Section 3

Overview of the Prince George's County & City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

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This content is subject to change in response to guidance provided at the county, state, and/or federal levels. Updates will be posted after changes are finalized. Please consult OEM and MDEM for the most current information.

Overview of the Prince George's County & City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

- **What This Section Covers**:
  - What is the HMP
  - Why it matters for municipalities
  - How participation works
  - What municipalities are expected to do
  - How participation ties directly to grant eligibility

The County Hazard Mitigation Plan: What you're Actually Working With

Its purpose:

- Identifies risks, vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions
- Ensures long-term strategy for reducing hazard impacts
- Is required for eligibility for FEMA mitigation funding

Why it matters locally:

- Keeps municipalities eligible for FEMA funding
- Provides shared data and analysis you can reuse
- Acts as a source document for grants, budgets, and council discussions

HMP Timeline, Expiration & Adoption

Planned Timeline

Phase 0: Pre-work (Now-mid-2026)	• Data cleanup, participation commitments, schedule setup.
Phase 1: Kickoff (mid/late 2026)	• Planning team established; outreach begins.
Phase 2: Draft Development (2027)	• Risk updates, mitigation actions, capability assessment.
Phase 3: State Review (late 2027/early 2028)	• Initial review & revisions with MDEM.
Phase 4: FEMA Review + Adoption (early/mid 2028)	• Approvable pending adoption → local adoptions.
Phase 5: Final Approval (before Sept 2028)	• Valid for five years.

Municipal Participation Options

Municipalities may:

- Participate in the County-led HMP update (recommended)
- Develop their own standalone HMP (more resource-intensive)
- Share info informally (does not confer eligibility)

Open to all 27 municipalities.

Why Participate in the County-Led Hazard Mitigation Plan

Strategic Benefits

- Reduces duplicative planning and workload
- Provides access to County GIS, hazard data, templates, and subject matter experts

Funding Benefits

- Provides eligibility for FEMA mitigation programs
- Allows municipalities to submit projects independently

Cost Benefits

- County oversees plan development
- Municipality contributes staff time, local data, & local involvement

Example Outputs Municipalities Can Leverage

Table 3. City of Laurel 2023-2028 Mitigation Actions

Action Number	Action	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Action Lead	Timeframe	Priority
	Prevention							
L-1	Partner with federal agencies, the state, and non-governmental organizations to utilize available technical assistance to translate identified risks into mitigation projects, especially for benefit-cost analyses.		X		X	Office of Emergency Management	Ongoing	Medium
L-2	Integrate mitigation plan requirements and actions into other appropriate planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive plans and capital improvement plans.				X	Office of Emergency Management	Ongoing	High
L-3	Adopt the most recent published edition of the I-Codes (e.g., International Building Code, International Residential Code).				X	Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services	Short-term	High

