



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund 2025

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Issued October 3, 2025

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$44 million in state and federal funds to support planning, project advancement, and construction to help Connecticut's communities build resilience to extreme weather. This opportunity is open to municipal governments, local public utilities, non-governmental organizations, Tribal nations, and other eligible entities. See [funding categories](#) for additional information on eligibility.

Background

The impacts of climate change are being felt across Connecticut, including more frequent flooding from sea-level rise and intense rainstorms, hotter days, longer wildfire seasons, and damaging winds. Connecticut's communities are rising to meet these new challenges by developing innovative resilience plans and projects, often seeking to fund these efforts through state and federal grant programs.

To support this critical local and regional work, DEEP established the [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund \(DCRF\)](#) to help municipalities and other entities develop project pipelines and unlock funding to protect their communities from extreme weather. This historic investment into building a more resilient Connecticut was established by [Executive Order 21-3](#) and was a key recommendation from the [Governor's Council on Climate Change](#).

DCRF provides communities with on-ramps to competitive funding by supporting projects at any stage of development through funding categories for resilience planning, project design, and project implementation ([Planning](#), [Advancement](#), and [Deployment](#)). The current Notice of Funding Opportunity opens the next application period for [Planning](#) and [Advancement](#), and introduces a [Deployment](#) category that includes an [expanded matching funds program](#) and a Request for Proposals for the construction of energy resilience infrastructure.

Planning

Advancement

Deployment

- [Matching Funds for Community Resilience](#)
- [Energy Resilience Construction RFP](#)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity was developed based on feedback from a Request for Information and public comment period that took place in the fall of 2024. Future funding notices under DCRF will continue to incorporate this and future feedback as the program responds to the needs of Connecticut's communities.

DCRF 2025 priorities

For this round of funding, DEEP encourages applicants to develop projects that use innovative approaches that increase community resilience by addressing multiple [natural hazards](#). For projects funded by DCRF, *community resilience* refers to the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of extreme weather. Competitive applications will demonstrate how proposed projects will reduce the risks that climate-driven [natural hazards](#) pose to life, health, infrastructure, and essential services, including reliable energy. Projects should account for how these risks are expected to change over time, incorporating the best available information on current and future climate conditions and anticipated sea-level rise, as appropriate. DEEP also encourages applicants to consider how their projects could support reliable energy and reduce outages through measures such as protecting energy infrastructure from extreme weather or deploying microgrids and other backup power systems.

Nature-based solutions

DEEP encourages applicants to consider how nature-based solutions can play a central role in cost-effective risk reduction while providing additional benefits to communities. For projects funded by DCRF, nature-based solutions are design and engineering practices that use, restore, or create natural features or processes to reduce risk from flooding, heat, wind, and other [natural hazards](#). The types of nature-based approaches that will be competitive for DCRF funds will offer risk reduction benefits that are comparable to traditional infrastructure but will be more cost-effective or offer substantial benefits to local communities, such as recreation, increased property values, or job creation. Since DCRF projects must provide risk reduction that is measurable and durable, hybrid approaches that integrate traditional built infrastructure with natural features or engineering may be appropriate for many projects. Examples of effective nature-based approaches that have been implemented in Connecticut and other states can be found on the [DEEP Climate Resilience webpage](#).

Community engagement

Meaningful and inclusive community engagement is a cornerstone of all projects funded by DCRF. DEEP expects applicants to demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging community leaders, residents, and other stakeholders to ensure that their projects are successful and competitive for additional funding opportunities. For projects that will benefit disadvantaged regions, applicants should clearly outline an engagement strategy that uses best practices to develop equitable and effective partnerships with vulnerable communities. DEEP strongly encourages project teams to conduct more meetings than the minimum required, emphasize meeting accessibility, and work closely with community-based organizations. Additional

guidelines for community engagement for DCRF projects can be found in [Appendix C](#) and on the [DEEP Climate Resilience webpage](#).

Energy resilience

Energy resilience – including backup power for critical facilities and services during outages associated with extreme weather events, as well as protections for key energy infrastructure from extreme weather – is an important element of DEEP’s comprehensive approach to community resilience. In keeping with this comprehensive approach, the DCRF includes state and federal funding to support energy resilience projects. The DCRF builds on the success of DEEP’s previous Microgrid Grant and Loan program, which historically funded generation and infrastructure associated with microgrids. Microgrid projects will continue to be eligible for this current funding, and the scope of eligible projects in the DCRF has also been expanded to include a wide range of energy resilience measures, as articulated in the [draft request for proposals](#), to mitigate the impact of events in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster. These energy resilience projects must provide community benefits and incorporate a holistic approach to meeting community energy needs. Such benefits should be quantifiable and/or tangible and should relate to reducing the likelihood or duration of occurrences of disruptive events.

