

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Program Overview

- Please mute microphones and keep cameras off
- Put questions in the chat
- We will answer questions afterward, but for in-depth discussion, please register for subsequent webinars



Dr. Rebecca French and Sarah Watson
Office of Climate Planning
September 23, 2022

CT CLIMATE
ACTION

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



CT CLIMATE ACTION



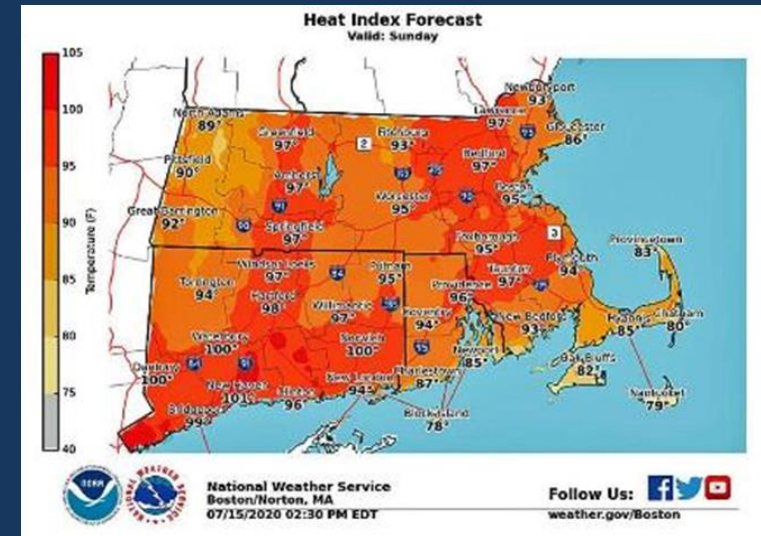
Executive Order 21-3, signed Dec. 16, 2021

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



Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include:

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

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



Track 1 – Planning: Overview

Applications: Due 11/10

Duration: Up to 24 months

Amount: Up to \$250,000

- **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: Rolling: Review begins 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.

- 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**



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

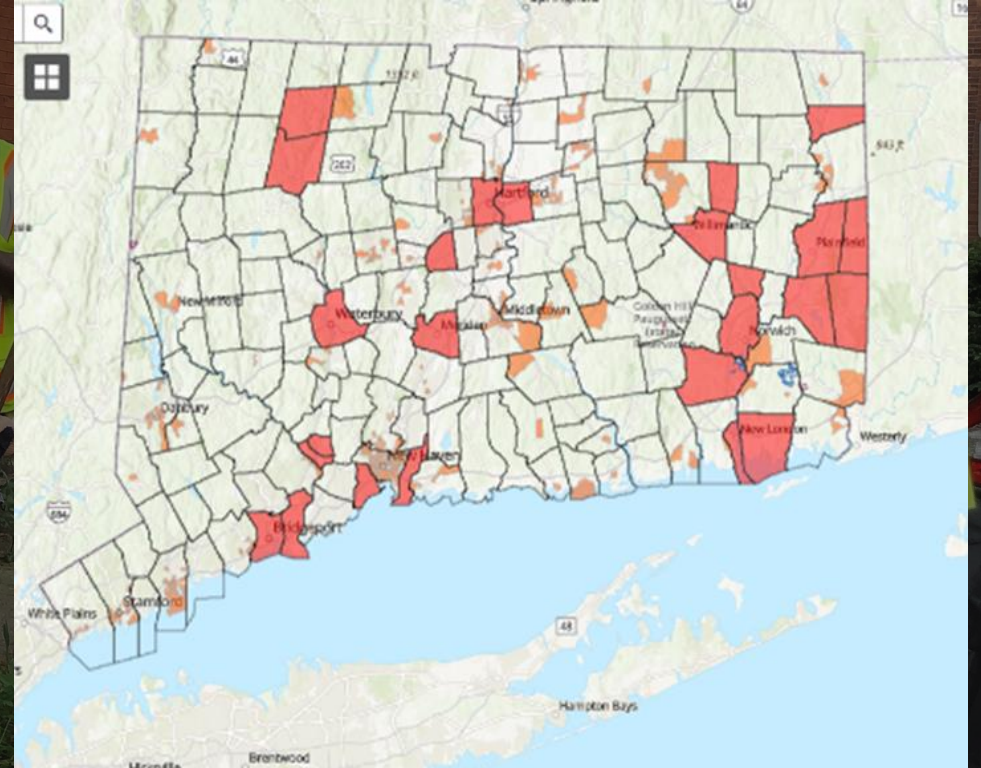
Community Liaisons are eligible expenses for both tracks



Prioritizing Vulnerable Communities

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

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



CT Environmental Justice
Communities



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

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**



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.



Upcoming DEEP Webinars and Office Hours

Friday, Sept. 30: 10am to 11:30am

Webinar 2: Track 2: Project Development Details and Q&A

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

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

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



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



Questions?

Sarah.Watson@ct.gov

or

DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov

