

STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM
NON-SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 37

Effective May 24, 2025

Additions to: New York State Action Plan Incorporating Amendments 8-36

In sections: Rebuild by Design projects

Summary:

Action Plan Amendment 37 (APA 37) will address the following items:

- A. *Living with the Bay*: Updates to reflect additional scope for the RBD Living with the Bay Social Resiliency focus area.

Changes are indicated in **red** text.

A. Living with the Bay

Description of changes: Updates to reflect additional scope for the RBD Living with the Bay Social Resiliency focus area.

From page 123 of the New York State Action Plan:

- **Focus area – Social Resiliency Programs:** LWTB has worked with relevant community organizations, other state agencies, and educational institutions to develop public education programs. These education programs will include environmental and historical education for schools and the public. Education programs include a Certificate Program for local government policy makers and staff on environmental sustainability, which will contribute to a culture of focusing on the environment in local decision-making, as well as the Hempstead Lake State Park – Village of Hempstead K-12 Education Program, which includes classes on a range of topics including local flora and fauna, ecology, sustainable energy, and resiliency. LWTB will also develop environmental technician job training programs, contributing to the social resiliency of communities along the Mill River and South Bay.

From page 140 of the New York State Action Plan:

Focus Area - Social Resiliency Programs

The overall purpose of the Social Resiliency focus area is to strengthen the social infrastructure of communities within the LWTB project area through educational, workforce development, and social service programs that align with the goals of the LWTB project. RHC intends to support the selected organization(s) in the planning and administration of the Social Resiliency Program through these objectives:

1. Provide Environmental Stewardship opportunities to (pre)K-12 students, higher education students, and other members of the community through:
 - Education about resiliency topics relevant to the LWTB project area, possible options including but not limited to: stormwater interventions included in the LWTB design; environmental awareness; wildlife conservation and ecology; watershed history; STEM/STEAM education and teacher training; on-site and hands-on education and teacher training; affordable housing; economic impacts of natural disasters; etc.
 - Environmental Education and Resiliency Center (as discussed previously).
 - Community service that complements the educational resiliency topics; and
 - Monitoring, research, and data collection that allows students to engage in research projects pertaining to LWTB and monitors long-term effects of the interventions.
2. Develop Workforce Training vocational curriculum for unemployed/under-employed residents seeking to gain skills as Environmental Technicians in construction. .

An example of a natural partner in this focus area is the Seatuck Environmental Association, which has held two “Day in the Life of the Mill River” events for school students on Long

Island. Participation in the second year of the program targeted participation from schools in the Hempstead, East Rockaway, Rockville Centre and Oceanside districts. Seatuck has also held a series of public presentations, field trips and nature programs to introduce adults and families to the history, habitats and wildlife of the Mill River. Seatuck is also generating a partial baseline report on the Mill River's ecological health through a series of surveys and monitoring projects, including enhanced avian and wildlife studies along the Mill River as well as focused monitoring of the efficacy of the fish ladder installed at Smith Pond. LWTB has engaged Seatuck as an implementation partner able to help achieve the project's social resiliency objectives.

RHC is partnering with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) to implement the Hempstead Lake State Park – Village of Hempstead K-12 Education Program. This program leverages the new Education and Resiliency Center completed as part of the Hempstead Lake State Park Focus Area, along with the suite of K-12 education classes and instructors implemented by State Parks following completion of the Center. This Program will provide up to \$500,000 of LWTB funds to bring K-12 students attending Village of Hempstead public and charter schools to Hempstead Lake State Park to participate in classes on a range of topics including local flora and fauna, ecology, sustainable energy, and resiliency. Schools anticipated to be served include those within the Hempstead Union Free School District generally as well as Academy Charter School and Evergreen Charter School. The Program is anticipated to begin in late Spring/early Summer of 2025 and will run through October 31, 2025.

From page 149 of the New York State Action Plan:

In November 2014, RHC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Parks to perform improvements (unrelated to LWTB) to Robert Moses and Roberto Clemente State Parks. Amendment 1 to the MOU approved additional funds for studies to develop the LWTB project, including:

- Surveying lakes and ponds,
- Assessing groundwater depths and flows,
- Sampling and testing sediments for disposal,
- Investigating subsurface soils at the dam,
- Developing a stream gauge with telemetry based reporting of stream levels and flows, and
- Performing topographic surveys.

Amendment 2 to the MOU authorized State Parks to replace and repair all the equipment in the existing dams and equipment at the existing gatehouse, improve the NW Pond, improve the NE Pond, design and build a new Environmental Education and Resiliency Center, design and build an ADA accessible greenway, and design and build waterfront improvements. As of May 2020, State Parks has performed environmental and engineering studies to develop a scope and has completed final (100%) design of the first stages of improvements; received Authority to Use Grant Funds for the project, and begun construction work on the first stage of the project. State Parks has a demonstrated history of working with RHC, to collaborate with other agencies and units of government, resulting in a beneficial experience that will assist in the successful implementation of key components of the LWTB project, such as the proposed improvements to Hempstead Lake State Park. As of March 2023, State Parks successfully completed all components of the Hempstead Lake State Park Project.

RHC subsequently entered into Amendments 3 and 4 to the MOU, which were unrelated to LWTB and provided funding for improvements at Robert Moses State Park and Jones Beach State Park.

Following the effective date of APA 37, RHC will enter into Amendment 5 to the MOU to provide LWTB funds to support State Parks' implementation of the Hempstead Lake State Park – Village of Hempstead K-12 Education Program as part of LWTB's Social Resiliency Focus Area. RHC has a long history of working with State Parks on the LWTB Project and Hempstead Lake State Park's close proximity to Village of Hempstead schools, along with the recently completed Education and Resiliency Center and the establishment of education curriculum and staff, make this partner uniquely situated to advance the Social Resiliency focus are of LWTB.