

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Webinar 2: Overview and Track 2 Focus

- Please mute microphones and keep cameras off
- Put questions in the chat
- We will answer questions afterward



Sarah Watson and Dr. Rebecca French
DEEP Office of Climate Planning
September 30, 2022

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Webinar 2 Agenda

- Overall program goals
- Overview of full program
- Track 2 – Project Development **Program Details**
- Track 2 – Project Development **Application Process**
- Track 2 – Project Development **Vulnerable Populations**



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Program Goals: DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

- Support Connecticut communities in resilience planning and preparing for the impacts of climate change
- Foster the development of resilience project pipelines that can compete and win federal implementation funding
- Build resilience capacity in Connecticut



Connecticut Climate Action



Taking Action on **Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut for All**

GC3 Governor's Council
on Climate Change

Phase 1 Report: Near-Term Actions
January 2021



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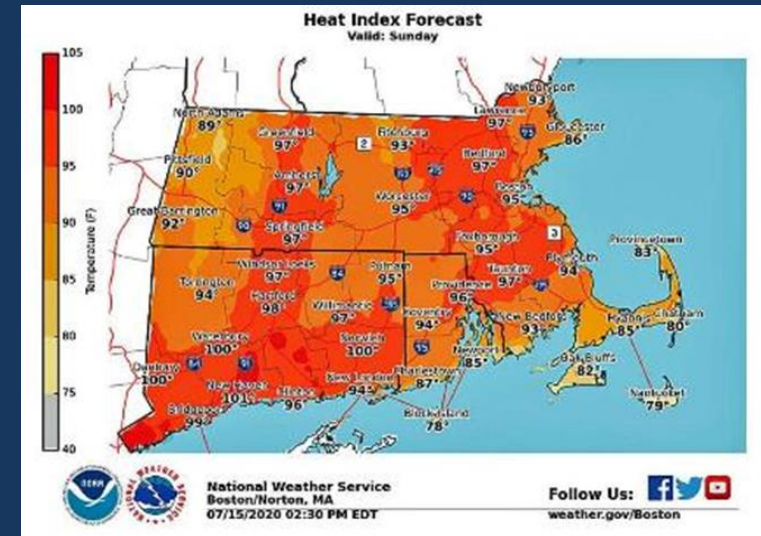
Executive Order 21-3, signed Dec. 16, 2021

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund



Impacts of Climate Change in Connecticut by 2050

- Stronger **storms** with **more wind and rain** and more frequent and longer **droughts**
- Up to **20 inches of sea level rise** along CT coast **by 2050**
- Increased frequency of **coastal flooding** with levels like those seen in Superstorm Sandy every 5-10 years
- Increased frequency of **90°F days**, from ~5 per year from 1970-1999, to ~25 per year from 2040-2069



Federal Funding Opportunity

- Together, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are a **\$49+ billion investment in climate resilience!**
- NOAA-funded climate resilience grants increased by 400% in one year.
- FEMA's BRIC program doubled every year from \$500M in FY20 to \$1B in FY21 to \$2.3B in FY22. Expect funding to stay high, with guaranteed \$200M/yr from IIJA + Disaster Relief Fund.
- Connecticut needs a project pipeline to benefit from these rapidly increased funding levels!



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

- Up to \$10 million available in first round. **NO MATCH REQUIRED.**
- 40% of funds must go to vulnerable communities, including EJ
- Must develop strategy for local match funding for implementation
- Preparing federal grant applications for construction is required



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graph LR; A[Track 1: Planning] --> B[Track 2: Project Development]
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**Track 1:
Planning**

**Track 2: Project
Development**

NOTE: Implementation & Construction to be funded by federal grants



What Does Climate Resilience Mean?

“(T)he ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from deliberate attacks, accidents or naturally occurring threats or incidents, including, but not limited to, threats or incidents associated with the impacts of climate change.”

- What do impacts from hazards mean to people, property, livelihoods, health, and community services/lifelines?
- How can we reduce disruption, damage, and/or other impacts?



What Does Climate Resilience Mean?

