

# Governor's Council on Climate Change

## Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

### Working Group

September 15, 2022

#### Meeting will begin shortly

- This meeting is being recorded and a recording will be posted on the GC3 website.
- If you are a Working Group member, you may turn your camera on during the discussion periods.
- Please stay on mute and off camera if you are **not** a working group member.
- Public Comment: Send a direct message to Sarah Watson via chat to sign up to speak.



# GC3 Working Group Webinar Ground Rules

- This webinar is being recorded. A recording will be posted on the GC3 [website](#).
- The chat is public record. Please be respectful and avoid off-topic conversations.
- **Working Group members:** Please introduce yourself in the chat.
- **Working Group members:** Please put your questions for presenters in the chat.
- Discussion portion of the meeting is for **Working Group members** only. Please have camera on. Use the raise hand function. You may also use the chat for additional dialog.
- If you are **not** a Working Group member, please keep camera off and microphone muted.
- To sign up for public comment, send a direct message to **Sarah Watson** to sign up. You may also provide public comment **during this period** in the chat.
- If there is a disruption, we will first try to remove the individual(s) from the meeting. If we have to stop, we will restart and you can rejoin using the original meeting link.



**Goal:** Identify opportunities for resilient infrastructure with nature-based solutions and make recommendations for

1. Incorporating those nature-based solutions into infrastructure projects
2. Prioritizing projects for funding
3. Reporting to DEEP on any projects that come of IIJA funding that incorporate nature-based solutions

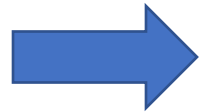
Opportunities for stakeholder input

1. Application of nature-based solutions
2. Agencies/programs this applies to

# CT Department of Transportation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Programs - Resilience

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Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program



Provides funding for resilience improvements through:

Formula funding

Competitive planning grants

Competitive resilience improvement grants

Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants

At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants

Emergency Relief Program



New interpretation of existing program

# Funding Resilience



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Solutions Working Group  
Governor's Council on Climate Change  
September 15, 2022**

**CT CLIMATE  
ACTION**



# Financing & Funding Resilience in GC3



## ***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



## **61 recommendations for near-term action** to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change

### Financing & Funding Adaptation & Resilience GC3 Recommendation #56a:

- Use state bond funds resilience projects.
- Fund feasibility analysis or design and engineering required for “green” and “grey” project pipeline and federal grants
- 40% equity funding commitment and criteria.
- Comply with state or federal program requirements.
- Authorize municipalities, non-profits and academic institutions to apply.
- Enable grant recipients to receive technical assistance.



# Executive Order 21-3



Executive Order 21-3 signed December 16, 2021

## 23 actions

- support equity and environmental justice
- informed by the best available climate science
- align with 30+ near-term actions recommended by the GC3
- *Whole-of-government* approach with actions in the areas of:
  - buildings and infrastructure
  - clean transportation
  - community climate resilience
  - health, equity and environmental justice
  - jobs and the economy
  - natural and working lands



# 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





# 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

## Track 1: Planning:

**What:** Up to \$250,000 to develop a climate resilience plan at either regional, municipal, or neighborhood-level.

## Track 2: Project Development

**What:** No \$ limit. Funds to develop resilience projects (site assessments, engineering studies, prelim designs, etc.) and preparing competitive federal grant applications.



# Federal Resilience Funding Opportunities

- [NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) (nature-based solutions for resilience and habitat)
- [NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund](#) (nature-based solutions for water quality and community resilience)
- [FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities \(BRIC\)](#) (infrastructure projects)
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#) (only available w/ qualifying disaster - infrastructure projects)

*\*\*All above programs require non-federal match ranging from 25%-50%*



## **FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program**

For FY22, \$2.3 billion is available to

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, as referenced in Executive Order 14008 - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes
- Encourages hazard mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities

This program replaces the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program



# Key Federal Resilience Funding Opportunities

## FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

- FEMA BRIC will fund:
  - **Capability and Capacity Building Activities** are those that enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the current workforce, to expand or improve the administration of hazard mitigation assistance.
  - **Hazard mitigation projects** are cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards.
- Requires a 25% non-federal match. Economically disadvantaged rural communities require only a 10% match.
- Areas with CDC Social Vulnerability Index greater than or equal to 0.6 will be prioritized under Justice40 as disadvantaged communities
- State, Local, and Tribal governments are eligible to apply
- ***CONTACT: Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to Apply***



# Key Federal Resilience Funding Opportunities

## FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- This program implements mitigation measures in long term recovery. The implementation of Hazard Mitigation measures aid in response and strengthen a community's overall ability to withstand the effects of a natural disaster in the future.
- Types of Eligible Projects
  - Local and State Hazard Mitigation Plans and Updates
  - Drainage/Road Reconstruction Projects
  - Projects that protect buildings from wind damage
  - Projects that protect flood-prone homes and other insurable buildings
- Funding is tied to a disaster declaration in Connecticut





# Key Federal Resilience Funding Opportunities

## FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- The application period for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) *Connecticut Covid-19 Pandemic (DR-4500)* is open until **October 30, 2022**.
- HMGP-Sub-Application and submitted to DEMHS.HMGP@ct.gov. If you have technical issues with the sub-application, please email the DEMHS Mitigation Unit at [DEMHS.HMGP@ct.gov](mailto:DEMHS.HMGP@ct.gov).
- <https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Grants/Hazard-Mitigation-Grant-Program/Apply>



## **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)** **National Coastal Resilience Fund**

- Funds conservation projects that restore or expand natural features that also minimize storm impacts.
- Projects must focus on nature-based solutions and identify co-benefits
- Funding is through a tiered system that effectively creates a project pipeline
- Funding can be for planning/scoping, project design, and construction/implementation.
- Will award \$140 million in FY2021
- No match required, but providing match is one of the considerations for scoring project



## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund

- **Community Capacity Building and Planning:** Funding for engaging stakeholders, planning, and project identification. In FY21 average grant award was \$250,000. Outcome should include a plan that identifies and prioritizes projects the community can do to reduce risk and improve ecosystem health.
- **Site Assessment and Preliminary Design:** Funding for site assessments, preliminary designs, baseline data, cost-benefit analyses. In FY21 average grant award was \$250,000. Outcome should be a preliminary 30%-60% design that is ready for the next stage.



## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund

- **Final design and permitting:** Funding to develop final designs and engineering plans. Projects for large, comprehensive projects most competitive. FY21 average award was \$350,000. Outcome should be a 90%-100% design.
- **Restoration and monitoring:** No maximum limit, but average award in FY21 was between \$1 million and \$5 million for construction and monitoring of the site. Projects with all permits and approvals receive higher priority. Eligible projects include nature-based and/or hybrid (green/gray) infrastructure projects that have tangible resilience and restoration outcomes.



## **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)** **Long Island Sound Futures Fund**

**FY22 Funding Priorities for total of \$10M in funding available**

- Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundance Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Sound Science and Inclusive Management







## Questions?

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<https://portal.ct.gov/ConnecticutClimateAction>

