

Maryland's *Community Resiliency* Grants

2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Maryland's Community Resiliency Grants provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to help address the impacts of hazards, including localized flooding, storm events and sea level rise.





Overview

The Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS) is soliciting project proposals from Maryland communities that will help address the impacts of climate-related hazards, such as nuisance flooding, storm events and sea level rise, through the Community Resiliency Grants Program (Resilience Grants). The Resilience Grants also encourage projects that take a holistic, watershed-scale planning approach to address both water quantity and quality. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is organized into two tracks, both of which provide support to communities to become more resilient. Track A, CoastSmart Communities, is for proposals aimed at understanding and planning for coastal hazards. Track B, Green Infrastructure Resiliency, is for proposals that address stormwater and floodplain flood risks. Proposals may be submitted under one of three phases: understanding vulnerability and risk, developing planning responses, or implementing risk reduction strategies or projects.

CCS requests proposals that are aligned with the strategic objectives of Maryland's Coastal Zone Management Program and/or the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) green infrastructure goal. Ideal projects will also foster innovative adaptation strategies through local initiatives that ensure that communities are increasingly resilient to flood risks, work to ascertain that Bay and ocean waters meet living resource and human needs, and serve to enhance the protection and management of Maryland's resources. Projects should help communities more clearly communicate the risks associated with hazards in order to better protect citizens, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Grants this year are made possible by a partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Track A and EPA for Track B.

Background

The damages and impacts resulting from climate-related hazards present a substantial threat to communities, infrastructure and natural resources throughout Maryland. The Community Resiliency Grants Program focuses on one type of climate hazard – flooding. Flooding will affect Maryland communities in a variety of ways, requiring coastal flooding management to address impacts such as sea level rise, storm surge, and nuisance flooding, as well as stormwater and floodplain management to address impacts from precipitation events.

Extending over 3,000 miles along the diverse landscape of the Chesapeake Bay, the Coastal Bays, and the Atlantic Ocean, Maryland's shoreline is highly susceptible to coastal hazards. In Maryland, these hazards are both episodic and chronic in nature, resulting from weather events (hurricanes, nor'easters, floods, nuisance flooding, and storm surge) and long-term processes (sea-level rise, land subsidence, and erosion). Almost 70% of Maryland's shoreline experiences chronic erosion and up to 60% of some counties lie within the 1% chance event floodplain.

In addition to coastal flooding hazards, Maryland communities are also experiencing flooding hazards due to stormwater management and floodplain management needs caused by a changing climate. The results of climate change impact assessments indicate that in the future, Maryland's precipitation regime will include more extreme rainfall events. The percentage of total rainfall occurring in extreme events is expected to increase, as are the one-day and five-day maximum precipitation totals. Factors contributing to these floods will include increased stormwater runoff, which may overwhelm stormwater management systems that were designed for smaller storms. Riparian flooding is also likely to increase as a result from the changing precipitation regime. An increase in the incidence and severity of flooding will cause increased damages and further degrade water quality.

This dual-track RFP was developed to encourage and support Maryland communities in taking a watershed approach to addressing tidally influenced coastal flooding and/or localized flooding caused by rain and storm events. It encourages actions that can be taken before a flood event to ensure that risk to life, property, and natural resources is as minimal as possible; the funds will be used for projects that seek to achieve this reduced risk in whatever manner is most feasible for the local community.

Track Descriptions

Track A - CoastSmart Communities

This track aims to help local governments located in Maryland's coastal zone integrate planning scenarios into day-to-day decision making (e.g. variances, permits, etc.) and long-term strategic planning (e.g. major infrastructure updates, community visioning, designating growth and intense development areas, etc.) to be better prepared for the next flood event. This includes increasing the awareness of residents, business owners, elected officials, and planners around what hazards exist now and what actions can be taken to maintain a community's identity and cultural heritage while acknowledging changes that could impact that vision. In order to apply for this track, the community must be located within Maryland's designated coastal zone.

Track A can fund flood vulnerability and risk assessments, updates to planning documents (e.g. hazard mitigation plans, zoning ordinances, building codes, floodplain ordinances, comprehensive plans), education and outreach campaigns and materials, applications to FEMA's Community Rating System in concert with other task outcomes, support for adopting an updated plan and integrating the plan into day-to-day existing planning processes that reduce overall flood risk due to tidal events or stormwater and rain events.