Hazards include:

- Extreme precipitation
- Flooding from riverine, stormwater, tidal sources, or a combination
- Sea level rise (including groundwater impacts)
- Extreme temperatures (heat and cold)
- Extreme weather (winter storms, nor'easters, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes)
- Tropical storm and hurricane impacts
- Windstorms
- Wildfire
- Drought

How do these hazards change due to climate change through at least 2050?



Track 1 – Planning: Overview

Applications: Due 11/10

Duration: Up to 24 months

Amount: Up to \$250,000

No match required

- **Climate resilience planning**
 - Regional, Municipal, or neighborhood (hyper-local) scale
- **Community engagement** to support equitable climate resilience planning
- **Grant writing** for next steps



Track 2 – Project Development: Overview

Applications: Early decision 10/21
Final deadline: 12/1

Duration: Up to 18 months

Amount: Expect to fund a range between \$300,000 and \$700,000, but no limit.

No match required

- Site studies and selection
- Preliminary designs
- Engineering studies
- Benefit cost analyses
- Community engagement
- Federal grant writing
- Anything else that supports a competitive application to federal resilience competitions.
- **Does Not Include funding for implementation or construction**



Differences Between Tracks

Track 1 – Planning

- Develop a plan
- Identify potential projects
- Identify vulnerability
- Engage community and stakeholders
- Typical applicants: local government, councils of government, utilities, non-profits/academia/consulting firms already partnering with communities
- Typical applications may have multiple partners involved

Track 2 – Project Development

- Already have a plan
- Ready to advance identified projects
- Already understand vulnerability
- Continue engaging community and stakeholders
- Typical applicants will be local governments, utilities, consulting firms, and nonprofits that already manage federal grants or infrastructure projects
- Depending on scope, typical applications will only have partners directly impacted by and/or contributing to the project



Application Deadlines

Track 1: Planning:

- Final Deadline: Thurs, Nov. 10

Track 2: Project Development:

- Early Decision: Fri, Oct 21
- Final Deadline: Thurs, Dec 1

Application email must be submitted by 11:59pm of the due date.

Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov



Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Local government
- Councils of Government
- Nonprofit organizations
- Utilities
- Academic institutions
- Private sector

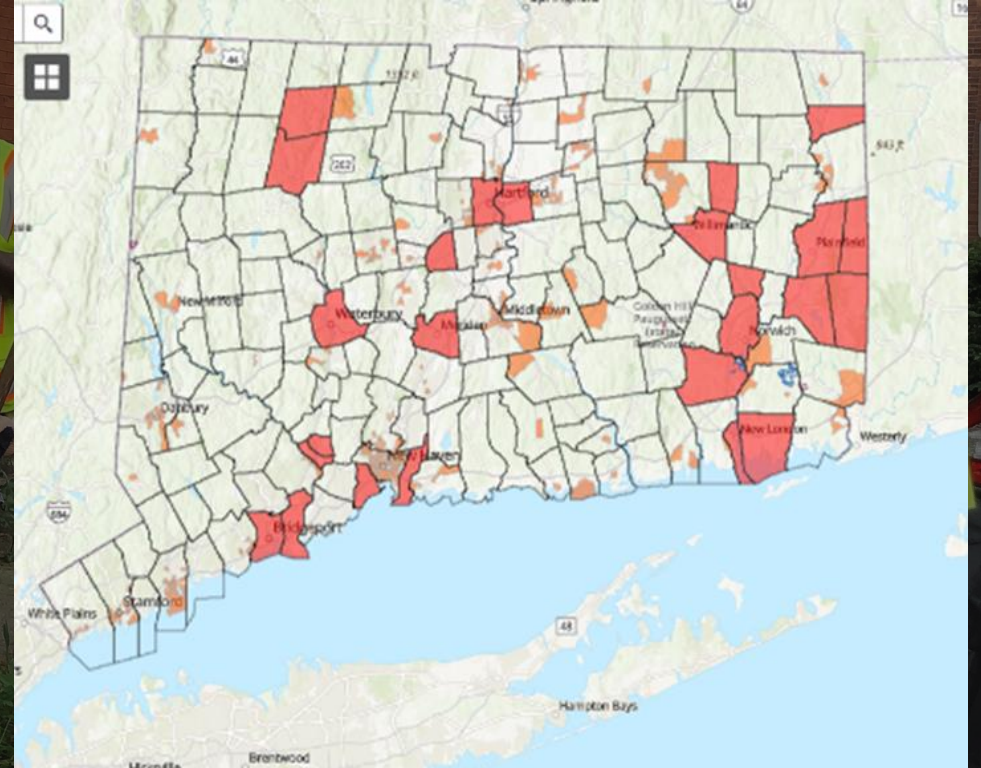
Note: All applications **must** demonstrate strong commitment and partnerships with local governments and community organizations.



