



N.C. Resilient Coastal Communities Program

Request for **Community Applications 2025 – 2026**

💧 For: RCCP Phases 1 & 2, and/or

💧 Integrating Resiliency into CAMA Land Use Plans

This application form serves two purposes, first to allow communities to apply to participate in Phases 1 and 2 of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP); and second, to apply to incorporate resiliency into CAMA Land Use Plan updates. Communities may apply for one or both opportunities.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RELEASED: Friday, March 7th, 2025

ALL APPLICATIONS DUE: Friday, April 25th, 2025, by 5:00 pm EST

APPLICANT WEBINAR: Friday, March 21st, 2025, at 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST ([Registration Link](#))

Contents

RCCP PROGRAM OVERVIEW..... 3
NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PHASES 1 & 2 (2025-2026) 4
Objective:..... 4
Available Funding:..... 4
Match Requirements: 4
Eligibility:..... 4
Anticipated Project Period:..... 4
Program Criteria and Prioritization:..... 4
Contracting: 4
Deliverables: 4
Ownership and Credit Due: 5
Submission: 5
NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INTEGRATING RESILIENCY INTO CAMA LAND USE PLANS 6
Objective:..... 6
Available Funding:..... 6
Maximum funding request: 6
Match Requirements: 6
Eligibility:..... 7
Anticipated Project Period:..... 7
Prioritization and Selection Criteria:..... 7
Contracting: 7
Process Requirements: 7
Deliverables: 8
Submission: 8
COMMUNITY APPLICATION (2025-2026): COVER PAGE 9
COMMUNITY APPLICATION (2025-2026): North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program Phase 1 & 2 10

RCCP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) is a component of the North Carolina Resilient Communities Program, developed through the [2020 North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan](#). The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) administers the RCCP with funding from the NC State Legislature and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Key partners include the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and NC Sea Grant (NCSG).

The RCCP is a four-phase program designed to:

1. Address local barriers to coastal resilience, including limited capacity, economic constraints, and social inequities.
2. Assist communities in conducting risk and vulnerability assessments to create a prioritized portfolio of resilience projects.
3. Advance coastal resilience projects through engineering and design to achieve shovel-ready status.
4. Link communities with funding sources for project implementation.

The four phases are:

- **Phase 1: Community Engagement and Risk & Vulnerability Assessment**
- **Phase 2: Planning, Project Identification, and Prioritization**
- Phase 3: Engineering and Design
- Phase 4: Project Implementation

Note: This application covers both planning phases of the RCCP (Phases 1 & 2), which occur consecutively. To be eligible for funding in Phases 3 and 4, communities must have completed Phases 1 and 2 or demonstrate an equivalent scope of work. There are separate application processes for Phase 3 and Phase 4.

DCM is hosting an informational webinar on the Phase 1 - 4 application process on Friday, March 21st, 2025, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST. Register for the webinar [LINK](#).

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PHASES 1 & 2 (2025-2026)

Objective: DCM is accepting applications from eligible communities for **no-cost** technical assistance to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP. These phases guide communities through a structured process to assess local risks and vulnerabilities, engage representative stakeholders, and collaboratively identify and prioritize projects and actions to enhance community resilience and protect critical assets.

Available Funding: DCM has approximately \$2 million available for this round of Phases 1 and 2 and anticipates supporting up to 20 communities. Funding will be allocated based on demand, need, and geographic scope.

Match Requirements: There is no cash or in-kind match requirement from community applicants or contractors.

Eligibility: All county and municipal governments within the [20 CAMA counties](#), or any federally and state-recognized tribes are eligible to apply. Adjacent communities may also submit a joint application for a regional grant.

County applicants are encouraged to consider targeting a specific geographic area within their jurisdiction. DCM will match successful applicants with competitively selected contractors. Community applicants may indicate a preference to work with a specific contractor.

