

# AGENDA

## Building Economic Resilience to Disasters in the Southern Tier

A training workshop for business owners, Chamber representatives, and economic developers

Monday, March 31

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Binghamton

Please note: The content of the morning sessions is tailored for business owners, and the content of the afternoon sessions is tailored for economic developers and other local officials and staff. However, all sessions are open to all workshop participants, and we encourage everyone to attend any session that interests them.

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### Morning Sessions

Grand Riverside

7:00-7:30 am

**Registration and Breakfast**

7:30-9:15 am

**What do Business Owners Need to Know to Withstand the Next Flood?**

*Debra Boudrieau, Business Advisor, Vermont Small Business Development Center, Brattleboro, VT*

*James King, State Director, New York State Small Business Development Center, Albany, NY*

*Mary Vilbon, Executive Director, Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association, Shelburne Falls, MA*

Experts who have worked hand-in-hand with businesses struggling to reopen after floods will share their perspectives on key preparedness, emergency response, and recovery issues business owners should be aware of before the waters rise. The discussion will touch on insurance coverage, risk assessment, financing, critical business decisions that must be made post-disaster, and adapting to new economic realities.

9:15-9:30 am

**Break**

9:30-11:30 am

**Training for Business Owners: Developing a Business Continuity Plan**

*Gail Moraton, Business Resiliency Manager, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, Tampa, FL*

This session will walk business owners through the process of creating continuity plans, a critical step to minimize disruption from flooding and other unexpected events and to protect facilities and records.

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**11:15-11:45 am Registration for Afternoon Sessions**

Participants attending only the afternoon sessions may register during this time.

**11:45 am-1:30 pm Lunchtime Presentation: Disaster Resilience as an Economic Development Issue**

*Crystal Abers, Director, Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism, Little Valley, NY*

*Robert Kloberdanz, Chairman, Charles City Park Board, Charles City, IA*

*Jay Minkarah, President and CEO, DevelopSpringfield, Springfield, MA*

Leaders who have seen their communities through natural disasters will share their stories and lessons learned, highlighting how a collaborative recovery process, creative thinking, and a focus on preparedness can promote economic development and “building back better.”

**1:30-1:45 pm Break and Refreshments****1:45-3:15 pm Train-the-Trainer for Local Government and Chamber Staff: Helping Businesses Develop Continuity Plans**

*Gail Moraton, Business Resiliency Manager, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, Tampa, FL*

This session will equip local economic developers and Chamber staff to work with business owners in their communities to develop continuity plans. Learn about the basic building blocks of a business continuity plan, how to get businesses to the table, and where to go for additional assistance.

**3:15-3:30 pm Wrap-Up and Adjourn**