Prioritizing Vulnerable Communities

At least 40% of resources must go to municipalities where vulnerable people reside.

This means if DEEP awards \$10 million in grants, at least \$4 million must go to municipalities where vulnerable people reside.



CT Environmental Justice Communities



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based solutions involve incorporating elements of nature to reduce flooding and other effects of climate change while protecting, preserving, and/or restoring habitat.

Track 1 – Planning: Plans should explore how to incorporate nature-based solutions to improve resilience.

Track 2 – Project Development: Projects that include nature-based elements are strongly encouraged.



Community Engagement

Track 1: Planning:

Minimum of 3 public meetings, including 1 to share results with community and one final feedback opportunity.

Strongly encourage more!

Track 2: Project Development

Minimum of 2 public meetings, including 1 to share results.

Engagement must be commensurate with proposed scope of work

Community Liaisons are eligible expenses for both tracks



Required Deliverables

Track 1: Planning:

Copy of the prioritized list of next steps (unless already in plan)

Track 2: Project Development

Copy of draft project narrative for federal grant application

- Copy of funded activity (plan, design, study, etc.)
- Executive summary highlighting the process and lessons learned
- Funding assessment exercise
- Presentation slide communicating accomplishments and lessons



Local Match Funding Strategy

All grantees (Tracks 1 and 2) are required to develop a local match funding strategy to meet the non-federal match requirements of federal funding opportunities.

The local match strategy may include using the stormwater authority and climate resilience board expansions authorized under Governor Lamont's **Public Act 21-115**



Where is this funding coming from?

- The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund is authorized through state bond funds.
- State bond funds are primarily disbursed on a reimbursement basis.
- If a potential applicant cannot work via reimbursement basis or has an extenuating circumstance, they may contact DEEP once an award has been announced and contracting process has begun to discuss their needs.
- If you have questions, email DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov.



Application Support

UConn CIRCA is available to support potential applicants:

Proposal assistance: Connecting applicants with CIRCA's climate resources, including viewers, data, and climate policy fact sheets.

Proposal partnership: Where CIRCA has expertise and capacity, it can formally partner with applicants on proposal writing and budget development.

Contact: circa@uconn.edu



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- DEEP will post an updated version of the FAQs on the [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund website](#) every Friday.
- We will review emails in batches so we have time to provide a thoughtful response and also add to the FAQs so everyone can see the response.
- If you have already emailed your question, we will respond by this afternoon. Thank you for your patience.



Upcoming DEEP Webinars and Office Hours

Friday, October 7: 11am to 12:30pm

Webinar 3: Track 1: Planning Details and Q&A

Thursday, October 27: 1pm to 2pm

Webinar 4: Budget and Milestone Chart discussion

Friday, October 14: 11am to 12pm

Open Office Hours discussion

Thursday, October 20: 11am to 12pm

Open Office Hours discussion

Thursday, October 27: 11am to 12pm

Open Office Hours discussion



Track 2 – Project Development

Program Details
Application Process
Vulnerable Communities



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Track 2 – Project Development: Funded Activities

Advancing Previously Identified Resilience Projects

- Project scoping, site studies, and selection
- Preliminary designs
- Engineering studies and analyses, including hydrologic and hydraulic studies
- Feasibility analysis
- Environmental compliance data collection
- Incorporating environmental planning and historic preservation considerations
- Benefit-cost analysis
- Community engagement to support all activities
- Grant writing for federal resilience applications
- **Any additional activities that lead to the development of a competitive application to federal resilience competitions**



Track 2 – Project Development: Requirements

- Project **MUST** advance community climate resilience
- Project **MUST** have been previously identified in prior planning
- Project **MUST** connect to a federal funding source for implementation
- If you need something for a next stage grant application, then yes that activity is eligible. If you can get federal funding for that activity, please apply for federal funding first.



