

2016 Resilient Community Partnership

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Delaware Coastal Programs (DCP) recognizes that many of Delaware's communities are vulnerable to flooding, sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, or other impacts from severe weather and climate change. Proactive resilience planning enhances a community's adaptive capacity to prevent or cope with these external hazards. Preparing communities for these challenges is not only an important goal of DCP, it preserves the socio-economic well-being of the state.

This year, DCP will partner with one community to initiate formal resilience planning, which is the process of assessing risks and building the capacity of a community to "bounce back" after hurricanes, coastal storms, inland flooding and other events and changing climate conditions. Some communities have already initiated steps to build resilience and others have yet to begin. This partnership recognizes that no matter where a community is in their process, resilience planning takes a lot of staff time, technical expertise, coordination between agencies and financial resources to effect positive change. DCP is offering direct staff support, policy expertise, technical assistance and funding to help a community advance one or more steps through the resilience planning process. Whether it is helping a community initiate assessment work or move into implementation, the partnership's goal is to further a community's progress and produce tangible, beneficial outcomes.

In general, resilience planning encompasses three primary objectives:

1. Assess - Development of a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of known and emerging hazards
2. Plan – Identification, prioritization, and feasibility of adaptation and mitigation measures. This stage typically considers technical, economic, political and social factors in determining relative priorities.
3. Implement – Design and initiation of measures that enhance resilience. Examples include revisions to town code, infrastructure upgrades, or public outreach campaigns.

Partnership Overview

DCP will select one community for a year-long partnership to advance them through one or more of the resilience planning stages described above. A community is eligible for this partnership regardless of where they are in the process. Dependent on the community's progress and continued funding after the first year, DCP may continue working with the selected community over a longer time period to achieve a mutually agreeable project outcome. The goal of the partnership, as described above, is to initiate planning or facilitate further progress to achieve specific outcomes that enhance a community's capacity to respond to and recover from extreme events. DCP will lend considerable staff support and technical expertise, while playing a major role in meeting and workshop facilitation, coordination with other federal and state agencies, and contracting for support services. DCP's expertise includes all facets of resilience planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services, data analysis, meeting facilitation, development of adaptation and mitigation strategies, and education and outreach.

Up to \$75,000 in funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be administered by DCP for contracted services such as cost-benefit analyses and engineering designs, as needed. While DCP cannot fund construction projects, it will work with the community to best position them to apply for other federal and state funding for expenses not funded by DCP. Other ineligible costs through the partnership include, but are not limited to, municipal or county staff salaries and indirect costs.

Match Considerations

Non-federal match dollars and in-kind services are encouraged but not required. If a community is able to provide non-federal match dollars or in kind services to the effort, it would facilitate additional progress in completing partnership tasks and therefore should be indicated in the community application. Non-federal match includes funding to support contracted professional services and/or community staff time and in-kind resources, such as meeting space and supplies. Staff time (volunteer or paid) and any additional resources provided by the participants must be documented to be considered match.

Eligibility

In the context of the Resilient Community Partnership, a “community” is any incorporated municipality or county in the state. An unincorporated area may apply for the partnership by acquiring county sponsorship and commitment. The commitment would entail, at a minimum, county representation and participation at meetings and workshops for the duration of the partnership. A letter of sponsorship and commitment from the county must be included in the submission package from unincorporated communities.

In addition, communities who meet the above definition are eligible whether or not they have carried out some level of resilience planning in the past. Those communities who previously completed some resilience planning should specifically describe in their application the status of their planning and why assistance is needed.

Evaluation Factors

All eligible communities will be objectively evaluated against the following criteria:

- Demonstration of need – Present a convincing argument of your community’s existing or potential vulnerability to hazardous events and climate change
- Benefits of the partnership - Explain why this partnership is needed to begin or further your community’s resilience planning. How will it empower your community to initiate tasks or facilitate more progress?
- Community support – Describe your community’s willingness and ability to successfully undertake and complete this work in a timely fashion (including past performance on DNREC grants, if applicable)
- Transferability and relevance to DCP mission – Will the partnership outcomes promote best practices and frameworks that are transferable to other towns, thereby helping to make Delaware a more resilient state?
- Contribution of non-federal match dollars and in-kind services – while not required to make a community eligible for this partnership, some level of non-federal match dollars and/or in kind services is preferred.
- Thoroughness and thoughtfulness in completing the application questions and narrative

Application Instructions

In order to be considered for this partnership, DCP asks that each eligible community complete the following requirements. Packages that are late or incomplete will not be eligible.