Planning

DEEP is accepting applications for planning processes that evaluate the primary threats to communities from climate-driven extreme weather and identify durable measures to build community resilience into the future. The planning process must focus on a clearly defined area, which may be regional (such as the region served by a Council of Government), municipal, or at the scale of neighborhoods. The outcome of the funded project must be one of:

- a planning document that will guide future project development and implementation,
- pre-planning activities that identify the necessary steps to complete a full-scale planning effort, or
- studies related to the creation of dedicated funding for resilience priorities.

Applicants may request budget items for activities that support the planning process or set up plans for future implementation, including community engagement and developing narratives that can be used in grant applications. DEEP encourages applications that propose innovative and comprehensive plans that focus on solutions, rather than vulnerability assessments or updates to existing plans.

For 2025, DEEP encourages applications for planning activities that would generate the information needed to develop funding mechanisms to implement the resilience priorities identified in existing plans, including Plans of Conservation and Development, [Resilient](#)

Connecticut, [hazard mitigation plans](#), and municipal resilience plans. These planning activities could include feasibility and fee structure studies to support the creation of [stormwater authorities](#), or revenue projections and other necessary components of [District Master Plans](#) to support [Resiliency Improvement Districts](#).

Eligibility: Municipal governments, Councils of Government, neighborhood organizations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, public utilities, state and federally recognized Tribal nations. See [Appendix A](#) for additional eligibility requirements.

Project requirements and deliverables

At the end of the project period, awardees will be required to provide a copy of the final plan and a separate final report highlighting key outcomes. The funded plan must:

- address all relevant natural hazards for the region (e.g., flooding, extreme heat, wind, and wildfire, if appropriate),
- comprehensively consider measures that build community resilience, including measures that reduce the frequency and duration of power outages,
- incorporate a vulnerability assessment of climate impacts on identified [critical facilities](#) and [community lifelines](#), and other aspects of social vulnerability, and
- include a narrative that identifies potential sources of state and federal funding for the described goals and activities.

In addition to the deliverables listed above, awardees must hold at least three public meetings during the project period, including one meeting to communicate project results. Additional requirements may be discussed for awarded projects. All project deliverables may be made available on the DEEP website.

Funding range for individual awards: DEEP will make up to \$10 million in state bond funds available for the [Planning](#) and [Advancement](#) categories. Individual awards in the Planning category will range from \$25,000 to \$250,000. The total funds that DEEP awards may be adjusted depending on the quality and number of applications. Please see the [DCRF Timeline and Budget Justification form](#) for additional information on eligible costs and budget requirements for DCRF projects.

Period of performance: Up to 24 months from contract execution

Application process and key dates

DEEP will only review applications that are:

- submitted by an eligible entity,
- complete,
- received on or before the due date and time, and
- submitted on the [application forms for the Planning funding category](#).

A complete application will include the project narrative, project timeline and budget justification, and budget spreadsheet on the provided forms, and any applicable letters of support. Applicants from non-governmental entities are strongly encouraged to include letters of support from the relevant municipal government in their applications. Please contact DEEP.ClimateResilience@ct.gov if you need accommodations to submit an application.

Applications open: **October 3, 2025**

Applications due: **January 15, 2026**

Review criteria

DEEP will evaluate projects based on how well they meet the following aims and review criteria. Projects with higher scores will be prioritized for funding.

Impact of proposed work – 30 points in total

- The project would lead to direct benefits to local and state jurisdictions, or state or federally recognized Tribal nations. Benefits should be able to be expressed as a measurable reduction in risk to communities.
- The project would result in direct or indirect benefits to environmental justice or vulnerable communities, as defined by [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#).¹
- The proposed work would identify approaches for protecting [critical facilities](#) and [community lifelines](#), or addresses other aspects of social vulnerability

Stakeholder involvement – 25 points in total

- The proposed work includes an engagement plan that ensures a stakeholder-driven vulnerability assessment and planning process.
- The proposed work includes strong partnerships with community organizations during the design process.
- The proposed work provides opportunities for all relevant departments of local government to meaningfully contribute to the planning process, as appropriate.