Track 2 – Project Development: Review Criteria

Advancing Previously Identified Resilience Projects

- Project's overall potential to improve community climate resilience
- Application identifies and aligns with federal resilience grant programs that the applicant intends to pursue to fund implementation
- Project is identified in previous planning activities
- Project is consistent with the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development
- Project incorporates the impacts of climate change into design



Track 2 – Project Development: Review Criteria

Advancing Previously Identified Resilience Projects

- Project serves or benefits environmental justice or vulnerable communities
- Strength and depth of stakeholder and community involvement and engagement, with at least two (2) public meetings, including one (1) to communicate results.
- Project connects with CIRCA's PERSISTS framework
- Final report includes a draft project narrative for federal applications



Track 2 – Project Development: Review Criteria

Advancing Previously Identified Resilience Projects

- Final report includes a locally derived match funding strategy exercise that examines measures authorized in An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation (Public Act 21-115)
- Project includes elements of nature-based solutions
- Project has co-benefits (i.e., reduces GHG emissions, addresses multiple issues, creates an amenity to the community, comprehensive approach to risk reduction)



Track 2 – Project Development: Review Criteria

Advancing Previously Identified Resilience Projects

- Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline
- Project costs are allowable and reasonable
- For those applicants who have previously received funding through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the approval process



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Required Deliverables

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Track 2: Project Development

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- Funding assessment exercise
- Presentation slide communicating accomplishments and lessons



Application Process

To apply:

Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov.

Materials for both tracks include:

- Completed Application (found on the website)
- Budget Template
- Budget Justification
- Milestone Chart template
- Letters of support
- Additional materials as required (listed on the application)





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Executive Order 21-3

Search Climate Action

by Keyword



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund



DEEP is pleased to open the first round of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund.

Check the Webinar section below for upcoming informational webinars.

Register for the next webinar:

Track 2: Project Development Details and Q&A

Friday, September 30, 10 – 11:30 AM

<https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund



The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund has two tracks for applications:





Track 1: Planning

Applicants can seek up to \$250,000 to fund climate resilience planning that addresses the impacts of climate-related hazards, including how climate change increases weather-related risks.

Eligible Applicants include: Municipalities, Councils of Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic Institutions, and private sector entities.

To apply: Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov by 11:59pm, Thursday, November 10.

Application Materials:

- [Application template](#)  (Note: includes a list at the end of all required documents)
- [Budget template](#) 
- [Budget justification](#) 
- [Milestone chart template](#) 

<https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>








Track 2: Project Development

Applicants can seek funds to advance resilience project scoping and development that leads to federal funding for implementation. While there is no cap on the amount of funding that can be requested, DEEP expects to fund most project development grant application requests in a range of \$300,000 to \$700,000.

Eligible Applicants include Municipalities, Councils of Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic Institutions, and private sector entities.

To apply: Send all application materials in one email to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov. The early decision deadline for Track 2 applications is Friday, October 21. Final deadline for all Track 2 applications is 11:59 pm, Thursday, December 1.

Application Materials:

- [Application template](#)  (Note: includes a list at the end of all required documents)
- [Budget template](#) 
- [Budget justification](#) 
- [Milestone chart template](#) 
- [PERSISTS Framework](#) 

<https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>



Application



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

TRACK 2: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

September 27, 2022

Section 1 – Applicant Details

1.	Applicant name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
2.	Mailing Address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
3.	Primary Contact Name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Primary Contact Email Address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Primary Contact Phone Number:	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.	Fiscal Agent name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Fiscal Agent contact email address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Fiscal Agent contact phone number:	Click or tap here to enter text.
5.	Organization EIN:	Click or tap here to enter text.
6.	Requested Amount:	Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 2 – Proposal Overview

1.	Which of the following relevant hazards will your plan or project address? (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extreme precipitation <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding from riverine (including ice jams and dam failures), stormwater, tidal sources, or a combination. <input type="checkbox"/> Sea level rise (including groundwater impacts) <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme temperatures (heat and cold) <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme weather (winter storms, nor'easters, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes) <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical storm and hurricane impacts <input type="checkbox"/> Windstorms <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Drought
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> [CHECK BOX] I understand that projects must incorporate climate change impacts out to 2050 or beyond and that DEEP will provide technical assistance for support throughout the process. The final report to DEEP must detail how this task was accomplished.	
3.	Is your project development team including a budgetary request for grant writing for federal resilience funding at the end of the project development work as part of this application? (Note: this is an allowable cost and is encouraged for project development teams that want to pursue federal resilience grant competition funding for next steps.)	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> (b) No. We have our own support for applying for federal resilience grant funding. <input type="checkbox"/> (c) No. We do not intend to apply for federal resilience grant funding.



