

# Climate Resilience Fund RIDEM

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Office of the Director

# Climate Resilience Fund



The funds from these grants will help restore valuable coastal/riverine ecosystems & habitat, improve community resilience, and protect public safety.

- ***\$5M in climate resilience funding (from the 2018 Green Economy & Clean Water Bond):***
  - **To implement projects to address climate-driven challenges facing RI communities, both inland and coastal.**
  - **For ‘nature-based solutions’ and/or the ‘removal/relocation/redesign of infrastructure’.**

# Key Details...



- Approximately **\$3M** available in this round of grants (soft cap)
- Eligible applicants include:
  - Governmental entities (yes, quasi-state entities are eligible)
  - Non-profit entities
- 75%/25% matching grants
- Applicants may request between \$25,000 and \$500,000  
*(exceptions for grants up to \$750,000 will be considered)*

# More Key Details....



- Regulations governing the new Climate Resilience Fund on RI SOS website (adopted December 2019)
- 60-day application period → Applications due **April 6<sup>th</sup>**
- More information (including a copy of the RFP) available online:  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/resiliencefunding>
- Don't know what 'Resilient Rhody' is???? Check it out at  
<http://climatechange.ri.gov/documents/resilientrhody18.pdf>

# Timeline

- Public workshop
  - **Today**
- Final proposals due
  - **Monday April 6, by 4:00 pm**
- Review of Proposals and Award of Grants
  - **Late Spring 2020**

*Note – No “pre-proposals”, but feel free to contact staff regarding specific project ideas*



# Eligible Projects



- In accordance with the Fund Regulations and the goals of this RFP, a “climate resilience project” shall mean projects that restore and/or improve the resilience of vulnerable coastal zones and rivers and stream floodplains and related habitats, in the face of climate change impacts.

# Project Categories

(either alone or in combination)



1. **Nature-Based Solutions** - Projects that protect or enhance Rhode Island's natural systems in the face of projected climate change impacts. Projects can include green infrastructure projects that utilize vegetation and pervious surfaces to manage coastal, riverine, and inland flooding, erosion and storm damage. Projects can also include the restoration of natural shorelines and riparian habitats so as to enhance the protection of communities.
2. **Removal, Relocation or Redesign of Infrastructure** - Engineering and construction projects to redesign, relocate or remove vulnerable facilities and infrastructure (e.g., culverts, dams, buildings/facilities, roadways/evacuation routes in both coastal and riverine areas).

# Please take note....



- Climate resilience projects shall be designed to demonstrate tangible, on-the-ground solutions to climate driven challenges facing RI communities, both inland and coastal.
- Applications for funds to support resilience **planning** processes will not be considered.
- Climate resilience projects that involve the **acquisition of land** shall be considered so long as the acquisition is deemed part (50 percent or less) of the overall cost of the project.
- Climate resilience projects with the primary purpose to undertake scientific research, data analyses or vulnerability assessments will not be considered.

# Please take note....



- Climate resilience projects should show a clear nexus between climate change impacts to the ecological/environmental health of the area that is the subject of the application and the proposed resilience actions and outcomes. Applications for funds should highlight:
  - the specific climate change impacts that the project is designed to address;
  - both the expected near-term (0-10 years) and long-term (10-25 years) benefits to improve ecosystems and community resilience; and
  - how the project is consistent with state resilience plans, local hazard mitigation plans, and all applicable laws.

# Please take note....



As is the case with many RFPs, projects proposals that demonstrate **ROBUST INPUT** from key partners, players, and decision makers are what we like to see!

# Scoring Criteria



- The extent to which the project addresses climate change impacts, and improves and/or restores ecosystems and habitats (30%);
- The beneficial environmental impact to land, waters, fish and wildlife, and overall public benefits (20%);
- The extent to which the project addresses equity in overburdened communities (10%);
- Readiness and timeliness to proceed (10%);
- The extent to which the project helps improve and maintain continued public access to natural resources (10%);
- Project viability and match (10%);
- Ability of applicant to complete the project, including financial solvency, past experience of similar projects and likelihood of success (5%); and
- Ability of the applicant to perform required/necessary long-term maintenance where applicable (5%).

# How much can you ask for?



Applicants may request between  
\$25,000 and \$500,000.



***EXCEPTIONAL PROJECTS: Grants up to \$750,000  
will be considered.***

# Reimbursements/Payments



- Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis in accordance with the payment schedule and terms contained in the Grant Agreement. Reimbursement is tied to performance targets and payments are not scheduled more frequently than once a month.
- For grant awards less than \$100,000, there will only be one (1) reimbursement payment which will occur at the completion of all performance targets outlined in the Grant Agreement.
- For grant awards greater than \$100,000, no more than three (3) reimbursement payments will be permitted. Each payment shall be at the completion of the approved performance targets as outlined in the Grant Agreement.

# Can RIIB help?



Please note that for organizations with limited funds available for upfront payments, the RI Infrastructure Bank has established a **Stormwater Project Accelerator** program that offers upfront capital for green stormwater infrastructure projects that will eventually be funded through reimbursable state or federal grants.

For more information about the Stormwater Project Accelerator see <https://www.riib.org/spa> or contact the RI Infrastructure Bank.

# How long can my project take?



The grant awards will be authorized via grant agreements for a specified period of time.

Due to emphasis being placed on the timeliness of expenditures, projects that will be completed in **1-2 years** will be favored.

Any project that falls significantly behind schedule may have the grant reduced or rescinded.

# What about the match?



This is a 75% / 25% matching grant!

Remember, match refers to a  
**% of the entire project budget.**

*(Note - Recipients will have ninety (90) days from the date of the acceptance of the Grant Agreement to provide proof of the necessary grant match)*

# What about the match?



- All projects match must: (1) relate directly to the project for which the match is being applied; (2) be reasonably valued; and (3) be supported by documentation.
- Match may include: (1) cash; (2) the value of non-cash, in-kind contributions (e.g. value of equipment donated for use of the project); or (3) the value of goods and services directly contributed to the project.
- Please see RFP for examples of eligible match!



**NO!!!!!!**



- Starting project work prior to executed grant agreement
- Automatic extensions
- Indirect costs/expenses
- Advance payments

# How do I write a proposal?



- All Forms (A & B) plus Project Narrative Description (3-5 pgs) are mandatory. Fill in completely. Leave no blanks.
- Forms must be signed.
- Site location map required.
- Supporting material is optional.
- Instructions/Forms start on page 10 of RFP (Appendix A)

# What Makes a Good Proposal?



- Project is specific and will address a demonstrated resilience problem.
- Project is well-thought out.
- Project narrative is concise, clear and easy to understand.
- Budget is realistic and match is appropriate.
- Project can be completed in proposed timeframe.

# Project Evaluation



**Step 1: Staff review/screening**

**Step 2: Grant selection committee review**

**Step 3: Director's approval**

**Announcement & Grant Awards follow!**

# Remember...



All proposals due Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00PM

Submit written proposals to:  
RIDEM/Permit Application Center, 2nd Floor  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

And via email to: [elizabeth.stone@dem.ri.gov](mailto:elizabeth.stone@dem.ri.gov)

## Contact:

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