Approach and work plan – 20 points in total

¹ DCRF defines a *vulnerable community* as any community that has been, or is expected to be, disproportionately impacted by natural hazards. Environmental justice communities, as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#), meet this definition of vulnerability. Applicants who feel that a community is disproportionately vulnerable – but may not meet Connecticut’s definition of an environmental justice community – should provide supporting information in their applications, including any appropriate social, economic, or environmental data.

- The application considers the benefits and costs of risk-informed nature-based solutions and hybrid approaches that reduce risk from natural hazards while providing co-benefits (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or creating community amenities).
- The application clearly identifies the scale of the planning effort – e.g. regional, municipal, or at the scale of neighborhoods
- The project incorporates the best available information on current and future climate conditions and anticipated sea-level rise, as appropriate, to plan for anticipated climate-driven risks at least 50 years into the future.

Feasibility of workplan and timeline – 15 points in total

- The application details costs that are allowable and reasonable.
- The application includes a realistic project timeline.
- The applicant has a record of successfully completing grant deliverables if the applicant has previously received funding from DEEP.
- The applicant has successfully led or contributed to similar work and/or can demonstrate the required expertise to complete the project.
- Describes the type(s) of project(s) that will be included in the planning process, including but not limited to projects that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid and distributed energy resources like Class I renewable energy resources or energy storage systems that provide support during disruptive events.

Creating project pipelines – 10 points in total

- The proposed work has clear connections and alignment with state and federal priorities and funding for climate resilience.
- The proposed work would identify opportunities to form stormwater authorities, resiliency improvement districts, erosion control boards, or other measures authorized in [Public Act 21-115](#) and [Public Act No. 25-33](#).

Advancement

DEEP is accepting applications for scoping, design, and development activities that advance projects that build [community resilience](#), including activities that protect energy infrastructure from extreme weather or deploy microgrids and other backup power systems. At the end of the funded project period, projects should be shovel-ready and competitive for grant programs that could support implementation and/or construction. Projects must be identified in an existing resilience plan, including but not limited to, [Resilient Connecticut](#), [Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development](#), and [Hazard Mitigation Plans](#). Any project type that builds [community resilience](#) may be eligible for funding, including but not limited to, green infrastructure, microgrids, flood prevention and erosion control systems, gray infrastructure, non-structural project solutions. Competitive projects will demonstrate alignment with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation's [PERSISTS](#) framework. Applicants may request budget items for activities that support project advancement, including community engagement and the development of federal grant applications for implementation.

Eligible activities for project advancement include:

- Project scoping
- Feasibility analysis
- Site studies and selection
- Project designs, including preliminary and final designs
- Engineering studies and analyses, including hydrologic and hydraulic studies
- Environmental compliance data collection
- Incorporating environmental planning and historic preservation considerations
- Benefit-cost analysis
- Community engagement to support all activities
- Additional activities that lead to the development of a competitive application for federal grant programs

Eligibility

Entities that have the capacity to implement or support the implementation of community and energy resilience projects may apply. Eligible entities may include:

- Municipal or regional government entities
- Municipal corporations
- Councils of Government
- Public authorities
- State and federally recognized Tribal nations
- Electric distribution companies
- Participating municipal electric utilities
- Energy improvement districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Academic institutions

- Private entities on behalf of one of the public entities listed above

See [Appendix A](#) for additional eligibility requirements.

Project requirements and deliverables

At the end of the project period, awardees must provide a copy of the funded activity and a separate final report highlighting key outcomes. The funded activity must:

- include a vulnerability assessment of climate impacts on identified [critical facilities](#) and [community lifelines](#), and other aspects of social vulnerability, and
- address all relevant natural hazards for the project area (e.g., flooding, extreme heat, and wildfire, if appropriate).

The final report must contain:

- a list of the grant programs that the awardee intends to pursue and/or an analysis of the next steps that are needed to support implementation,
- a general draft of a project narrative that can be used to support applications for additional state and federal funding, and
- a funding strategy for local match that examines measures authorized in [Public Act 21-115](#) and [Public Act No. 25-33](#), such as forming stormwater authorities, resiliency improvement districts, erosion control boards, and other measures.