Budget Justification Template and Summary



Budget Justification Template and Budget Summary

This budget justification template is intended to guide applicants as they provide CT DEEP a breakdown of the costs associated with your Track 1 or Track 2 application. Include total category costs next to each category header. These values will be used when submitting the project budget summary. Applicants are permitted to use alternative budget tools to the spreadsheet template provided, however, the budget summary with all categories costs and a completed copy of this budget justification form must be included with your application.

Italicized text is informational only. Please delete it before you submit your application. The plain text is a mock-budget justification for the mock-budget summary below to further aid applicants in building a budget and justification. Applicants should use values and descriptions that fit their application. This justification narrative is illustrative only.

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Budget

Budget Summary

Salaries *	\$47,657.00
Fringe	\$23,829.00
Total Salary & Fringe	\$71,486.00
Travel	\$4,000.00
Participant Support Costs	\$7,500.00
Subawards	\$100,000.00
Contractual Services	\$25,000.00

Fringe Benefits. \$23,829

Provide here all personnel names (if applicable), positions, and total fringe benefit amount for Year 1 and Year 2. Fringe benefit rates may differ across positions.

Name: J. Smith
Position Title: Project Manager
Total Fringe Benefit Amount: \$14,297

Name: TBD
Position Title: Project Assistant
Total Fringe Benefit Amount: \$9,532

Travel \$4,000

Include here a topline estimate of travel-related expenses for the project team. Include, planned travel destinations and purpose (i.e., community meetings, conferences, site visits, etc. in [Town X]). If attending a conference, please include the conference name. For all planned travel you must describe how it is intended to benefit the purpose and goals of the project. As a reminder, all actual travel costs are by reimbursement only.

We request \$2000 for Year 1 and 2 each (\$4000 total). It is anticipated that the Project Manager and Project Assistant will travel for an initial visit to the expected site of the climate resilience project. The project team also expects to host up to three in-person community engagement workshops yearly (6 total in Years 1 and 2), where the team will travel to the [Town X] community library. The Project Manager intends to attend [Organization Y's] statewide climate resilience conference at the end of Year 1, where they will gain education on equitable community resilience and capacity

NOTE: This is the budget document we will evaluate




Budget Tool

1	DEEP Resilience Fund Budget Template			Note: The numbers provided here are used for illustration purposes.					
2				Year 1 Months	Year 2 Months		Year 1	Year 2	Total
3	A.	Name (if available) and Title of Personnel	Annual Salary	1/1/2023- 12/31/2023	1/1/2024- 5/31/2024	% Annual Effort	1/1/2023- 12/31/2023	1/1/2024- 5/31/2024	
4		Example: J. Smith, Project Manager	\$75,000	12.00	6.00	25.00%	18,750	9,844	28,594
5		Example: To-be-hired, Project Assistant	\$50,000	12.00	6.00	25.00%	12,500	6,563	19,063
6							-	-	-
7							-	-	-
8							-	-	-
9							-	-	-
10							-	-	-
11							-	-	-
12							-	-	-
13							-	-	-
14							-	-	-
15							-	-	-
16	Total Salaries						31,250	16,407	47,657
17									
18	C.	Fringe Benefits	Yr 1	Yr 2					
19		Example: J. Smith, Project Manager	50.0%	50.0%			9,375	4,922	14,297
20		Example: To-be-hired, Project Assistant	50.0%	50.0%			6,250	3,282	9,532
21							-	-	-
22							-	-	-
23							-	-	-
24							-	-	-
25							-	-	-
26							-	-	-
27							-	-	-
28							-	-	-

Required Budget Summary

Budget Tool

Ready

 Accessibility: Investigate

NOTE: This tool is to help you prepare the budget for the justification and summary. You can use any method. We are not evaluating this document. Please do not submit this file with your application.



