**Sample Press Release**

**Seneca Nation of Indians is Updating its Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Seneca Nation of Indians has begun the process of updating the 2018 Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Nation. The plan focuses on existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities that might be impacted by natural disasters. Ultimately, the mitigation projects identified and implemented will reduce vulnerability and enable communities to become more resilient to disasters.

To date, the Nation has completed a risk assessment to identify hazards that may impact its Territories, profiled the relevant hazards and their potential consequences, identified assets that are subject to losses or damage, and estimated the potential losses that could result from each type of hazard. The Nation has now begun the development of a hazard mitigation strategy. The strategy will include the identification of hazard mitigation goals as well as a prioritized list of actions designed to reduce losses. Two public meetings will be held in September, as listed below:

**Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Workshop #1**

**Tuesday, September 23 at 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

Allegany Community Center

3677 Administration Drive,

Salamanca, NY 14779

**Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Workshop #2**

**Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

Cattaraugus Community Center

12767 Route 438,

Irving, NY 14081

The Nation is asking its members to contribute to the planning process by taking a survey. This survey is designed to gather information from around the Nation to help us better coordinate activities and reduce the risk of injury or property damage. These questions are for information-gathering only and responses will be shared with Nation and federal entities for planning purposes only. To access the public survey, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/ceE0CE2tSu>.

The update of this plan allows the Nation and its territories to continue to be eligible for future pre-disaster mitigation funding from FEMA. Example of grant-eligible projects include home acquisitions or elevations – to either remove houses located in the floodplain to generate open space and increase flood storage or to raise their first floor above the FEMA base flood elevation – and local flood control measures.

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