



## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**



## **2022 Municipal Assistance Program**

Issued by:

[The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#)  
Office of Climate Resilience

Issuance Date: July 29, 2022

Due Date: August 24, 2022

# Resilient NJ: 2022 Municipal Assistance Program

## 1.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT

Climate change is a global challenge, but the impacts are experienced locally. Changes in precipitation, extreme temperatures, sea-level rise, and species shifts place stress on infrastructure, natural resources, and social and economic systems. Decisions about zoning, redevelopment, housing, open space, and other investment decisions made by local and regional governments will alter the impacts of climate change on their own and neighboring communities. Integrating climate change into these decisions and all local and regional planning efforts is imperative to ensure that investments made today are designed to withstand the conditions of tomorrow.

Resilient NJ is an assistance program to support local and regional climate resilience planning. Using the best available science on precipitation, temperature, and sea-level rise, Resilient NJ can help your community plan for how the changing climate may affect residents, businesses, and the natural and built environments in your area. Additional information on Resilient NJ support projects and tools can be found at <http://resilient.nj.gov/>.

New Jersey suffers from significant adverse impacts to public health, safety and welfare, and the environment due to flooding, which continues due to increased frequency and intensity of climate-influenced precipitation. These impacts are only further exacerbated in areas with inadequate or poorly managed stormwater infrastructure. Moreover, poorly managed runoff carries with it debris, bacteria, and chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers, and gasoline, which pollute water bodies and drinking water sources.

The significance of this issue, and the imminent threat it presents, was most recently reinforced by the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida, which struck New Jersey on September 1, 2021, causing widespread devastation to communities, homes, infrastructure, public buildings, and private businesses, with much of this flooding without proximity to waterbodies and directly attributable to poor stormwater management.

Recent studies showing that rainfall has increased by as much as 10% over New Jersey's current 1999-based rainfall standards and with future increases by as much as 50% in certain parts of the State. When that precipitation falls on developed landscapes, outdated and under-designed stormwater infrastructure is overwhelmed, streams and rivers overflow, and families, businesses, local economies, and infrastructure are negatively impacted. If not addressed directly, residents will continue to experience impacts to their health, safety, economic well-being, and quality of life.

While the State intends to propose rules to improve stormwater and floodplain management as part of the NJDEP's New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats – Resilient Environments and Landscapes (NJPACT-REAL), coordinated planning and implementation at the local level is an

essential component of improving resilience. Proactive and effective local action must be preceded by thoughtful planning. Such planning allows communities to understand vulnerabilities and identify and prioritize actions to address them. Essential resilience planning activities include: public engagement, community visioning, vulnerability and risk assessments, scenario planning, and development of a Resilience Action Plan.

## **2.0 OFFER OF NO-COST RESILIENCE PLANNING**

Through issuance of this Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI), the NJDEP is offering to assist selected Ida-Impacted communities, individually or regionally, with resilience planning support that addresses stormwater and flooding at no cost. Accordingly, the NJDEP will engage the services of qualified contractors on behalf of the selected entity to provide individualized resilience planning services. The Program seeks to fund collaborative regional planning projects that will:

- Identify and address gaps in flood resilience planning;
- Effectuate a robust outreach and engagement strategy to ensure that the community guides the process and planning, and collaboration among a wide variety of stakeholders
- Reach underserved populations; ensure representation and participation from socially vulnerable populations, and address their needs and risks;
- Develop innovative and implementable solutions that increase flood resilience in both the short- and long-term;
- Enhance the value and integrity of the ecological, recreational, and economic resources in the regions.

This RFEI is intended to solicit interest from Ida-impacted local governments wishing to engage in resilience planning to address flooding. To participate, the entity must agree to fully cooperate in the process and act as a committed partner in conjunction with the NJDEP and contractors to fulfill the goals and intended use of the funding. To ensure this is achieved, the entity must designate an appropriate and qualified member of staff to serve as a liaison for the project and commit staff hours as needed to arrange and participate in public meetings for stakeholder engagement and/or public information sessions.