In addition to the deliverables above, awardees must hold at least three public meetings during the project period, including one meeting to communicate project results. Additional requirements may be discussed for awarded projects. All project deliverables may be made available on the DEEP website.

Funding range for individual awards: DEEP will make up to \$10 million in state bond funds available for the [Planning](#) and [Advancement](#) categories. Individual awards in the Advancement category will range from \$200,000 to \$650,000. The total funds that DEEP awards may be adjusted depending on the quality and number of applications. Please see the [DCRF Timeline and Budget Justification form](#) for additional information on eligible costs and budget requirements for DCRF projects.

Period of performance: Up to 18 months from contract execution

Application process and key dates

DEEP will only review applications that are:

- submitted by an eligible entity,
- complete,
- received on or before the due date and time, and
- submitted on the [application forms for the Advancement funding category](#).

A complete application will include the project narrative, project timeline and budget justification, and budget spreadsheet on the provided forms, and any applicable letters of support. Applicants from non-governmental entities must include letters of support from the relevant municipal government in their applications. Please contact DEEP.ClimateResilience@ct.gov if you need accommodations to submit an application.

Applications open: **October 3, 2025**

Applications due: **January 15, 2026**

Review criteria

DEEP will evaluate projects based on how well they meet the following aims and review criteria. Projects with higher scores will be prioritized for funding. DEEP may evaluate projects against similar types, depending on the number and quality of applications received. DEEP will seek to award a diversity of project types.

Impact of proposed work – 30 points in total

- The project would lead to direct benefits to local and state jurisdictions, or state or federally recognized Tribal nations. Benefits should be able to be expressed as a measurable reduction in risk to communities.
- The project would result in direct or indirect benefits to environmental justice or vulnerable communities, as defined by [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#).²
- The project would protect [critical facilities](#) and [community lifelines](#) or address other aspects of social vulnerability.

Stakeholder involvement – 25 points in total

- The proposed work includes an engagement plan that ensures meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement.
- The proposed work includes strong partnerships with community organizations during the design process.
- The proposed work provides opportunities for all relevant departments of local government to make meaningful contributions to the funded work, as appropriate.

² DCRF defines a *vulnerable community* as any community that has been, or is expected to be, disproportionately impacted by natural hazards. Environmental justice communities, as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#), meet this definition of vulnerability. Applicants who feel that a community is disproportionately vulnerable – but may not meet Connecticut’s definition of an environmental justice community – should provide supporting information in their applications, including any appropriate social, economic, or environmental data.

Approach and workplan – 20 points in total (35 points for projects that integrate community and energy resilience)

- For projects that advance community resilience, the project incorporates risk-informed nature-based solutions and hybrid approaches that reduce risk from natural hazards and provide co-benefits (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or creating community amenities).
- For projects that advance energy resilience, the applicant demonstrates past success and future durability of projects, including the installation of efficiency measures at critical facilities, the type of grid resilience project, and the amount of time the project is expected to operate independently from the grid.

Projects that integrate community and energy resilience are eligible for points in both of the above categories

- Incorporates the best available information on current and future climate conditions and anticipated sea-level rise, as appropriate, to design for anticipated climate-driven risks at least 50 years into the future.
- The proposed work incorporates the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation's [PERSISTS](#) framework.

Feasibility of workplan and timeline – 15 points in total

- The application details costs that are allowable and reasonable.
- The application includes a realistic project timeline.
- The applicant is contributing matching funds.
- The applicant has a record of successfully completing grant deliverables if they have previously received funding through DEEP.
- The applicant has successfully led or contributed to similar projects and/or can demonstrate the required expertise to complete the project.
- For energy resilience projects, the application demonstrates a general knowledge of the proposed facilities or the proposed project type.
- For energy resilience projects that include grid resilience components, the applicant has installed energy efficiency measures at none/some/all of the critical facilities.
- For energy resilience projects that include microgrid capabilities, the proposed project is projected to operate independently of the grid for a significant duration of time.
- Describes the type(s) of project(s) that will be included in the planning process, including but not limited to projects that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid and distributed energy resources like Class I renewable energy resources or energy storage systems that provide support during disruptive events.

