

CHAPTER 7

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter outlines how the plan will be adopted, implemented, evaluated, and updated over time by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), participating localities, and special districts. It also describes how the public will continue to be involved in the hazard mitigation planning process.

ADOPTION

Following FEMA review and approval, all 25 participating localities and special districts will adopt the 2026 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan through official resolutions. The adoption resolutions can be found in Appendix A – Adoption Resolutions.

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Upon adoption, the first step in implementing the plan will be to integrate mitigation strategies and projects into the local and regional plans, policies, and procedures. Integrating the plan into daily operations maintains mitigation efforts at the forefront of governmental operations with the goal of reducing risk and devastation from identified threats and hazards.

The CSPDC encourages participating localities to integrate the Hazard Mitigation Plan's goals and actions into other relevant local planning documents, including:

- Comprehensive plans;
- Zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes;
- Capital improvement program budgeting;
- Emergency operations or management plans; and
- Disaster recovery plans.

Successful plan implementation and integration depend on the capacity of each jurisdiction. Higher-capacity jurisdictions, typically counties and cities with more staff, technical expertise, and financial resources, will fully embed mitigation into their departmental planning and policies. Their role includes supporting smaller, lower-capacity communities through shared data, resources, and staff expertise.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to assisting the 25 localities and special districts adopt and integrate the updated plan into their plans, policies, and procedures, the CSPDC will endeavor to:

- Implement the regional mitigation strategies identified in Chapter 6;
- Provide technical assistance to localities implementing local strategies upon request;
- Coordinate multi-jurisdictional projects that involve multiple localities;
- Monitor funding opportunities and inform localities about available grants to finance mitigation projects; and
- Facilitate the monitoring, maintenance, review, and update of the plan.

MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

The CSHMP Steering Committee will be responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan. This group includes representatives from local government and other relevant organizations throughout the region and is staffed by the CSPDC. If the Steering Committee dissolves, each local jurisdiction will be responsible for maintaining and updating the plan.

EVALUATON & ANNUAL REVIEW

The CSPDC will coordinate an annual review to evaluate the plan's effectiveness with each participating locality and special district. This review will involve the following evaluation:

- Assessing the implementation status of mitigation actions (e.g., complete, in progress, not started, or cancelled) and describing any progress.
- Identifying any obstacles or challenges to implementing the action.
- Outlining any additional steps for completing the project.

Prior to each five-year comprehensive update, CSPDC staff will synthesize the annual findings, summarize progress on actions and projects, identify needed plan updates or revisions, and make recommendations for improving future mitigation efforts.

PLAN UPDATES

A comprehensive plan update will be conducted every five years and submitted to each local government, VDEM, and FEMA as required. Between five-year updates, the plan may be revised if:

- New local, state, or federal regulations impact the plan
- A Presidentially-declared disaster affects the region
- A significant change occurs in a community's vulnerability to natural hazards
- The Steering Committee identifies a critical need for revision

All significant changes to the plan will include opportunities for public input.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation was an integral part of the development of this Plan and will continue through the course of its existence. Activities to involve the public in the implementation, maintenance, evaluation and revision of the Plan may include:

- **Plan Accessibility:** The adopted plan will be available on the CSPDC and participating localities' websites, public libraries, and local government offices.
- **Public Notification and Outreach:** Announcements regarding updates to the CSHMP will be made through local newspapers, news channels, and CSPDC newsletters. The CSPDC will facilitate public input opportunities such as surveys, open houses, or workshops in key areas of the region.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** The CSPDC will provide contact information on its website for citizens to submit comments, questions, or suggestions about the plan at any time.