

In order to meet the expectations of the 1 Star rating of Best Practice No. 29 (Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience) Action No. 1, the City of Warren in accordance with Marshall County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016) has prepared to maintain public health and safety during extreme weather and climate-change related events, while also taking a preventive approach to reduce risks for community members. Due to the fact that the Marshall County's buildings are in Warren's city limits, Josh Johnson, the Marshall County Emergency Manager is responsible for the planning process as well as ensuring the plan meets the needs of the county, citizens, and is in compliance with the code of federal regulations. To ensure that nothing is left to chance, the Emergency Manager is assisted by a Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and a Hazard Mitigation Planning Team. The Steering Committee is utilized to prepare a 5-year mitigation update effort to best reflect the risks on a yearly basis, and then the committee ensures implementation and support in terms of necessary resources for implementation. Scott Jorgenson (County Emergency Management Deputy Director), Jason Boman (Marshall County Sheriff), Gail Larson (Public Health Director), and Mark Jones (Safety Director) are some of the individuals on the committee whom are responsible for city preparedness, emergency responses, and recovery efforts in the event of natural disasters such as extreme heat/cold, blizzards, flooding, and tornadoes as well as updating the plan as climate conditions change.ⁱ

ⁱ BP No. 29 – Action No. 1 – 1 Star

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team is responsible for providing technical guidance, documenting the planning process, and writing the mitigation plan with the Emergency Manager serving as the coordinating entity; moreover, the committee is also tasked with modeling disasters, conducting capability assessments and risk assessments, and creating a hazard and community profile for the county's most vulnerable population groups relative to each event. Furthermore, the committee is in constant contact with participating jurisdictions to provide relevant information pertinent to their jurisdictions to act an official conduit between their respective cities and their citizens. The Hazard Mitigation Plan's community profile revealed that since much of Marshall County exists in the floodplain, flooding is seen as the most significant hazard with changes in precipitation and winter storms as having the next most significant impact. As part of Marshall County's community profile, the population has decreased consistently since the 1950's with the 1980's and 2013 being the only timeframes where the population almost remained neutral. The elderly (men and women older than 65), children (under the age of 12), and the disabled have been identified as the most at-risk populations in terms of being vulnerable to extreme cold, blizzards, or tornadoes in regards to climate events. The elderly make up approximately 20% of the county's total population while the child/youth populations are roughly 18% and the disabled making up 12.5%. Warren's Police Department, Volunteer Ambulance Services, and Fire Department work in hand with Local Public Health Agencies to assure adequate public health infrastructure, protection against environmental health hazards, and with the county to prepare for and respond to disasters and assist communities in protecting vulnerable populations. The County utilizes Wireless Emergency Alerts in addition to traditional emergency broadcasts on radio/television as well as emergency response systems within the city sirens. ii

ii BP No. 29 – Action No. 1 – 2 Star

In consultation with the county, the Marshall County courthouse has been determined to be an appropriate facility available to the public as a community safe shelter for the City of Warren for the significant climate related events (flooding, extreme cold, tornadoes). Moreover, because the County courthouse is located directly across from City Hall, the latter is able to sustain the former with its generators to provide potable water and backup power for a period of 5-7 days. While the county has not yet developed relationships with private sector businesses, they have reached an agreement with the City of Warren to utilize its public municipalities to better support the county/city emergency shelter. *iii*