

Agenda

- **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements**
(Chair – Lee Cruz, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven)
- **Quick Reference Guide to Centering Equity in Climate Change Resilience Planning for Connecticut Municipalities**
(Dr. Mark Mitchell, George Mason University)
- **Presentation on DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program**
(Sarah Watson, DEEP Office of Climate Planning)
- **Questions and feedback about program**
- **Public comments**

DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program Straw Proposal Feedback

GC3 Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group



Sarah Watson
Office of Climate Planning

9. Connecticut Community Climate Resilience Program

Goal: develop a resilience project pipeline

- Directs DEEP to establish a Connecticut Community Climate Resilience program for resiliency planning and project development
- Uses funding from the microgrid and resilience grant program for plans and project development

GC3: 4, 55a, 55b

Relevant Agencies: DEEP



9. Connecticut Community Climate Resilience Program

- At least 40% of funding resources targeted for municipalities where vulnerable populations reside
- Funding for nature-based (green infrastructure) solutions, gray infrastructure, and non-structural projects
- Projects shall be integrated into relevant plans to ensure eligibility for implementation through existing and new federal funding programs, in consultation with partners

GC3: 4, 55a, 55b

Relevant Agencies: DEEP



Funding Context

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- **Federal** funding that adds \$550 billion of newly authorized \$ for infrastructure spending nationally
- Does not establish new community resilience programs, but increases funding to current programs.
- Resilience funding is competitive
- Runs through 2026

DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program Funding

- Up to \$30 million in **state** bond funds authorized (but not allocated)
- For resilience planning and project development
- Is reimbursement-based
- Pre-award spending not allowed
- Applications expect to open Summer 2022



DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program Goals

- 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



What This Program Will Fund

- Climate resilience planning activities (Track 1)
- Climate resilience project development (Track 2)
- Enhanced community engagement (both tracks)
- Support for writing federal grant applications (both tracks)



**Track 1:
Planning**

**Track 2:
Project
Development**

**Implementation
& Construction**

What This Program Will **NOT** Fund

- Construction or Implementation

Track 1:
Planning

Track 2:
Project
Development

Implementation
& Construction



Track 1: Proposed Funded Activities

- **Climate resilience planning**
 - Regional, Municipal, or neighborhood (hyper-local) scale
- **Community engagement to support equitable climate resilience planning**
- **Grantees eligible for federal grant writing support**



Track 2: Proposed Funded Activities

- Site studies and selection
- Preliminary and final designs
- Engineering studies
- Benefit cost analyses
- Community engagement
- Anything else that supports a competitive application to federal resilience competitions.
- **Grantees eligible for federal grant writing support**



Vulnerable Populations Priority Eligibility

EO 21-3: “Funding for this program should be allocated to ensure that **at least 40%** of resources for municipalities are targeted to municipalities where vulnerable populations, as defined in CGS Sec. 16-243y, reside and where plans are developed specifically to address the needs of identified vulnerable populations.”

For example: If we give out \$10 million, at least \$4 million must go to areas where vulnerable populations reside.



Vulnerable Populations Priority Eligibility

CGS Sec. 16-243y: “vulnerable communities” means populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change:

- Low and moderate income communities
- Environmental justice communities
- Communities eligible for community reinvestment
- Populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change
- Or as further defined by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in consultation with community representatives.



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- Low and moderate income communities

2022

Income Limit Area Definitions Connecticut Metropolitan & Non-Metropolitan Areas

**(Effective 04/18/2022)
Must be in use no later than 6/1/2022**

Source:

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/mtsp/mtsp22/HERA-Income-Limits-Report-FY22.pdf>

AND

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il22/area-definitions-FY22.pdf>

Vulnerable Populations Priority Eligibility

CGS Sec. 16-243y: “vulnerable communities” means populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change:

- Low and moderate income communities
- **Environmental justice communities**

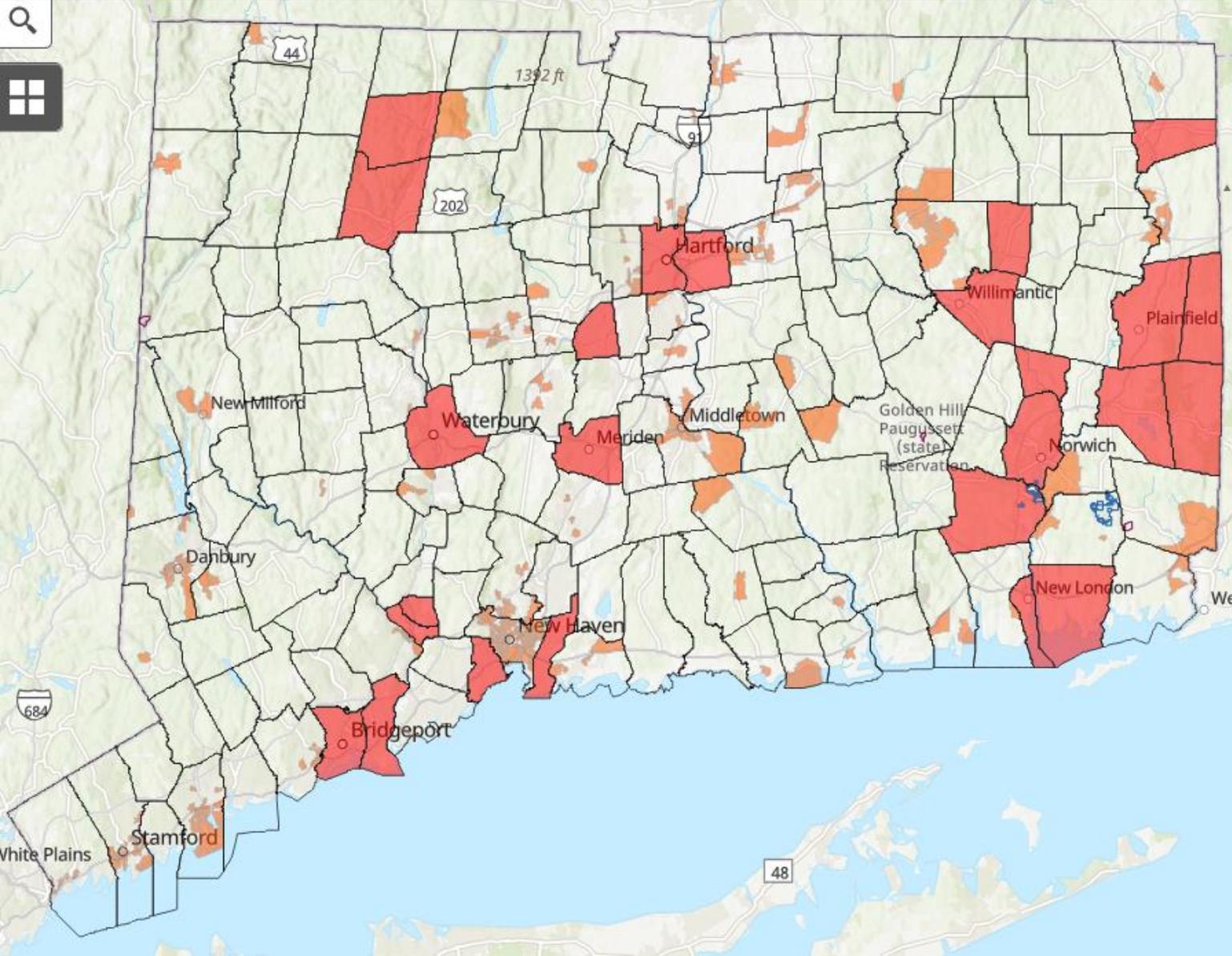


- Environmental justice communities



Connecticut 2021 Environmental Justice Communities

CT DEEP EJ Home



About

Purpose

This map depicts the 2021 Connecticut environmental justice communities as defined by section 22a-20a of the Connecticut General Statutes. EJ communities include distressed municipalities as defined by the CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) as well as census block groups that are not in distressed municipalities in which 30% or more of the population lives below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). EJ census block groups were determined using poverty data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates.

Vulnerable Populations Priority Eligibility

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- **Communities eligible for community reinvestment**



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DEEP Questions on Vulnerable Populations

For populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change, this list was developed by the GC3 EEJ working group.

- 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

Note: this list would only apply if a designation from previous categories was not met.



DEEP Questions on Vulnerable Populations

- What other criteria should DEEP (and applicants) use for identifying vulnerable populations?
- For applications that meet the criteria, how should DEEP determine whether proposed projects or plans specifically address the needs of identified vulnerable populations?



Applicant eligibility

Government
Councils of Government
Community Organizations
Non-Profits
Academic Institutions
Tribal entities*
Private sector*

Prioritize partnerships as much as possible

For example: If primary applicant is not a municipality, letters of support from local governments must make staff time commitments for specific activities/tasks in planning processes



Equity in Applications

- Do you have suggestions for how DEEP should run the application process?
- How much time is reasonable for an application period that might open in late June or early July?
- What are ways DEEP can support prospective project teams during the application process?



Project Duration

Track 1: Planning:

12-18 months depending on project scope, complexity, and community engagement plan.

Track 2: Project Development:

Up to 12 months for design and engineering studies



Match Requirements

- DEEP proposes a 25% match that can be met with staff time, in-kind service, cash, or other tangible service. Vulnerable communities would have a 10% match.
- Should match be a requirement or a recommendation?
- If match is a requirement, should DEEP consider a waiver for certain applicants?



Required Meetings and Technical Assistance

- DEEP will support all grantees with technical assistance to ensure they are able to effectively apply the best available science and can maximize climate resilience resources
- The grant review panel will determine TA meetings based on the submitted application.
- Final report should include an executive summary of how the team accomplished project goals, include a copy of funded activity.
- Report must also include a locally derived match funding strategy and draft grant application components for next steps



Thank you

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DEEP Climate Resilience Grant Program