



2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Regional Strategy & Local Adoption



October 13, 2026 | Town Council Meeting



FEMA



PLAN OVERVIEW & PURPOSE: 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

1 Regional Risk Reduction Strategy.

Serves as the regional strategy to **reduce** long-term risks to:

-  • Life,
 -  • Property,
 -  • Infrastructure,
 -  • Environment,
 -  • Economy
- from natural & human-caused hazards.

3 Federal Grant Eligibility.

 FEMA-approved plans are required for local governments to remain eligible for Federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

2 Plan Update & Compliance.

A 5-year update to the 2020 Plan.



Fulfills Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 & FEMA regulations (44 CFR §201.6).



4 Adoption & Approval.

Adoption is the final stage, required to receive FEMA approval.



2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

REGIONAL STRATEGY & LOCAL ADOPTION

1. COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY.



Led by LCOG, uniting four counties & municipalities.

2. COMPREHENSIVE RISK.



Data-driven analysis of natural & human-caused risks.

- Historic Occurrences
- Vulnerability Markers
- Critical Infrastructure Mapping

3. EQUITY INDICATORS.



Identifying populations & critical facilities at greatest risk.

4. FEMA COMPLIANCE.



Actions to secure federal mitigation funding eligibility (HMGP, FMA, BRIC).

ADOPT 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HMP.



Town Council Action: Resolution Adoption – October 13, 2026.

June 27, 2026:
Plan Expires (2020 Plan)

May 2026:
Draft Final Plan Complete

Oct 13, 2026:
Adopt 2026 Plan

CORE GOALS: 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



1. PROTECT LIVES & SAFETY.

Minimize risks to people and community health.



2. MINIMIZE PROPERTY & INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE.

Fortify buildings, utilities, and public assets.



3. PROTECT AT-RISK & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

Integrate social vulnerability in planning.



4. SAFEGUARD THE LOCAL ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT.

Maintain business continuity and natural systems.



5. MAINTAIN FEDERAL GRANT ELIGIBILITY.

Ensure access to HMGP, FMA, BRIC funding.



6. ESTABLISH A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL ACTION.

Coordinate efforts across counties and towns.



Early 2023

WORK BEGAN:
HMP Update Grant
Efforts Start.



Late 2023 - Early 2024

GRANT SUBMISSIONS
HMGP & BRIC grants
submitted to FEMA.

BRIC:
Suspend.
(Simplified)



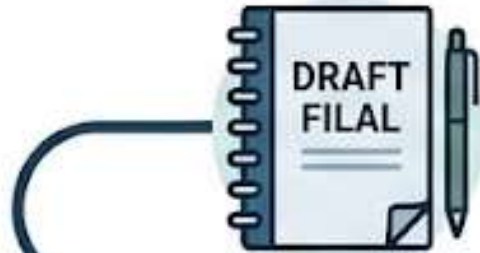
Late 2025

GRANT AWARDED
Awarded HMGP grant.
HMP update process
begins.



Early 2026

PLAN PROCESS
Completed draft final plan.
Public, Stakeholder &
Steering Committee review.



Early 2026

PLAN DRAFT COMPLETE
Completed draft final
plan. Public, Stakeholder &
Steering Committee review.



June 27, 2026

2020 PLAN EXPIRES
Current Plan expires.
Multi-county
scope ends.

Next Steps



SUBMISSION
Submit to
SCEMD & FEMA.



FINAL APPROVAL
Pending Jurisdiction
Adoptions.
(BRIC, FMA, HMGP
eligibility secured).



LOCAL ADOPTION
Adopt 2026
Lowcountry HMP –
October 13, 2026.

Proposed Motion

“I move to approve the adoption of the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan as prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.”

2026 PLAN'S TIMELINE

- May 2023 – Began working on HMGP Ian grant submission for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.
- November 2023 – Submitted the HMGP grant to FEMA. Began working on BRIC grant submission.

- March 2025 – BRIC program suspended.
- November 2025 – Awarded HMGP grant and began working on the plan update.

2021

2023

2024

2025

2026

- 2020 Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties which expires June 27, 2026.

- February 2024 – Submitted the BRIC grant to FEMA.

- May 2026 – Completed the draft final plan and distributed to public, stakeholders, and steering committee members for review.
- The plan will be submitted to SCEMD and FEMA. Final approval will be pending jurisdictions adoptions.