



**RHODE ISLAND
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**

**The Nature
Conservancy** 
Rhode Island

Resilient Rhody: Municipal Resilience Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Link to Request for Responses: [2019 MRP Request for Responses](#)

How does the Community Resilience Building (CRB) process build on the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and other existing resilience-related plans for a municipality?

The CRB process began as an extension of local hazard mitigation planning efforts to provide broader representation from the community on discussions of vulnerability and strengths, and to develop and prioritize actions to reduce risk. The CRB process also provides a forum to integrate local HMPs and other resilience-related plans (e.g., local comprehensive plans, harbor management plans, or Resilience Rhody). We have “cross-walked” FEMA’s Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide against the CRB steps to identify where and how the Community Resilience Building Process can satisfy specific elements of the regulatory checklist. The comparison is available online [here](#).

How should a municipality’s core team be composed so that it is representative of the community?

The core team should be diverse and reflect the community it represents, especially vulnerable populations. The core team should include both “content” experts, those who have a strong technical background in community planning and hazard mitigation, and “context” experts, those who will bring community member input and experiences to the table. Inviting a wider net of community representatives to the table can fill in gaps in the conversation and lead to more inclusive policies from the beginning. Typical core teams range from 3-6 individuals.

Who should be invited to a CRB workshop?

Invite a wide range of people to participate based on their expertise, experience, authority, and where they work and live. Consider individuals that influence, guide, and/or have the authority to make decisions. Seek out individuals or entities disproportionately disadvantaged in the past by hazards and those likely to be impacted in the future. The CRB Workshop Participant Worksheet can help identify a diverse cross-section of participants to invite to workshops (www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org). A typical number of workshop participants ranges from 20-50 individuals depending largely on the population size of the community.

Will we accept joint applications from multiple municipalities?

Yes, joint applications will be accepted, but two municipalities maximum per proposal. Municipalities partnering on a proposal should demonstrate a shared interest in climate resiliency and in partnering to implement some of the priority actions identified in the CRB process. This could be a good approach for municipalities that plan together, rely on each other economically, share services like a school system, or conduct emergency management operations jointly.



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How much and what is the source of the implementation funds?

MRP designated municipalities will have the opportunity to apply for dedicated implementation funding. The funding will be available as a pool to participating municipalities and total amount is being finalized. The funds will not be loans and more information about source and application process will be released shortly.

What kinds of priority projects are eligible for implementation funding?

A range of priority initiatives will emerge from the CRB process but only design and construction for water pollution abatement projects are eligible for implementation funds. A sample list of eligible projects types:

Sample Infrastructure Projects:

- Dam repair and removal
- Culvert repair
- Stormwater infrastructure

Sample Nature-based Solutions Projects:

- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Watershed restoration and flood control
- Marsh and wetland restoration
- Coastal erosion mitigation
- Urban tree planting

Can drinking water supply management projects be among the priority funded projects?

If the project reduces water pollution, it will be considered.

Will future MRP rounds fund projects that address other resilience challenges such as storm surge or evacuation routes?

Eligible projects will be reconsidered for each round, but climate resilience will be the core theme for the program.

Do municipalities need to have a nature-based project in mind before they apply?

No. Priority resilience projects will emerge from the CRB process and identification is not required before applying.



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How many pages do you expect applications to be? Can we include links to existing analysis and reports?

There is no page limit, but we anticipate that most applicants can provide complete answers within 3-4 pages. Please feel free to include links and/or documentation of local climate resilience and hazard mitigation planning efforts with your application.

What are the match requirements that municipalities need to provide?

The match requirements are in place to ensure deep collaboration and commitment from the municipality and MRP Leadership Team. Municipalities must commit staff time (estimated at 120-200 hours) to assure completion of this planning exercise and community engagement. Eligible staff time will include many activities throughout the CRB process. A list of activities is listed in the RFR on page 2 under "Match Requirement."

How do nature-based solutions relate to the Community Resilience Building process?

The ultimate goal of the CRB process is to help identify potential actions that communities can implement to increase their resiliency to natural and climate-related hazards. One such potential action may be implementing a nature-based solution (as defined in the 2019 RFR). It may be useful to engage stakeholders from conservation or natural resources backgrounds during the CRB process to have input on what potential nature-based solutions may be advantageous and applicable within your community.

Who will review the applications and what is the decision-making process?

The review committee includes a representative from Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and Rhode Island Department of Health. Each application will be reviewed using a scoring system based on MRP application criteria. Selected municipalities will be announced by the end of April 2019.

Where should further questions be submitted?

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