The NJDEP will evaluate the letters of interest as described in section 4 below and will engage the consultant on behalf of the selected entities, will pay the consultant for all costs associated with the work outlined herein, will provide guidance to the selected entity and contractor, and participate in the process, as needed. No funding will be provided to the eligible entities identified in Section 3.0.

## **3.0 ELIGIBILITY**

This offer for resilience planning technical assistance is open to counties and municipalities that were identified as Most Impacted and Distressed as a result of Tropical Storm Ida. Eligible entities are listed in Appendix A.

Municipalities may apply individually or as a region. Municipalities applying as a region should do so in a joint submission and consist of at least three municipalities which share at least one municipal border.

Municipalities that previously received funding from the NJDEP through the Resilient NJ: Regional Resilience Planning Grants Program or an earlier round of the Municipal Assistance Program are not eligible.

#### **4.0 EVALUATION OF SUBMISSION**

NJDEP's Office of Climate Resilience reserves full discretion to choose among eligible entities for participation in the program, including size and scale of planning areas that may be supported by available funding.

All eligible municipalities are encouraged to apply. The Department intends to prioritize awards to municipalities or regions as follows:

- That include areas defined as overburdened communities under N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157 (see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html>).
- That apply as a region.
- That can demonstrate impact from Tropical Storm Ida.
- That are outside the New Jersey Coastal Zone. Municipalities that are within the New Jersey Coastal Zone are not precluded from applying. See <https://nj.gov/dep/cmp/docs/new-detailed-cafra-map.pdf> for a list of coastal municipalities.
- That can demonstrate support and commitment from a Community Based Organization (CBO) that will act as a trusted local partner for community engagement.

#### **5.0 REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Written expression of interest shall provide all information required under this RFEI including, but not limited to, the following:

- Sufficient information to demonstrate eligibility under Section 3.0 and relevant to the funding priorities identified in Section 4.0.
- A narrative explaining the scope of resilience planning activities that the municipality/region is interested in and any work performed previously in support of that work.
- Identify any preliminary studies, inventories, assessments, or reports completed or partially completed that support the planned project. Provide links to such products if possible.
- Signature of an administrator, executive officer, ranking elected official, or equivalent positions within one of the eligible entities listed in Section 3.0 above.
- The Expression of Interest must also include, for each eligible entity, the name, address, and email of all responsible people and all government employees participating in the work and must indicate who will act as the liaison to the NJDEP and contractor.

## **6.0 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL**

All required information must be submitted no later than **11:59pm EST, Wednesday, August 24, 2022**. All proposals shall be submitted to [resilientnj@dep.nj.gov](mailto:resilientnj@dep.nj.gov).

All questions shall be submitted to [resilientnj@dep.nj.gov](mailto:resilientnj@dep.nj.gov) no later than **10:00am EST, Tuesday, August 9, 2022**.

**A public information session has been set up on August 10, 2022, at 10:00 am. You may join using the link below:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)** [+1 856-338-7074,,685116802#](tel:+18563387074) Camden Phone Conf ID: 685 116 802#

**APPENDIX A: Eligible Municipalities**

\* - Indicates municipality in NJ Coastal Zone

<b>Bergen</b>			
Allendale	Fort Lee*	Moonachie*	Rockleigh
Alpine*	Franklin Lakes	New Milford*	Rutherford*
Bergenfield	Garfield*	North Arlington*	Saddle Brook
Bogota*	Glen Rock	Northvale	Saddle River
Carlstadt*	Hackensack*	Norwood	South Hackensack*
Cliffside Park	Harrington Park	Oakland	Teaneck*
Closter	Hasbrouck Heights	Old Tappan	Tenafly*
Cresskill	Haworth	Oradell*	Teterboro
Demarest	Hillsdale	Palisades Park	Upper Saddle River
Dumont	Ho Ho Kus	Paramus	Waldwick
East Rutherford*	Leonia	Park Ridge	Wallington*
Edgewater*	Little Ferry*	Ramsey	Washington Township
Elmwood Park	Lodi	Ridgefield*	Westwood
Emerson	Lyndhurst*	Ridgefield Park*	Woodcliff Lake
Englewood	Mahwah	Ridgewood	Wood-Ridge
Englewood Cliffs*	Maywood	River Edge*	Wyckoff
Fair Lawn	Midland Park	River Vale	
Fairview*	Montvale	Rochelle Park	