Milestone Chart for Track 2



Resilience Project Milestone Chart – DEEP Resilience Fund Grant – TRACK 2

There is no formal cap on funding requests for Track 2, however, DEEP expects awards to range between \$300,000 and \$700,000. The expected duration of Track 2 project development is up to 18 months from the contract execution date, depending on project scope, complexity, and community engagement plan.

1. Applicant Name: _____
2. Project Name: _____
3. Program Duration: _____
4. Total Grant Request \$: _____

If approved, the schedule will become part of your grant contract with the state. You will be monitored for compliance with these dates. Therefore, you must estimate the dates as wisely as possible.

Please provide projected dates of completion. Be advised these dates will be considered part of your project schedule. A quarterly progress report is required. Quarters are January 1 – March 31; April 1 – June 30; July 1 – September 30; and October 1 – December 31.

Primary Tasks (expand as needed)	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	5th Qtr.	6th Qtr.

NOTE: This document will be evaluated.

Please use this template for your milestone chart.



Application Resources: PERSISTS

ABOUT PERSISTS

PERSISTS is a multi-criteria framework developed in collaboration with stakeholders during the Resilient Connecticut [Phase I workshop](#) in May, 2019. Similar to other approaches, including FEMA's [STAPLEE](#) method, PERSISTS helps project developers evaluate climate resilience actions and strategies for their potential to balance multiple goals and priorities among stakeholders. PERSISTS is comprised of 8 categories:

- **Permittable** – Can be authorized through necessary Federal, State, and local permits
- **Equitable** – Ensures that benefits are equitable among populations
- **Realistic** – Can be realistically engineered and is plausibly fundable
- **Safe** – Reduces risks to people and infrastructure
- **Innovative** – Process has considered innovative options
- **Scientific** – Apply and improve on the best available science
- **Transferrable** – Can serve as model for other communities
- **Sustainable** – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable and supported by the public and leadership



Track 2: Vulnerable Communities



Section 4 – Vulnerable Populations

Executive Order 21-3 states that at least 40 percent of the resources in this program **MUST** go to planning activities/project development that serves vulnerable populations. For example, if DEEP awards a total of \$10 million in planning grants, at least \$4 million of that amount must directly serve vulnerable populations as defined in Section 16-243y(7). The questions in this section will help DEEP evaluate whether your proposed plan will benefit vulnerable populations.

8.	Is your project located in an Environmental Justice municipality or census tract identified on the DEEP Connecticut Environmental Justice Communities map?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		<input type="checkbox"/> No
9.	Is your project located in a community eligible for community reinvestment pursuant to section 36a-30 and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, 12 USC 2901 et seq., as amended from time to time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		<input type="checkbox"/> No



Track 2: Vulnerable Communities

10. **People who are considered vulnerable to climate change with limited capacity to adapt include:**

- **Communities of color**
- **Children and seniors**
- **Low-income communities**
- **People with disabilities**
- **Pregnant people**
- **People with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**
- **Other historically disadvantaged people**
- **People impacted by the social determinants of health**
- **Populations identified by the American Public Health Association.**

Tell us more about the vulnerable populations in the area the project will serve? Be specific and include data if available.

11. **How will your project, if constructed, benefit the people you have identified as vulnerable? Be specific.**

Click or tap here to enter text.



Track 2: Vulnerable Communities

Note: Applications that meet the eligibility for serving vulnerable communities and people will be evaluated first, initially only in the pool of other applications meeting that criteria.

Applications that do not meet the vulnerable communities eligibility will be evaluated in the second pool.



Community Engagement

Track 2: Project Development

Minimum of 2 public meetings, including 1 to share results.

Engagement must be commensurate with proposed scope of work

Note: Hiring a community liaison to support engagement efforts with vulnerable populations is an eligible expense.



Federal Resilience Grant Opportunities

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)
- NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants
- NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities
- Clean Water Fund Reserve for Construction of Green Infrastructure and Reserve for Construction of Resiliency Projects



Questions?

Sarah.Watson@ct.gov



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund