5.2 LOCAL PLAN INTEGRATION

The 44 CFR 201.4(c)(4)(ii) requires a description of the States process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the State Mitigation Plan.

5.2.1 INITIAL PLANNING PROMOTION EFFORTS

The process followed to this point to ensure locals had information and funding necessary to develop a local mitigation plan included extensive outreach and education efforts by the State EMA. The Project Impact Program provided the initial source of funding for local mitigation plan development. Three counties and 2 municipalities began development of their local mitigation plans with this funding source. At the time the funds were allotted the State of Ohio employed a Project Impact Officer who was responsible for the coordination of the Project Impact Program within each jurisdiction. As a result, each jurisdiction received extensive support, resources and education when developing their plans.

PDM-02 funds were also used as an initial source of funding for the local planning effort in Ohio. Of the 85 counties invited to participate in the funding process, 37 applied and were approved. Presentations and workshops on plan development, 44 CFR requirements, and the location of resources were provided by the Mitigation Planning Section and the PDM Program Coordinator to all counties approved for the PDM-02 funds. Invitations were extended to all counties that did not apply for the funds to attend and participate in the presentations provided in other counties.

Additionally, PDM-03 funds were used to support the local planning effort. All the counties in Ohio that did not receive Project Impact or PDM-02 funds were encouraged to apply for the PDM-03 funding. Of the 48 counties invited to apply for the funds, 18 applied and were approved. Again, training workshops and presentations were provided to all 18 counties that received the PDM-03 funds with invitations to the counties that did not apply for Project Impact Funds, PDM-02 or PDM-03 funds.

In addition to PDM funding HMGP funding has been allotted for local plan development. Thirteen counties and 4 communities have been funded for local mitigation plan development through the HMGP program since disaster 1390. As with previous funding awards, training workshops and presentations were provided to 17 jurisdictions that received HMGP funds for plan development. In addition, invitations were sent to all non-planning jurisdictions to participate in the workshops and presentations provided.

As future funding becomes available the State will contact each county or jurisdiction that is a non-planning jurisdiction to encourage their participation in the planning process.

5.2.2 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The state of Ohio was designated a Managing State in 1998. That designation provided the State the ability to review and certify local plans. As a result, the state of Ohio requires that all local mitigation plans be submitted to the OEMA, Mitigation
Branch. The local plans will be logged into a queue upon arrival at the OEMA. The State will review the draft document and provide feedback to the local communities to ensure compliance with the 44 CFR 201.6 criterion within 45 days of the arrival. When the final documents are submitted to the Mitigation Branch comments will be reviewed and, presuming all issues are addressed, the State will certify it within 45 days. State certified document are then forwarded to FEMA for approval. Once the State has received approval of the document from FEMA, the State notifies the local jurisdiction in writing of the approval, when the update of the plan should be conducted, and the procedures that should be followed during the update process.

5.2.3 LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT TRACKING PROCESS

The State of Ohio has developed an Access database that identifies each local mitigation plan that has been certified and the Region the plan is located in. Additionally, the database provides a list of mitigation actions identified in each individual plan, the hazards each action addresses, and the estimated cost of said action. See appendix D. The State has input every action identified in all of the certified plans to this point. This list of local actions has been referenced in the development of the States goals and actions.

As additional plans are certified and as updates are reviewed, the State intends to update this database within 180 days and will continue to reference said database to ensure the state plan reflects the needs of the locals. Additionally, the State will refer to the database as a source of project identification following a disaster. If a project is not identified in the database it will not be considered for funding unless the risk and vulnerability assessments and the mitigation action sections of the local mitigation plan are revised to support and show the need for the desired mitigation project.

5.2.4 ONGOING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Ohio EMA, Mitigation Branch has continued to encourage non-planning counties and municipalities to participate in the mitigation planning process. Letters have been sent to all non-participating counties offering guidance and assistance in the identification of a planning process, education on the 44 CFR requirements, and identification of resources. Offers and outreach of this sort will continue until all counties in Ohio are in compliance with the 44 CFR 201.6 criterion.

Following the certification of the original counties that chose to participate in the planning process the mitigation outreach and education effort will be expanded to include workshops and presentations that address improving and identifying additional local mitigation goals and actions, how to ensure implementation of existing goals and actions, how to identify funding sources to assist in the implementation of goals and actions, as well as what the States procedures are for plan updates on a 5-year basis.