Creating project pipelines – 10 points in total

- The proposed work has clear connections and alignment with state and federal priorities and funding for climate resilience

- The proposed work clearly identifies how the project is recommended by previous planning activities, including any municipal Plans of Conservation and Development

Deployment: *Matching Funds for Community Resilience*

DEEP is accepting applications for resilience projects that require matching funds to compete for federal funding programs. *Matching Funds for Community Resilience*, part of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund's new **Deployment** category, expands this spring's *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* program to provide matching funds for a wide range of federal funding programs that can support projects that build [community resilience](#), including energy resilience projects. DEEP created this funding category to help Connecticut communities overcome common barriers to securing federal grants, such as large requirements for non-federal matching funds and uncertainty about the status of federal funding programs. Awarded projects under *Matching Funds for Community Resilience* will receive a commitment for non-federal funds to cover between 25% and 75% of the required match for a federal grant, depending on project scope, location, and the applicant pool. DEEP will consider any project type that builds [community resilience](#) and is eligible for federal funding, including but not limited to, green infrastructure, microgrids, solar-plus-storage systems, flood prevention and erosion control systems, gray infrastructure, and non-structural project solutions.

To be eligible for *Matching Funds for Community Resilience*, a project will be ready for the lead entity to apply for federal funds for implementation before November 2026. In most cases, project design and permitting components should be complete, either through previous funding from the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund or another funding source. Final design components and permitting components are allowable expenses provided that greater than 50% of the funds from DEEP would be used for construction. Applicants should have previously identified some federal funding programs that would be appropriate for their projects. DEEP will work with applicants to refine their funding strategies and potentially identify additional sources of funding. DEEP may also consider accelerated review or making awards to match non-federal funds, at DEEP's discretion, if a project would result in an especially high benefit to communities for the cost.

Applicants to *Matching Funds for Community Resilience* must submit a letter of intent and participate in a pre-proposal period. During this period, selected applicants will collaborate with DEEP to refine project scopes, approaches, and strategies for federal funding. Applicants who are awarded matching funds will receive a conditional commitment for state bond funds, subject to State Bond Commission allocation, for a clearly delineated project scope and budget. Conditional awards can serve as a commitment for matching funds in federal grant applications for up to 12 months after the award date. Applicants may target any federal funds that can support resilience projects. Programs that may be appropriate for projects include, but are not limited to:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund and Long Island Sound Futures Fund
- U.S. Department of Transportation's PROTECT and BUILD Programs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program.
- U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas

See the [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#) webpage for more information on the status of federal programs.

Eligibility

Entities that have the capacity to implement community and energy resilience projects and are eligible for federal grants may apply. Eligible entities may include:

- Municipal or regional government entities
- Municipal corporations
- Councils of Government
- Public authorities
- Federally recognized Tribal nations
- Electric distribution companies
- Participating municipal electric utilities
- Energy improvement districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Academic institutions
- Private entities on behalf of one of the public entities listed above

See [Appendix A](#) for additional eligibility requirements.

Application process

Applicants to *Matching Funds for Community Resilience* must submit a letter of intent by October 31, 2025. This letter should, in one page or less, outline the intended project outcomes, scope, preliminary estimate for the total project cost, and anticipated approaches, including how vulnerable communities will be engaged throughout the project. The project cost estimate should include the funding request from DEEP and the anticipated total from other sources of non-federal match. DEEP will select projects to invite for full applications and work with applicants to refine project details. Through this iterative process, DEEP will help applicants develop competitive project narratives for federal opportunities likely to be announced in the next year. Applicants seeking match for an application to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program should contact DEEP.ClimateResilience@ct.gov as soon as possible.

Applicants who receive awards under *Matching Funds for Community Resilience* will be issued a conditional letter of commitment for state bond funds for a clearly delineated project scope and budget. For up to 12 months after the award date, the conditional letter may be included in federal grant applications as a match commitment. DEEP will convert the conditional commitment of state bond funds into a firm award if applicants receive federal funding for their projects, subject to State Bond Commission allocation, and provided the federal award aligns with the project scope and budget that DEEP approved. Converting the conditional commitment into a firm award will also require that awardees satisfy the following conditions:

- Awardees must notify DEEP before using their conditional letter of commitment to apply for federal funds.

- Awardees must obtain approval from DEEP for the federal grant programs they intend to target before submitting applications.
- Awardees must notify DEEP about the status of any federal grant applications every three months during the 12-month period of the conditional commitment.
- Awardees must provide DEEP with a copy of each federal grant that is submitted.

DEEP will only review applications that are:

- invited to apply after the pre-proposal period,
- submitted by an eligible entity,
- complete,
- received on or before the due date and time, and
- submitted on the [application forms for Matching Funds for Community Resilience](#).