<b>Essex</b>			
Belleville*	Essex Fells	Millburn	Village of South Orange
Bloomfield	Fairfield	Montclair	West Caldwell
Caldwell Borough	Glen Ridge	North Caldwell	West Orange
Cedar Grove	Irvington	Nutley*	
City of Orange	Livingston	Roseland	
East Orange	Maplewood	Verona	

<b>Gloucester</b>			
Clayton	Greenwich*	Newfield	Wenonah*
Deptford*	Harrison	Paulsboro*	West Deptford*
East Greenwich*	Logan*	Pitman	Westville*
Elk	Mantua*	South Harrison	Woodbury*
Franklin	Monroe	Swedesboro*	Woodbury Heights
Glassboro	National Park*	Washington	Woolwich*

<b>Hudson</b>		
East Newark*	Kearny*	Union City
Guttenberg*	North Bergen*	Weehawken*
Harrison*	Secaucus*	West New York*

Hunterdon			
Alexandria	East Amwell	Holland	Readington
Bethlehem	Flemington	Kingwood	Stockton
Bloomsbury	Franklin	Lambertville	Tewksbury
Califon	Frenchtown	Lebanon Borough	Union
Clinton Town	Glen Gardner	Lebanon Township	West Amwell
Clinton Township	Hampton	Milford	
Delaware	High Bridge	Raritan	

Mercer			
East Windsor	Hightstown	Lawrence	Washington
Ewing	Hopewell Borough	Pennington	West Windsor
Hamilton*	Hopewell Township	Princeton Township	

Middlesex			
Cranbury	Jamesburg	North Brunswick	
Dunellen	Metuchen	Piscataway*	
East Brunswick*	Middlesex	Plainsboro	
Edison*	Milltown	South Brunswick	
Helmetta	Monroe	South Plainfield	
Highland Park*	New Brunswick*	Spotswood	

Morris			
Boonton Town	Florham Park	Mine Hill	Pequannock
Boonton Township	Hanover	Montville	Randolph
Butler	Harding	Morris	Riverdale
Chatham Borough	Jefferson	Morris Plains	Rockaway Borough
Chatham Township	Kinnelon	Morristown	Rockaway Township
Chester Borough	Lincoln Park	Mount Arlington	Roxbury
Chester Township	Long Hill	Mount Olive	Victory Gardens
Denville	Madison	Mountain Lakes	Washington
Dover	Mendham Borough	Netcong	Wharton
East Hanover	Mendham Township	Parsippany-Troy Hills	

Passaic			
Bloomington	Little Falls	Pompton Lakes	Wanaque
Clifton*	North Haledon	Prospect Park	Wayne
Haledon	Passaic*	Ringwood	West Milford
Hawthorne	Paterson	Totowa	West Paterson

Somerset			
Bedminster	Far Hills	Montgomery	South Bound Brook
Bernards	Franklin*	North Plainfield	Warren
Bernardsville	Green Brook	Peapack & Gladstone	Watchung
Bound Brook	Hillsborough	Raritan	
Branchburg	Manville	Rocky Hill	
Bridgewater	Millstone	Somerville	

Union			
Berkeley Heights	Hillsdale	Rahway*	Union
Clark	Kenilworth	Roselle	Westfield
Cranford	Linden*	Roselle Park	Winfield
Elizabeth*	Mountainside	Scotch Plains	
Fanwood	New Providence	Springfield	
Garwood	Plainfield	Summit	

Warren			
Allamuchy	Greenwich	Knowlton	Pohatcong
Alpha	Hackettstown	Liberty	Washington Borough
Belvidere	Hardwick	Lopatcong	Washington Township
Blairstown	Harmony	Mansfield	White
Franklin	Hope	Oxford	
Frelinghuysen	Independence	Phillipsburg	