigation planning, many local and regional §322 plans were cross-walked and approved to meet FMA plan standards per §78.5 of 44 CFR Flood Mitigation Plan Development. In fact, FY2007, 2008, and 2009 funds have been approved through FMA for the city of Poquoson, Middle Peninsula, and Accomack-Northampton PDC to support hazard mitigation plan revisions for flooding.

Virginia communities with approved Flood Mitigation Assistance Plans are shown in Figure 6.4. VDEM mitigation staff will also be monitoring local annexations in which local HIRAs would need to be revised due political boundaries changing and potentially increased or decreased vulnerabilities.



6.10 State Review of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

VDEM mitigation planning staff was very involved in the initial development of the 27 local hazard mitigation plans from the kick-off meeting through the FEMA final approval. VDEM mitigation planning staff continues to provide support for plan updates, the cities of Chesapeake and Poquoson each just went through the plan revision process and received FEMA approval upon the initial submittal. VDEM will not approve or submit a plan to FEMA for review unless it meets all of the FEMA and VDEM local hazard mitigation planning requirements. VDEM requires that all local hazard mitigation plans include flood maps and maps associated with any high ranking hazard. VDEM also requires a local capability assessment. The FEMA/VDEM crosswalk for local hazard mitigation plans can be found in Appendix N.

6.11 Incorporating Local Mitigation Plan Results

As outlined in Chapter 2, one of the first actions after securing funds for this plan revision was to upload all of the local hazard mitigation plan information to CGIT. An extensive review of the local HIRAs and capability assessments were performed and are included throughout chapters 3 and 4. While there were shortcomings in the local plan incorporate, strategy P-4 in Chapter 5 outlines the development of local mitigation worksheets for local planners to complete along with the submittal of the final plan. One of the biggest issues with local HIRAs

were that they were each done differently. These worksheets will give local planners a guide to how we want the information presented. The idea is to make it a pilot program for the FY2009 grants and to see how effective it is. It will then be determined if the worksheets will be a VDEM requirement as a part of the grant award.

6.12 FEMA GAP Analysis – March 2008

In March of 2008 FEMA Region III with assistance of URS developed a GAP analysis for local hazard mitigation plan updates in the Commonwealth and other Region III states. This analysis was to give FEMA Region III and FEMA Headquarters an understanding of the capabilities of the Region II states to support local hazard mitigation updates and also to identify any deficiencies the states would have. The result would be recommendations for each state to take action to correct those deficiencies and “close the gap” between what resources are available, and what resources will be needed to support local hazard mitigation plan revisions. The report can be found in Appendix L, a summary of the findings can be found below.

The GAP analysis consisted of a review of the following information for hazard mitigation planning in the Commonwealth:

- Virginia’s processes and resources for the continued development and update of local mitigation plans and the State’s ability to support these efforts through funding and technical assistance
- Integration of the State Plan with local plans
- Involvement of State agencies and interdepartmental coordination
- Technical assistance and outreach efforts for review and development of new or updated local hazard mitigation plans
- VDEM’s update and review process
- Adoption and plan maintenance procedures
- Timeframes and schedules required for local plan updates and the State’s review process
- Prioritization for funding
- Success Stories

The analysis identifies specific needs and recommendations regarding the information listed above. In summary, the Commonwealth’s needs involved increased funding for local hazard mitigation plans as well as increased technical assistance for local risk assessments. VDEM mitigation staff is aware of the funding limitations for plan revisions and the competitiveness of the PDM grant. PDCs are being made aware of the competitiveness of the funds, as most of the



local plans were funded through HMGP. VDEM mitigation staff have been to the national PDM review, and are working with local planning contacts to make their planning applications as strong and competitive as possible.

Another identified area that needs improvement is ensuring that all jurisdictions adopt the local hazard mitigation plans after they are approved by FEMA. While all cities and counties adopted their original plans, not all of the incorporated towns ended up adopting. VDEM mitigation planning staff have encouraged all jurisdictions to participate in the entire planning process so that when it comes time to adopt, it will be a product that the locality will be familiar with. There is also a foreseen issue with getting all of the local jurisdictions in a multi-jurisdictional plan to adopt the plan within one year of the first local adoption. When applying for HMA grants we are making sure that the PDCs know that their localities need to adopt around the same timeframe.