A complete application will include the project narrative, project timeline and budget justification, and budget spreadsheet on the provided forms, and any applicable letters of support. Applicants from non-governmental entities are strongly encouraged to include letters of support from the relevant municipal government in their applications. Please contact DEEP.ClimateResilience@ct.gov if you need accommodations to submit an application.

Project requirements and deliverables

Twelve months from the award date, awardees must provide a final report outlining the federal grants that were submitted, key outcomes, and next steps. Projects that receive matching funds from DEEP must hold at least three public meetings during the project period of the funded activity, including one meeting to communicate project results. Additional requirements may be discussed for awarded projects. All project deliverables may be made available on the DEEP website.

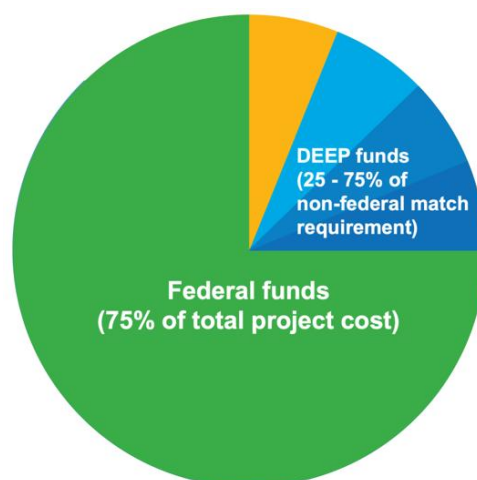
Funding range

DEEP will make up to \$10 million in state bond funds available for *Matching Funds for Community Resilience*. The total funds that DEEP awards may be adjusted depending on the number and quality of applications. DEEP will determine the funding amount for individual projects based on a formula that applies to a wide range of federal grants that can support resilience projects. Federal funding programs typically require a project's non-federal match to cover 25% of the total project cost. DEEP will award successful applications a base percentage of 25% of this non-federal match requirement. Additional percentage amounts may be awarded if DEEP determines that the project meets the following criteria:

- projects that benefit environmental justice communities, as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#), may receive an additional 25% of the non-federal match requirement, and

- projects that incorporate nature-based solutions may receive an additional 25% of the non-federal match requirement.

The maximum percentage that may be awarded is 75% of the non-federal match requirement for a project. With the maximum award under *Matching Funds for Community Resilience*, applicants are required to provide at least 25% of the non-federal match requirement. Individual awards are not expected to exceed \$4 million. In addition to the base formula above, DEEP may also consider the project scope, location, and the applicant pool when determining the award amount.



Please see the [DCRF Timeline and Budget Justification form](#) for additional information on eligible costs and budget requirements for DCRF projects.

Period of performance

Conditional letters of commitment for state bond funds will specify that DEEP's match commitment will remain valid for 12 months after the award date. If an applicant is awarded a federal grant and DEEP converts a conditional commitment into a firm award, the project period for the DEEP funds will align with the performance period for the federal grant program, typically 36 months.

Key dates

Applications open: **October 3, 2025**

[Letters of intent](#) due: **October 31, 2025**

Full applications due: **December 15, 2025**

Review criteria

DEEP will select applicants to invite for full applications based on alignment with DCRF priorities and project readiness, as outlined in letters of intent. DEEP will evaluate full applications based on how well the proposed projects meet the following aims and review criteria. Projects with higher scores will be prioritized for funding.

Impact of proposed work – 30 points in total

- The project would lead to direct benefits to local and state jurisdictions, or state or federally recognized Tribal nations. Benefits should be able to be expressed as a measurable reduction in risk to communities.

- The project would result in direct or indirect benefits to environmental justice or vulnerable communities, as defined by [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#).³
- The project would protect [critical facilities](#) and [community lifelines](#) or address other aspects of social vulnerability.

Stakeholder involvement – 30 points in total

- The proposed work includes an engagement plan that ensures meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement.
- The proposed work includes strong partnerships with community organizations during the design process.
- The proposed work provides opportunities for all relevant departments of local government to make meaningful contributions to the funded work, as appropriate.

