**Revised North Dakota Mitigation Strategy Guidance**

**Mitigation Vision:** North Dakota is the most disaster resilient state in the nation.

**Purpose:** To minimize the vulnerability of the public, property, infrastructure, environment, and economy of North Dakota and its communities to the impacts of natural and technological hazards as well as adversarial threats.

**Overall Mitigation Strategy** The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDES), in partnership with the State Hazard Mitigation Team, has developed a comprehensive, statewide mitigation program, and was the first State in Region VIII to achieve an Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The focuses of mitigation strategies are articulated by the goals, and more importantly, the SMART, lagging objectives of this plan.

**Short-term strategies** are objectives that can be anticipated to be completed or near completion before the 2029 Mitigation Plan update. These projects will be implemented upon plan approval and the allocation of funds if needed throughout the lifecycle of the plan. The NDDES short-term strategy is to maintain the established program by continuing their most successful mitigation leading actions that are aligned with and support each objective.

**Long-term strategies** are objectives and actions which we do not expect to be complete within the 5-year timeframe of this plan. However, long-term objectives can make significant progress to set a robust foundation for success. Objectives are intended to show how we will act during the next five years to eventually accomplish that objective.

The suggested goals and objectives are based on 2023 Planning Guidance and utilizing the updated 2023 HMA Guide Program and Policy Guide.

**Goal 1:** Elevate hazard mitigation planning for state, local, and tribal jurisdictions.

***Objective 1.1:*** *Strengthen the 53 county, two city and four tribal hazard mitigation plans as they come due for updating to serve as valued resources for integrating other community planning and risk reduction initiatives.*

***Objective 1.2****: Partner with 53 county, two city and four tribal hazard mitigation planning teams incorporate climate variability and potential climate change plans into their local hazard mitigation plan.*

***Objective 1.3:*** *Host annual hazard mitigation planning trainings and/or workshops for local and tribal emergency management professionals, planning staff, subject matters experts, or partners and elected officials.*

**Goal 2:** Enhance and expand public education and understanding of natural hazard risks and vulnerabilities within a changing climate, and the importance of developing effective mitigation and adaptation solutions within the whole community.

***Objective 2.1:*** *Leverage partnerships with subject matter experts and industry professionals to deliver hazard mitigation guidance, tools, and resources in a robust and engaging format.*

***Objective 2.2:*** *Target vulnerable and underserved populations when conducting outreach sessions across the state of North Dakota.*

***Objective 2.3:*** *Partner with local and tribal community leaders, emergency managers and the State Hazard Mitigation Team to engage in periodic plan developers’ meetings as well as in equity mapping sessions to guide awareness of underserved populations to be addressed in mitigation planning.*

***Objective 2.4:*** *Deliver public education and awareness information in new and/or already utilized mediums to promote efficiency and integration of emerging technology to reach more North Dakotans.*

***Objective 2.5:*** *Establish outreach pathways to organizations to reach identified underserved populations through community outreach based upon equity mapping findings.*

***Goal 3:***Improve disaster resilience to current and future buildings, structures, and infrastructure systems.

***Objective 3.1:*** *By the end of the next biennium, update, adopt, and maintain the North Dakota State Building Code in conjunction with the release of updated International Code Council (ICC) codes and standards such as the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC), as well as updated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards. The North Dakota State Building Code, once adopted at the state level, will be available for use by all North Dakota communities in the development, adoption, and enforcement of local codes and standards.*

***Objective 3.2:*** *Advance flood resiliency efforts by encouraging jurisdictions and homeowners to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.*

***Objective 3.3:*** *Reduce the number of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss properties in North Dakota throughout the life of the plan.*

***Objective 3.4:*** *Conduct an analysis of critical infrastructure sectors against the state's threats and hazards; develop resiliency strategies to safeguard, protect systems and critical facilities during disasters.*

***Objective 3.5:*** *Collaborate with partners to conduct a losses avoided study to have actionable data to quantify the damages prevented from hazard events due to the implementation of past mitigation projects.*

***Objective 3.6****: Improve resilience to electromagnetic pulse and geomagnetic disturbances from space weather and EMP impacts by identifying ways to warehouse and stockpile electrical materials and equipment on a regional basis and acquiring and maintaining a large-format mobile substation for emergency deployment by 2027.*

***Objective 3.7:*** *Identify opportunities for risk reduction by strategizing long-term actions designed to lessen the potential failure of medium and high hazard dams and the cascading consequences.*

**Goal 4:** Support a multi-sectoral mitigation approach from natural and technological hazards, and adversarial threats equitably through enhanced application of grant funding.

***Objective 4.1:*** *Continuously prioritize grant funding to align with ranking of hazards and threats based upon the findings in the 2024 Enhanced Mitigation Plan.*

***Objective 4.2:*** *Continue to expand outreach to potential grant applicants and provide resources to guide the process, with availability for technical assistance, as opportunities arise.*

***Objective 4.3:*** *Host yearly cross functional training opportunities to improve grant application quality to promote competitiveness for grant funding within and outside of HMA grants.*

***Objective 4.5:*** *Continue to participate in Program Administered by State programmatic requirements and expand upon activities as needed.*

***Objective 4.6****: Continually work with emergency managers to promote community-wide grant eligibility to target underserved populations.*

**Goal 5:** Incorporate nature based and climate adaptation solutions into cost-effective, environmentally sound, and feasible mitigation projects and actions.

***Objective 5.1:*** *Collaborate with state agencies, private organizations, tribal groups, and non-profits to promote climate variability education, awareness and inspire action at events or presentations.*

***Objective 5.2:*** *Restore destabilized environments with native vegetation and other research-based solutions to promote adaptability.*

***Objective 5.3:*** *Improve natural resource quality, i.e., water, soil and air, through nature-based activities and green infrastructure.*

***Objective 5.4:*** *Implement sustainable planning, design, environmental management, and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience.*