- 1) Community Narrative
- 2) Community Questionnaire

- 3) Supporting Documentation, including previous assessments, ordinance changes, etc. *(if available)*
- 4) Letters of Support that demonstrate the commitment of decision makers and/or civic associations (and the county, if applicable)

Community Narrative

Briefly describe, in one to two pages, why your community should be chosen for this partnership. Please include information about your community's strengths and character, its need for resilience planning, your community's capacity to carry out this effort in partnership with DCP and why this partnership is important to your planning efforts. *At the top of your narrative, please identify the name of your community, primary contact, title, and address, phone, and email information.*

Community Questionnaire

This questionnaire is intended to identify areas where technical and/or financial assistance could be applied that best promotes community resilience. Your answers will be used to evaluate the potential for a successful partnership that will produce tangible results and implementation outcomes. *Please provide thoughtful, complete answers of no more than two paragraphs to each question. The answers to each question should be numbered and attached to each application with the primary contact's name, address and phone number on top of the page.*

1. Please describe, in order of concern, whether your community has experienced impacts from hazardous events in the past. Explain the nature of the hazardous event and its impacts, how long it took your community to recover, and the timing and frequency of these events. (Impacts may include coastal and inland flooding from extreme tides and storms, erosion, storm surge and socio-economic considerations such as property loss and school and business closures, etc.).
2. Please describe whether you believe your community is or eventually will be at risk to changing climate conditions in the form of sea level rise, increasing intensity and frequency of storms, and/or increased duration of temperature extremes and why.
3. What formal efforts/planning for the above identified hazards have occurred thus far, if any? Please be as specific as possible. For example, what steps have been taken to minimize impacts if the event reoccurs? If you have studied risks, what infrastructure, populations, or natural resources did you evaluate? What planning scenarios and time horizons did you study?

Attach any relevant engineering studies, vulnerability assessments, flood damage assessments, etc. that you feel best illustrate prior work, if available.

4. Please explain the forms of assistance you believe your community most needs to improve its resilience. Please note why the assistance is needed from DCP and rank the types of assistance in the order of greatest need.

Examples of assistance include:

- Assessing risk (including extent of risk, magnitude of impacts, timing)
- Vulnerability mapping (GIS visualization of risk)
- Comprehensive plan updates

- Modifications to town code or other ordinances
- Technical assessments and engineering studies
- Cost-benefit studies to determine feasibility
- Public education and outreach to promote awareness of risk or mitigation efforts

5. Please explain how your community would contribute to the partnership, including any non-federal match dollars or in kind services.

6. Has your community partnered with the State of Delaware, the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration, Sea Grant and/or other groups on resilience planning efforts in the past? If so, please describe this partnership and include a copy or brief summary of reports and outcomes.

Supporting Documents (if available)

You may attach supporting documents to your application to provide evidence of prior planning and/or your commitment to resilience planning. A lack of supporting documents will not void your eligibility. Examples of supporting documents may include, but are not limited to: previous vulnerability assessments, hazardous mitigation plans, engineering studies, drainage assessments and code reviews.

Letter(s) of Support

Letter(s) of support are encouraged. The letter(s) should voice the capacity and willingness of the community and its leadership to champion resilience planning in partnership with DCP. Please include a letter of sponsorship and commitment from your county if you are an unincorporated town.

RCP Submission and Selection Schedule:

November 10, 2015	Resilient Community Partnership Announcement
January 11, 2016	Application Package due to DCP office no later than 4pm
On or before February 5, 2013	Community Selection Announcement

Submission of Proposals:

A signed paper copy *and* an electronic .pdf copy of your application must be delivered to DCP at the following address* **no later than 4:30 pm, Monday, January 11, 2016:**

Danielle Swallow - ATTN: Resilient Community Partnership
 Delaware Coastal Programs
 Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
 100 West Water Street, Suite 7B
 Dover, DE 19904
 (302) 739-9283
Danielle.Swallow@state.de.us

**Note, this is a new address for DCP*