Approach and work plan – 20 points in total

- The application considers the benefits and costs of risk-informed nature-based solutions and hybrid approaches that reduce risk from natural hazards while providing co-benefits (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or creating community amenities).
- The project incorporates the best available information on current and future climate conditions and anticipated sea-level rise, as appropriate, to plan for anticipated climate-driven risks at least 50 years into the future.
- The project would create co-benefits (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas emissions, addressing multiple issues, creating an amenity to the community).
- The proposed activities are consistent with the applicable [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- The proposed activities are consistent with the applicable municipal Plan of Conservation and Development.
- The proposed work incorporates the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation's [PERSISTS](#) framework.

Feasibility of workplan and timeline – 20 points in total

- The application details costs that are allowable and reasonable.
- The application includes a realistic project timeline.
- The applicant has a record of successfully completing grant deliverables if the applicant has previously received funding from DEEP.

³ DCRF defines a *vulnerable community* as any community that has been, or is expected to be, disproportionately impacted by natural hazards. Environmental justice communities, as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#), meet this definition of vulnerability. Applicants who feel that a community is disproportionately vulnerable – but may not meet Connecticut's definition of an environmental justice community – should provide supporting information in their applications, including any appropriate social, economic, or environmental data.

- The applicant has successfully led or contributed to similar work and/or can demonstrate the required expertise to complete the project.

DEEP reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and cancel or revise this Notice of Funding Opportunity at any time if deemed in the best interest of the State of Connecticut. See [Appendix B](#) for additional terms and conditions.

Appendix A

What to expect if you receive a DCRF award

Awards under the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund are disbursed using a reimbursement model. To receive funding under the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund, entities must be able to contract with DEEP. Awardees will submit reimbursement requests with proof of payments at intervals according to the terms of the contract. The following documents will need to be sent to DEEP to execute a contract:

- Signature resolution on municipal letterhead (sample with preferred wording attached)
- Certificate of liability insurance that lists DEEP as an additional insured (example attached)

DEEP recommends that awardees begin the process of obtaining these documents once they receive an award letter to avoid delays in the contracting process. Awardees must not begin work on the funded project prior to receipt of an executed contract. The contracting process will not begin until state bond funds for the awarded project have been allocated by the State Bond Commission. Awardees should account for the contracting process in their project timelines. Once the contracting process begins, it will take approximately three to four months to execute the contract. Contracts with state and federally recognized Tribal nations may require additional time to process and we recommend that Tribal awardees involve their legal counsel early to minimize procedural delays.

When procuring subcontractors, awardees must follow a process that is consistent with or more restrictive than the [State of Connecticut's competitive selection process](#) and must keep records from the procurement process readily available. DEEP will provide additional procurement guidelines and requirements for awarded projects.

SAMPLE
Preferred Wording
"Certified Resolution"

Be it resolved that it is in the best interests of the [Enter Institution Name] to enter into contracts with the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and sign any and all documents.

In furtherance of this resolution, [Name of Authorized Official] the [Title of Authorized Official] is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the [Enter Institution Name]. [Name of Authorized Official] currently holds the [Title of Authorized Official] and has held that office since [Date Appointed]. The [Title of Authorized Official] is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

[(Use the following sentence only if a seal is used)] The [Clerk/Secretary, etc.] is authorized to impress the seal of the [Enter Institution Name] on any such document, amendment, rescission, or revision.

I, [Name], the [Clerk/Secretary, etc.] of [Enter Institution Name], do hereby certify this to be a true copy of the resolution duly adopted at the [Type of Meeting or Hearing] on [Date], and that it has not been rescinded, amended or altered in any way, **and that it remains in full force and in effect.**

[Clerk/Secretary, etc.]

Date

[Corporate Seal or "L.S. "]

SAMPLE



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

XXXXXXXX

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER XXXXXXXX	CONTACT NAME:	
	PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):	FAX (A/C, No):
INSURED City of XXX Address Zip	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE	
	INSURER A : XXXXXXXX	
	INSURER B :	
	INSURER C :	
	INSURER D :	
INSURER E :		
INSURER F :		

COVERAGES

CERTIFICATE NUMBER:

REVISION NUMBER:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:			XXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ XXXXX DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ MED EXP (Any one person) \$ PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ XXXXX GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ XXXXX PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ PER STATUTE OTH-ER
	<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						
	<input type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> DED <input type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$						
	<input type="checkbox"/> WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	Y/N	N/A				E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)
General Liability Deductible \$350,000

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is listed as additional insured with regard to the City of XXX grant for improvements to XXXX

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

CANCELLATION

CT. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106-5127	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
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ACORD 25 (2016/03)

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Appendix B

Terms and conditions

A Notice of Funding Opportunity is not an offer. Neither this Notice of Funding Opportunity nor any subsequent discussions shall give rise to any commitment on the part of the State or the Agency or confer any rights on any proposer unless and until a contract is fully executed by the necessary parties. The contract document will represent the entire agreement between the applicant and DEEP and will supersede all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, alleged or made, between the parties. The State shall assume no liability for costs incurred by the proposer or for payment of services under the terms of the contract until the successful proposer is notified that the contract has been accepted and approved by the Agency and, if required, by the Attorney General's Office.