Track B - Green Infrastructure Resiliency

This track was developed to help local governments throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed assess localized flooding risks resulting from more frequent and intense precipitation events, and address those risks by implementing targeted green infrastructure projects. Green infrastructure practices, such as rain gardens, bioretention facilities, and permeable pavement, reduce flooding by helping stormwater infiltrate in place rather than contributing to runoff. As a result, these practices have the dual benefits of managing water quantity while also improving water quality. In order to apply for this track, the community must be located within the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Track B can fund watershed assessments that focus on determining local flood risks and how green infrastructure can be used to address those risks, site or watershed-level green infrastructure implementation plans, and green infrastructure project designs. This track can also fund construction of green infrastructure projects. In order to apply for construction funding, all applicable permit pre-application meetings must be complete.

There are a few details that differ between the two tracks - please refer to the following table:

	Track A - CoastSmart Communities	Track B - Green Infrastructure Resiliency
WHO	Municipalities and counties in the coastal zone are eligible to apply for and receive funds: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties and Baltimore City.	Municipalities and counties within the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed are eligible to apply for and receive funds. Please note that projects proposed in Cecil, Garrett and Worcester counties must be located within the portions of those counties that are within the watershed in order to be eligible.
WHAT	Funding for a one-year project that contributes to understanding, planning for, or implementing planning and outreach measures to address coastal hazard issues.	Funding for one year for Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects and up to 2 years for Phase 3 projects that will assess stormwater management needs associated with localized flooding and design or construct targeted green infrastructure practices to address those needs.
FUNDING	Up to \$75,000 annually	Up to \$100,000 per project
CONTACT	Sasha Land Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Service (p) 410.260.8718 (f) 410.260.8739 (e) sasha.land@maryland.gov	Megan Granato Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Service (p) 410.260.8799 (f) 410.260.8739 (e) megan.granato@maryland.gov

If you are uncertain whether your project fits better under Track A or B please reach out to one or both of the contacts listed above. Once the RFP closes the project contacts will also screen the submissions and if a project may be more appropriate for the other category, staff will reach out to the applicant and/or work to ensure it is reviewed by the appropriate review team(s).



Phases

Both tracks invite project proposals to be submitted under one of the three following phases: Understand, Plan, or Implement. Each phase reflects where a local government may be in the hazard preparedness or stormwater management assessment process. Phase 1 projects are meant to support communities by starting to look at flood risk reduction in the context of floodplain and stormwater management, emergency management, land use planning, public works, and economic development. Proposals submitted under Phase 1 will get as much priority as projects submitted under Phase 2 or 3. Each phase is meant to build upon complimentary tasks such as public outreach.

Phase 1 - Understanding Your Community's Vulnerability and Risk

Local governments that have yet to complete a formal assessment of the risk natural hazards pose to their community are encouraged to submit a project proposal under Phase 1. Projects in this category should propose bringing together existing resources and data (such as hazard mitigation plans and Flood Insurance Rate Maps) to develop a holistic understanding of what is at-risk (built and natural infrastructure) to tidal and/or stormwater flooding.

Examples of projects may include:

- Model dynamic processes, such as erosion, coastal flooding, stormwater flow
- Model marsh migration under Climate Change Commission scenarios
- Assess vulnerability/strength of natural resources, recreational and public access issues, and built infrastructure to flooding and/or sea level rise scenarios.
- Conduct assessments to determine how green infrastructure practices could ameliorate flooding risks

Phase 2 – Planning and Adopting Updated Planning Responses

Municipalities and counties that have quantified vulnerability and risk are encouraged to apply for a grant in this category. Under Phase 2, projects will use data from vulnerability assessments and other existing resources to either research and evaluate current planning processes for how and where to integrate hazard and stormwater planning strategies, or move forward with designing, updating and adopting updated planning processes.

Examples of projects may include:

- Update and adopt planning processes such as hazard mitigation plans, critical areas plans, floodplain ordinances, building codes, zoning ordinances, and/or long-term strategic plans
- Design, develop or integrate a green infrastructure plan to address coastal hazards and stormwater issues
- Design a green infrastructure practice that will address previously-determined stormwater risks anticipated due to climate change
- Apply to FEMA's Community Rating System

Phase 3 – Implementing and Integrating Risk Reduction Strategies /Construct GI Project

Local governments are encouraged to submit a proposal under this phase if an updated planning process has already been adopted or if a green infrastructure resiliency plan has been designed. Projects in Phase 3 propose implementing higher regulatory standards and integrating risk-reduction strategies under Track A and constructing green infrastructure projects under Track B.