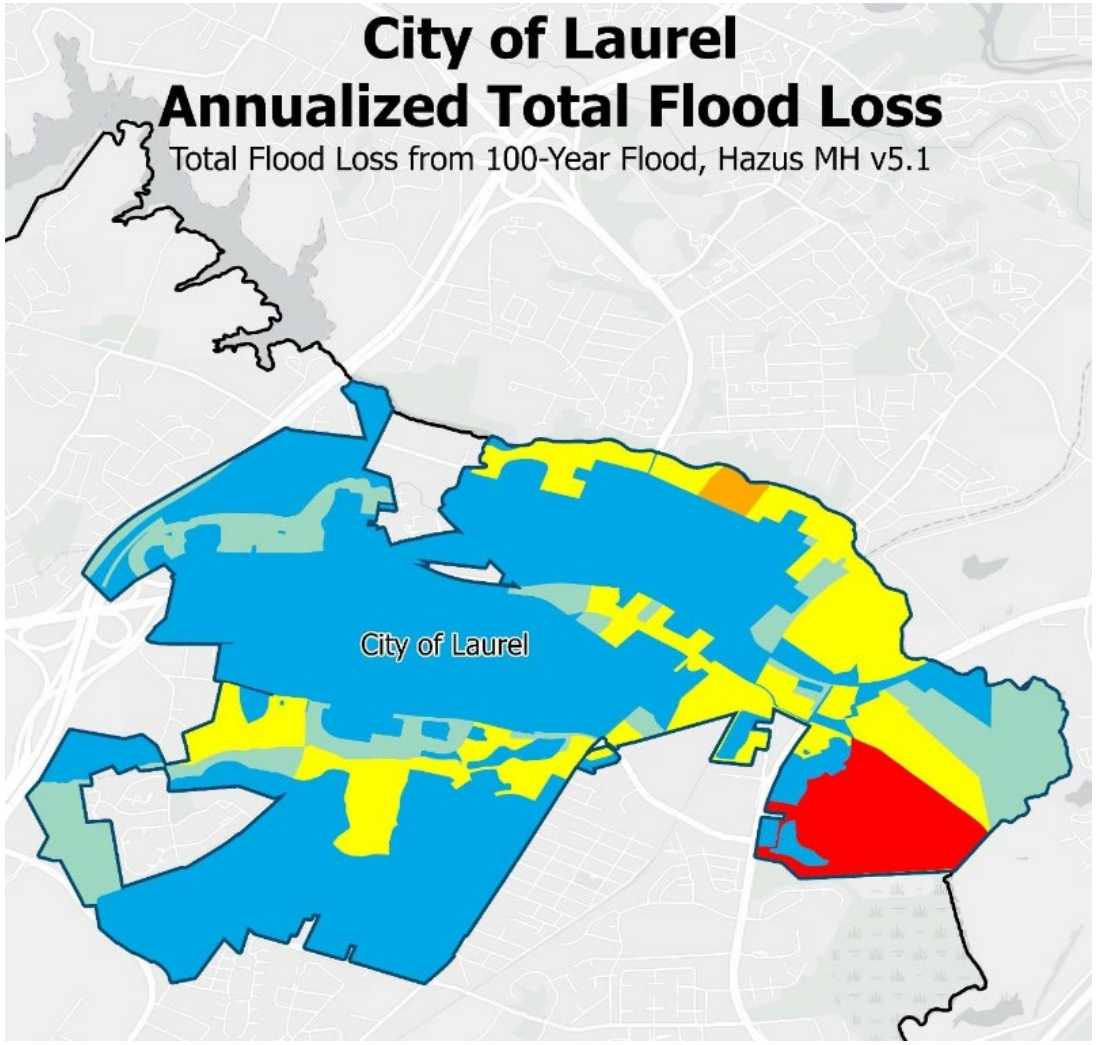
B. City of Laurel Capability Assessment

The City of Laurel uses Maryland city management programs, policies and procedures outlined in a series of City Council Ordinances.

B.1. City Government Overview

The City of Laurel, Maryland is governed by a Mayor and City Council form of government in accordance with its Charter, adopted on April 4, 1870. The elected officials consist of the Mayor, serving a four-year term, and five Council members who serve two-year terms. The Mayor and City Council provide community leadership, develop policies to guide the City in delivering services and achieving community goals, and encourage citizen awareness and involvement:

- **Office of the Mayor**: The Mayor is the Chief Executive of the City with all the powers necessary



Required Municipal Participation (What is Mandatory)

To be a participating jurisdiction, municipalities must:

- Attend required meetings (or follow up if absent)
- Provide local data (hazards, facilities, actions)
- Review and comment on drafts
- Adopt the final plan locally

Municipal Role by Planning Phase

Key Requirements

Pre-work & kickoff	• Identify a primary POC + backup • Confirm internal departments involved
Risk & capability updates	• Provide info on local hazard sites and issues • Verify critical facilities and known vulnerabilities
Mitigation actions	• Submit 1–3 candidate actions or projects • Identify constraints and next steps
Draft review & adoption	• Review and comment on municipal sections • Secure council adoption and transmit documentation

Planning Process Checklists

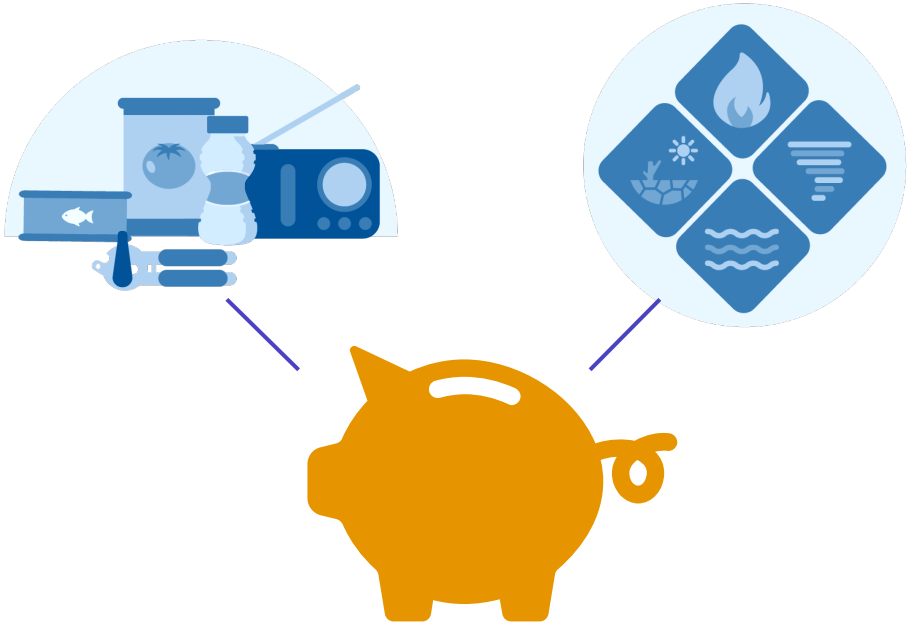
MDEM developing participation criteria.

Will outline minimum requirements for:

- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Data provision
- ✓ Action identification
- ✓ Review and approvals

More details to come once state guidance is finalized.

Participation = Grant Eligibility



To apply for FEMA mitigation funding, municipalities must:

- Participate in the HMP update **or** have their own approved plan
- Adopt the finalized plan
- Ensure projects align with documented risks and actions

Why this matters:

- FEMA will not fund projects from non-participating jurisdictions
- Higher-scoring applications are explicitly tied to HMP risk assessments & actions