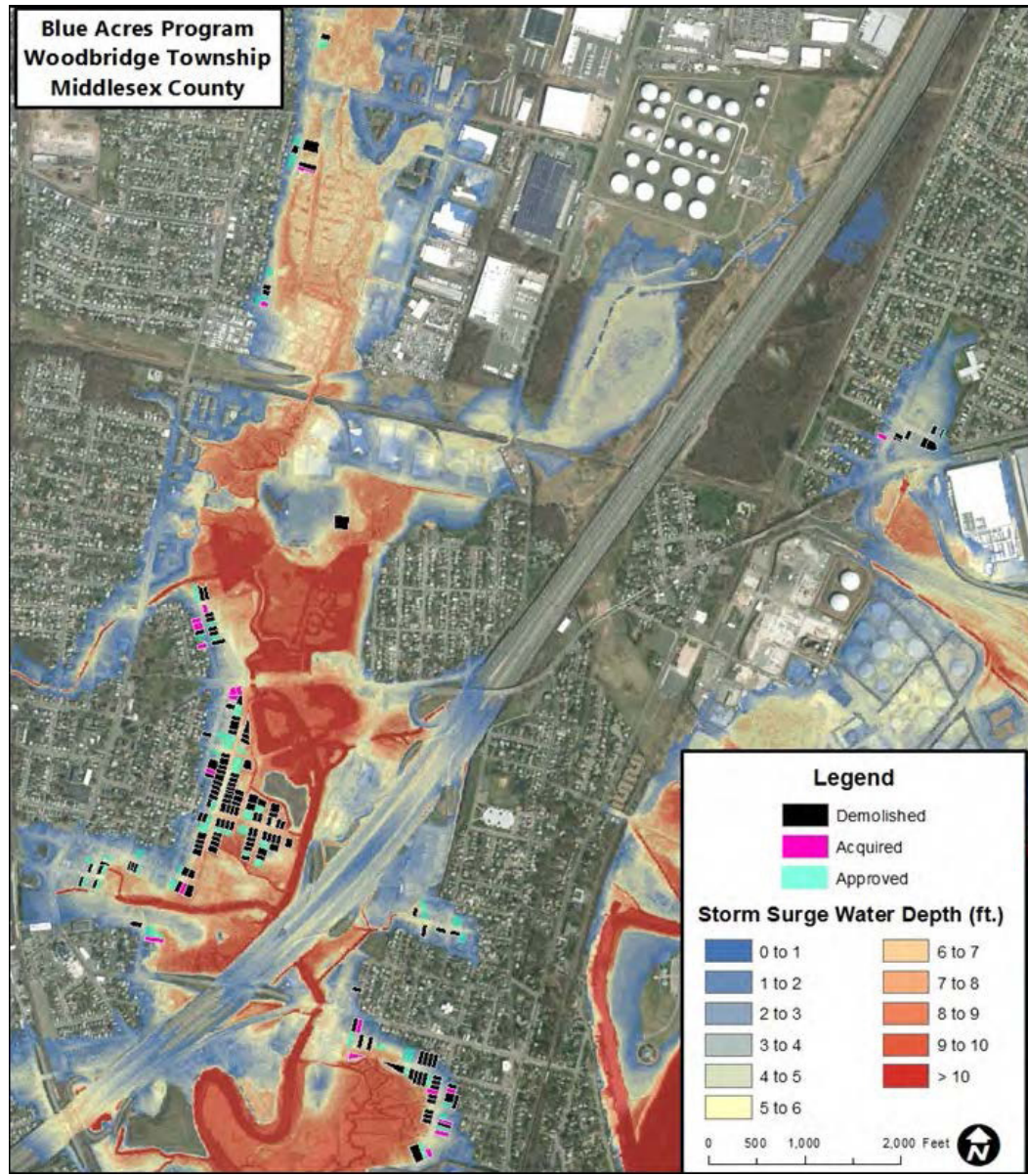


Resilient Stratford South End Strategy: Retreat



Case Study 1

Woodbridge Post-Hurricane Sandy Buyouts Woodbridge, NJ



Problem

Neighborhood-scale property damage and loss due to Hurricane Sandy; vulnerability to future flooding

Strategy

In coordination with New Jersey Blue Acres Program, a state and federal-funded home buyout program for flooding, Woodbridge provided residents with options for relocation, resulting in neighborhood-scale retreat. Results include:

