

E. Facilitate a Community CRS Assessment

Bergmann will conduct an assessment for documenting current activities and calculating possible credit points in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) for one interested local government in Albany County. CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). We will develop a methodology in order to select the community that stands to benefit most from CRS participation and is likely to qualify for at least CRS Class 9.

Our CRS assessment will utilize the CRS Quick Check. The Quick Check is a tool developed by FEMA that helps estimate credit for a community by examining the most common CRS activities (elements that have been credited for at least 75% of the CRS communities in the country). The selected community will receive a Quick Check assessment that will highlight strengths in floodplain management and opportunities to expand flood protection activities, such as working collaboratively and sharing resources.

The Bergmann team will address each of the tasks outlined in the RFP. We understand that New York State has low participation in the CRS due in part to the administrative cost of participating, which can be burdensome for towns and villages with few permanent staff. To decrease the administrative burden to participate in the CRS, we will examine ways that regional cooperation and coordination might assist several communities with technical assistance in the development of applications and achieve an economy of scale.

F. Conceptual Designs and Preliminary Engineering *(Add Alternate)*

The Bergmann team will work with County staff and the project advisory committee to identify a small number of priority projects from the resiliency projects developed in Task 8, for which conceptual designs and/or preliminary engineering will be developed by our technical project team. We will determine project feasibility based on factors such as benefit-cost ratio (e.g., flood risk reduction, impacts on socially vulnerable communities, co-benefits, etc.), compatibility with available state and federal funding programs, and inspection and maintenance activities.

CRS Program

As of August 2020, 1506 communities in New York participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Of these communities, 35 (or 2%) participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). The Town of Greece in Monroe County currently has the highest rating in New York State, which is a Class 6. Bergmann will use the CRS Quick Check to determine which community in Albany County is best suited for participation. Many counties in New York State engage in activities that assist communities with planning, code enforcement, natural resource conservation, emergency management, and other functions, and this assessment will facilitate our team's development of an action plan for the community to meet the administrative requirements and long-term maintenance of the CRS program and propose ideas for regional and/or intermunicipal coordination and collaboration.