

Aquidneck Island Regional Resilience Coordinator

Background

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (Bank) led the development of the state's climate resilience action strategy, *Resilient Rhody*. The strategy, which was released in 2018, identified the need to for greater resources to support municipalities in building local resilience. In response, the Bank established the Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to work closely with municipalities to assist in building a pipeline of climate resilience projects, each informed by a diverse stakeholder group of municipal and community leaders. The MRP provides direct support to Rhode Island cities and towns to complete a municipal-driven workshop process that brings together climate change information and local knowledge to identify top hazards and risks, current challenges, and community strengths.

Position Summary

The Aquidneck Island Regional Resilience Coordinator's primary duties are to work directly with city and town officials to support the three Aquidneck municipalities (Newport, Portsmouth, and Middletown) in their resilience efforts and ensure coordination between the municipalities and the Bank in advancing climate resilience projects. The position will work closely with Bank staff and stakeholders to provide municipalities with technical assistance towards furthering both intra- and inter-municipal climate resilience projects across Aquidneck Island.

The full-time, 24-month position will start in late 2021. The position will report to both the Bank's Managing Director and the Stormwater and Resilience Analyst and will also collaborate closely with other staff of the Bank. The primary responsibility of this role is supporting Aquidneck Island municipalities to cultivate adaptation and resilience projects, as well as to implement awarded planning and action grants.

Scope of work includes leading meetings with local and state stakeholders regarding resilience on Aquidneck Island; maintaining communications between these stakeholders and the Bank; providing technical assistance through coordinating training and engagement events; streamlining application processes for resilience project funding; connecting municipalities with design and funding resources; advocating for sustainable green infrastructure and nature-based solution resilience techniques; as well as assisting municipalities to report on project metrics.

Responsibilities

- Manage the Bank's Aquidneck Island Regional Resilience initiative.
- Collaborate with Aquidneck Island municipal representatives to identify technical assistance and funding needs to advance intra- and inter-municipal priority resilience actions noted in the MRP workshops, with specific focus given to opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Collaborate with municipalities to determine goals for advancing priority resilience actions in the two-year period and assist municipalities with meeting these goals through providing needed technical assistance.

- Work with Aquidneck Island MRP core teams and other local partners to establish and lead an Aquidneck Island Resilience Working Group.
- Provide updates on MRP and other funding opportunities to Aquidneck Island municipalities.
- Keep municipalities informed of updated climate change projections that can be used for planning and tools/resources available for advancing adaptation action such as maps, design guidelines, and best practices.
- With both the individual Aquidneck Island municipalities and with the Aquidneck Island Resilience Working Group, establish evaluation criteria and metrics for resilience actions and/or projects completed with the coordinator's assistance.
- Become subject matter conversant on the resilience goals and previously identified resilience actions of the three Aquidneck Island municipalities.
- Become subject matter conversant with the state's resilience action strategy, Bank resilience initiatives, the MRP, and climate resilience funding and financing opportunities in Rhode Island.

Qualifications

- Master's degree in planning, landscape architecture, climate finance / environmental economics, public policy, natural resources, environmental science, or another related field.
- Three years of professional experience, with demonstrated project management, including such activities as strategic planning and plan implementation.
- A working and scientific knowledge of climate mitigation and adaptation, particularly coastal resilience challenges (sea level rise, storm surge, coastal erosion, etc.).
- Experience communicating technical information to various stakeholders and engaging communities in climate resilience projects.
- Strong knowledge of Aquidneck Island, through previous work or life experience, is a plus.
- Experience working with the federal government, given Aquidneck Island's close work with the Naval Station in Newport, is also a plus.

Desired Skills

- Ability to work effectively with various stakeholders involved in environmental issues and policies, as well as a broad view of state, national, and global environmental problems and solutions.
- Effective interpersonal and relationship building skills, including the ability to work collaboratively with management and with a diverse group of stakeholders, at all levels, internally and externally.
- Working knowledge of performance measurement tools, business operations and record management systems.
- Comfortable working independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to learn quickly and act in a fast-paced environment. Goal-oriented mentality, detail-oriented, and demonstrates strong organizational, leadership, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent critical-thinking and problem-solving capabilities, as well as strong analytical and decision-making skills.
- Effective team skills: professional, assertive, driven, self-starting, and able to multi-task.



- Comfortable with making group presentations, telephone conversations and speaking in meetings and other large forums.
- Proficient in the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and other software programs as necessary. Ideally also proficient in the Adobe Creative Suite.
- Experience with ESRI (ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Pro) mapping software a plus.

How to Apply

Please send your cover letter and resume to careers@riib.org.

About Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

The Bank provides financing and funding to municipalities, businesses, and homeowners for infrastructure improvements. The Bank leverages limited capital in a revolving fund to offer these services for an array of project types, including water and wastewater, road and bridge, energy efficiency and renewable energy, brownfield remediation, and climate resilience.

Other Information

The Bank is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer. Females, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Bank offers a competitive pay package that is inclusive of salary and health and welfare benefits.

This position will require the completion of independent and collaborative site visits across Aquidneck Island.

If you have Diversity, Affirmative Action, or Equal Employment Opportunity questions or need a Reasonable Accommodation, please contact Kimberly Koriath at kkoriath@riib.org.

Please note: This is a 24-month contract position from date of hire.