- Nearly 200 property owners accepted a buyout offer
- Demolished properties were converted to green space and a natural flood buffer
- An Open Space Conservation/ Resiliency Zone prohibits new development and discourages redevelopment
- Residents who participated received reduced flood insurance premiums



Source: Georgetown Climate Center (2020)

Case Study 2

Meriden Green and Harbor Brook Flood Control Plan Meriden, CT



Problem

Chronic flooding of the Harbor Brook in downtown Meriden, causing millions of dollars in damage, distress to local residents, and lost economic opportunities

Strategy

Flood control plan outlines a managed retreat from the floodplain:

- Removal of 147 residential and 80 commercial properties
- As of 2020, 25 buildings acquired and demolished by the City
- 50 structures remaining in floodplain must be flood-proofed
- Creation of “Meriden Green”, a public park and flood-retention area on 14-acre site of former shopping mall
- 3 acres of Meriden Green set aside for mixed-use development, ~170 residential units at 80% market rate, 20% low-income
- \$75 million total cost, using city, state, and federal funds



Source: City of Meriden and Milone & MacBroom (2020)

What does it mean?

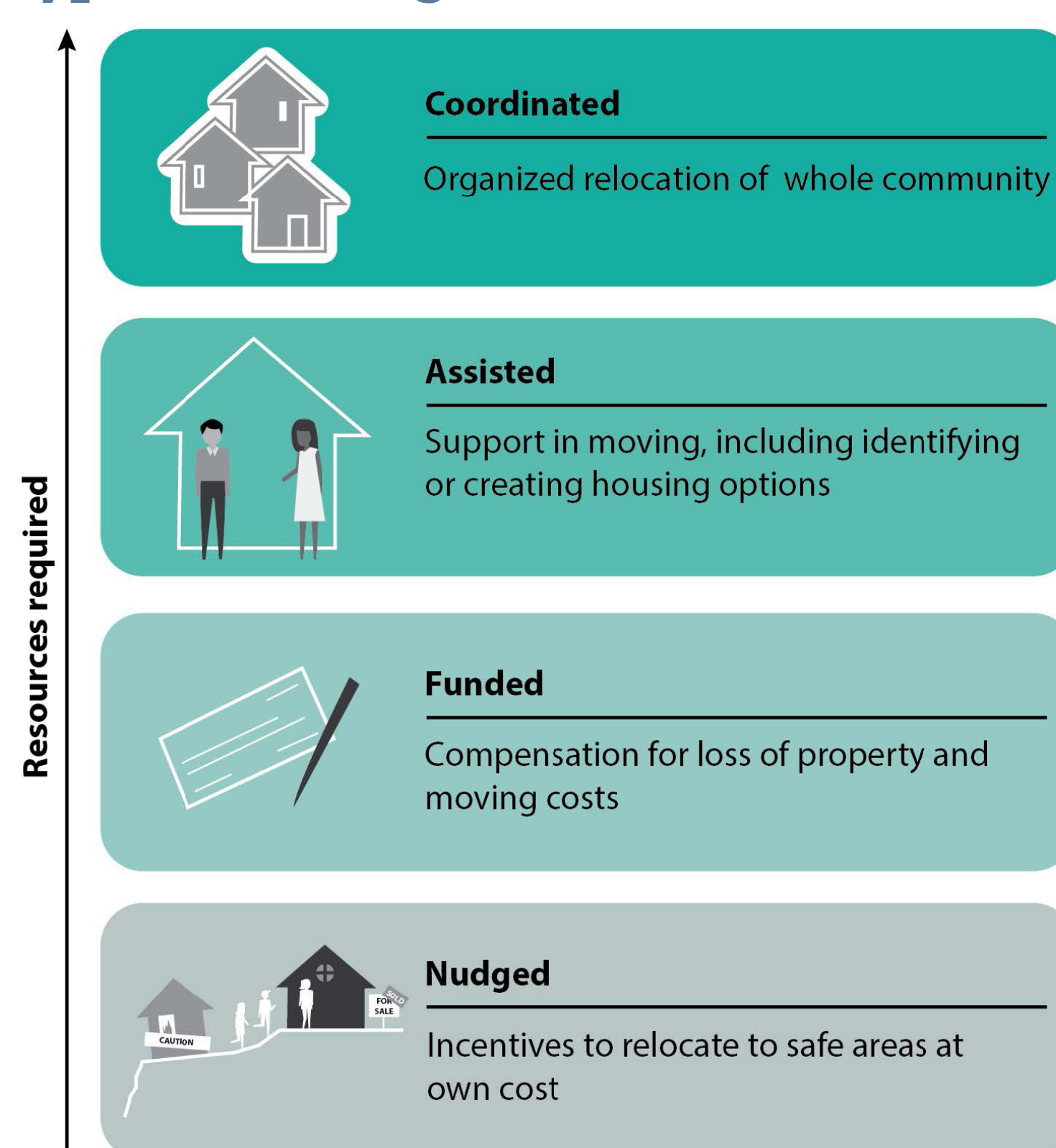


Managed withdrawal from coastal areas, often accompanied by financial support for residential relocation and repurposing of land for natural systems

- Scale:** Individual properties or neighborhoods
- Timeframe:** Short-term or long-term
- Cost:** Expensive
- Funding:** Town, state, or federal, with expenses for individual residents
- Type of Projects:** Policies and incentives, accompanied by relocation services, new development, and repurposing of land

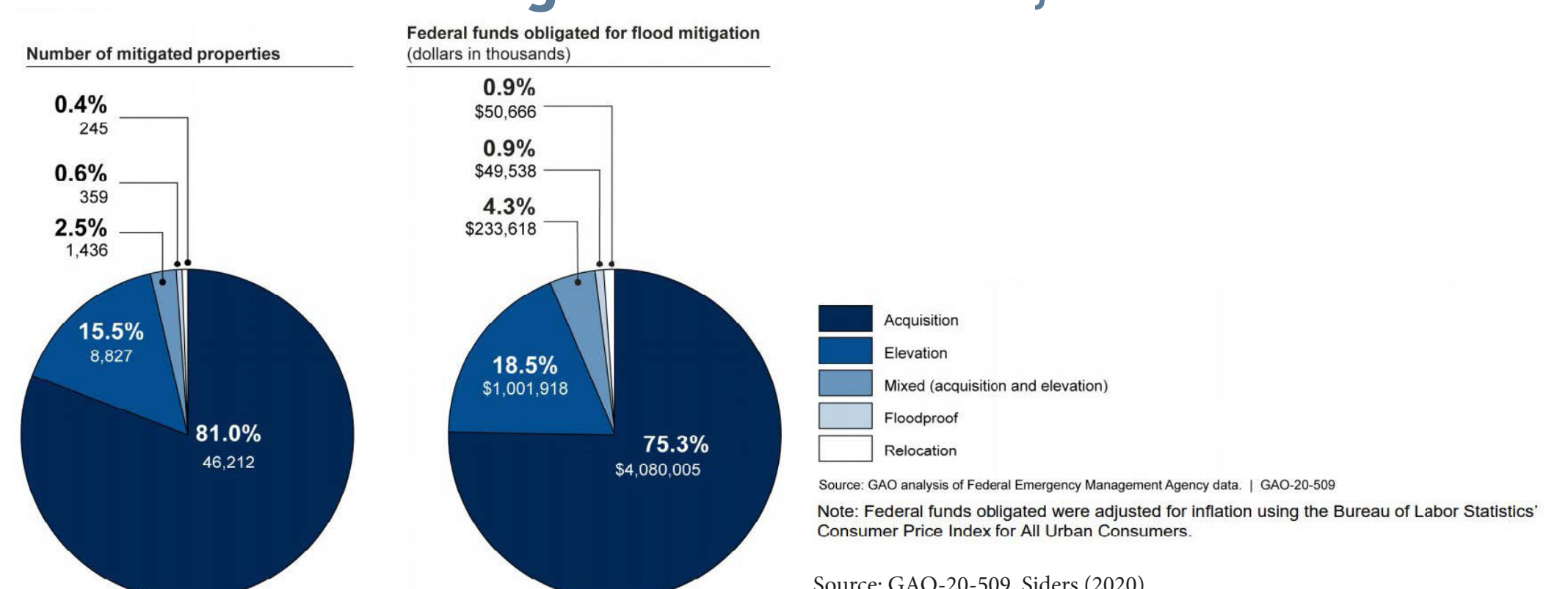
How does it happen?

Types of Managed Retreat



Source: Siders, Hino, Mach (2019), Siders (2020)

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance, FY 1989-2018



Source: GAO analysis of Federal Emergency Management Agency data. | GAO-20-509
Note: Federal funds obligated were adjusted for inflation using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Source: GAO-20-509, Siders (2020)