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Submitting a Proposal

All proposals must be submitted through the CCS Grants Online website at: <http://mesgis.com/GrantsOnLine/>. Applications CANNOT be mailed, faxed or submitted in person. To submit a proposal, you will first need to visit the website and create a profile. You will be prompted to create a profile consisting of a username and password. Your username and password will be used to submit progress reports after project selection when funding has been approved and to submit future proposals. Please store your user name and password in a secure location for later reference.

Once a profile has been created, you will be guided through the proposal process which is broken into four steps:

- Step 1: Create a Proposal
- Step 2: Create a Budget
- Step 3: Upload Additional Documents
- Step 4: Review and Submit

Once you have logged in to CCS Grants Online, select “Submit a Proposal” from the left menu bar on the page. Next you will be asked to select the funding source for which you want to apply. Select from the dropdown menu either: Community Resilience Track A: CoastSmart Communities or Coastal Resilience Track B: Green Infrastructure Resiliency.

Fill out the appropriate information and follow the instructions for each subsequent step in the process. Note: you will be asked to download a “Detailed Proposal Template” and “Budget Template” that you will fill out and upload when complete. Direct any questions about your applications to the contacts provided below.

Proposal Review

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the CCS to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. CCS staff may follow up with selected applicants to discuss the projects further. Eligible proposals will then be evaluated by an inter-agency review team on general project content, incorporation of natural resource and coastal issues, how well the project proposes to address coastal hazards, upcoming development issues, level of local support, and transferability.

Projects that will get priority will be those that:

- Propose innovative project ideas that emphasize the preservation of open/green space or implementation of green infrastructure projects for hazard mitigation.
- Result in updated planning processes that integrate higher regulatory standards for coastal hazard planning.
- Incorporate results from, or propose conducting a, CoastSmart Scorecard self-assessment (http://dnr2.maryland.gov/ccs/coastsmart/Pages/cs_Scorecard.aspx) or an assessment using the NOAA “A Guide to Assessing Green Infrastructure Costs and Benefits for Flood Reduction” (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/publications/gi-cost-benefit>).
- Include a public outreach component to disseminate hazard risk and emergency preparedness information to residents; especially to the most vulnerable populations within communities who have the least amount of resources to be prepared.
- Provide a resolution or other documentation of communication with the body responsible for final adoption or acceptance of grant (i.e. County or City Council, Planning Commission) that illustrates willingness to move forward with project outcomes.
- Compliment ongoing efforts or grant projects already addressing stormwater, water quality, coastal hazards, flood mitigation, or another related subject.

Projects selected by the review committee for Track A will be recommended to NOAA for funding in April 2016 and will be announced in Fall 2017 following NOAA approval. Projects selected for Track B will be announced in April 2017. After review, CCS staff will work with selected candidates to complete the final Scope of Work for the project and discuss timing needs to ensure project outcomes are met on time. If selected, the project recipient will be expected to comply with the guidelines outlined in Attachment A of the full project contract with DNR; the scope of work. The full request for proposals, application form and additional information is available at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding.aspx>.



Issuing Officers on Behalf of the State of Maryland

The points of contact in the State for the purpose of this RFP are the Issuing Officers:

Track A - CoastSmart Communities

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Track B - Green Infrastructure Resiliency

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Written Questions

The Issuing Officers will accept written questions via e-mail from prospective Applicants prior to February 17, 2017.

Deadline

The proposals will be due to the Department of Natural Resources by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2017 through the CCS web-based grants management service, Grants Online, at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding.aspx>.

Solicitation Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the Community Resiliency Grants Program in FFY17 is as follows:

RFP Issued	December 2016
Proposals Due on CCS Grants Online	February 17, 2017 (11:59 pm)
Proposal Initial Screening	February 20-24, 2017
Proposal Review and Evaluation	February 27 - March 17, 2017
Project Selection	March 31, 2017
Finalize Task Descriptions and Budget for Final Workplan (Tracks A and B)	April 14, 2017
Project Funding to begin no earlier than	October 1, 2017 (Track A) or May 1, 2017 (Track B)

Cancellation of the RFP

The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time.