By submitting an application in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, an applicant implicitly agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- a) Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. The State is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its hiring, employment, or business practices. The State is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.
- b) Preparation Expenses. Neither the State nor the Agency shall assume any liability for expenses incurred by a proposer in preparing, submitting, or clarifying any proposal submitted in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- c) Exclusion of Taxes. The Agency is exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the federal government and the State. Proposers are liable for any other applicable taxes.
- d) Insurance: At its sole expense, the proposer shall, during the entire term of this contract, maintain insurance reflecting the following limits:
 - i. General Liability insurance providing a total limit of \$1,000,000 for all damages arising out of bodily injury to or death of all persons in any accident or occurrence and for all damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property in any one accident or occurrence. In cases where any insurance policy shows an aggregate limit, the aggregate limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000. Coverage is to include products and completed operations.

- ii. The operation of all motor vehicles, including those hired or borrowed, used in connection with this contract shall be covered by Automobile Liability insurance providing for a total limit of \$1,000,000 for all damages arising out of bodily injuries or death of all persons in any one accident or occurrence, for all damages arising out of injury or destruction of property in any one accident or occurrence. In cases where an insurance policy shows an aggregate limit, the limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000.
 - iii. The State of Connecticut shall be listed as Additional Insured on the coverages specified above in Subsections i and ii, and written evidence of that listing shall be included with the evidence of insurance.
 - iv. Said coverages are to be provided by insurance companies licensed by the State of Connecticut and in effect and renewed yearly upon expiration for the entire contract duration.
- e) Conflict of Interest – Proposers must include a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the proposer and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if a proposer tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. In the absence of any conflict of interest, a proposer must affirm such in the disclosure statement. Example: “[name of proposer] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85.”
- f) Assurances – By submitting a proposal in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, a proposer implicitly gives the following assurances:
 - Collusion. The proposer represents and warrants that the proposer did not participate in any part of the Notice of Funding Opportunity development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the Notice of Funding Opportunity prior to its issuance. The proposer further represents and warrants that no agent, representative, or employee of the State participated directly in the preparation of the proposer’s proposal. The proposer also represents and warrants that the submitted proposal is in all respects fair and is made without collusion or fraud.

Appendix C

Guidelines for community engagement

Entities that are awarded DCRF funds will demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging community leaders, residents, and other stakeholders throughout their projects. The following information outlines the community engagement requirements for DCRF projects and provides resources that may help with the development of equitable and effective strategies for community engagement.

Individual projects may have specific requirements for community engagement, specified by DEEP, but all DCRF awardees must hold at least three public meetings during the project period, including one meeting to communicate project results. DCRF awardees should also integrate the core best practices of meeting accessibility, involvement of community-based organizations, and valuing the time and expertise of community members. Specific examples of actions that grantees should consider as they implement best practices are:

- Hiring a community liaison to support outreach to vulnerable communities
- Providing childcare, transportation, and food at meetings
- Implementing language accessibility across all facets of the program, especially if the community has a large non-English speaking population. At a minimum, language accessibility should include:
 - Translating outreach materials
 - Providing professional interpretation at public meetings
 - Working with all language interpreters/translators to ensure that technical language is understood
- Providing gift cards or stipends to meeting participants in vulnerable communities

Additional resources

- [A guide for Connecticut municipalities on centering equity in resilience planning](#) from the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group of the [Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change \(GC3\)](#)
- [Guidance on best practices for public participation](#) from the GC3
- [Guidance on equitable compensation for community participation](#) from the Urban Institute
- [Strategies for equitable community engagement in municipal decision-making processes](#) from the University of Arizona
- [A framework for the community engagement process](#) from the Institute for Market Transformation

- [A workbook for developing a community engagement plan](#) from the Emerald Cities Collaborative