Anticipated Project Period: June 2025 – June 2026 (12-months)

Program Criteria and Prioritization: DCM will review applications and select recipients based on available funding and alignment with program goals and objectives. Priority will be given to communities that have not previously participated in Phases 1 and 2. In addition, DCM will evaluate applications based on the following factors:

- The level of risk exposure faced by critical assets (e.g., hospitals, schools, roads), natural infrastructure (e.g., rivers, wetlands), and socially vulnerable populations
- The anticipated impact of coastal hazards
- The applicant's internal capacity to support resilience efforts
- The extent of prior resilience planning efforts and existing momentum

Contracting: DCM will contract directly with third-party contractors to assist communities in completing Phases 1 and 2.

Deliverables: The primary deliverables will include a Resilience Strategy based on guidance provided in the [RCCP Handbook](#) as well as the associated GIS data and maps. The Resilience Strategy consists of two key components:

1. **Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report:** This report will include a quantitative risk and vulnerability assessment evaluating the community's population, particularly

socially vulnerable groups, and critical community assets in relation to multiple coastal and climate risks, including tidal flooding, sea level rise, storm surge, and high-intensity rain events. Special consideration will be given to socially vulnerable and underrepresented populations, as well as natural infrastructure that provides both environmental and community resilience benefits.

2. **Project Portfolio:** Participants will develop a portfolio of project options aimed at reducing exposure and sensitivity to flooding and other hazards or increasing adaptive capacity. The portfolio should consider a combination of policy, nonstructural, hybrid, and structural approaches.

Ownership and Credit Due: Products generated by this effort will be owned by the N.C. Division of Coastal Management and the respective communities and made publicly available.

Submission: Submit the application to rccp@deq.nc.gov by 5:00 pm EST, Friday, April 25th, 2025.

Direct questions regarding the application to:

- **Mackenzie Todd, DCM Coastal Resiliency Coordinator:** Mackenzie.todd@deq.nc.gov
- **Kasen Wally, DCM Coastal Resilience Specialist:** Kasen.wally@deq.nc.gov

To see examples of final deliverables from the first round of Phases 1 and 2 click [here](#).

DCM is hosting an informational webinar on the Phase 1 - 4 application process on Friday, March 21st, 2025, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST. Register for the webinar [LINK](#).

> [RFA continued on the next page.](#)

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INTEGRATING RESILIENCY INTO CAMA LAND USE PLANS

Objective: The Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) has played a critical role in developing community [Resilience Strategies](#) and identifying vulnerabilities to natural hazards. **DCM is seeking applications from NC coastal communities to be matched with a technical service provider to fully update local CAMA Land Use Plans while integrating core elements of the Resilience Strategies developed through the RCCP.** Selected communities will work to ensure resilience is meaningfully incorporated into land use planning efforts, supporting proactive decision-making that reduces risk. This work may be conducted alongside Phases 1 and 2 for new communities accepted into the program or be completed independently in communities that have already completed Phases 1 and 2.

In 1974, North Carolina enacted the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) to balance economic development with preserving coastal resources. CAMA established a collaborative partnership between state and local governments, making land use planning a cornerstone of coastal management initiatives to address these critical concerns.

Under CAMA regulations, each of the 20 coastal counties is required to develop a local land use plan that aligns with guidelines set by the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) (15A NCAC 07B). These guidelines incorporate five key Management Topics—Public Access, Land Use Compatibility, Infrastructure Carrying Capacity, Natural Hazard Areas, and Water Quality—which must be thoroughly addressed and integrated into the plan and its policies. Through this initiative, competitively selected technical service providers will assist communities in incorporating resilience into these plans, ensuring that CAMA’s coastal management objectives are embedded in local decision-making processes.

Land use planning is crucial in mitigating vulnerabilities to coastal hazards such as sea-level rise, flooding, erosion, and wind impacts. Thoughtful planning directs new development away from high-risk areas, reducing exposure to these hazards. By supporting communities in this effort, DCM will help ensure that long-term, resilience-focused goals and policies are embedded into land use plans, increasing the likelihood that local governments will take proactive measures—such as adopting ordinances or investing in resilient infrastructure—to reduce risk.

Available Funding: To advance long-term resiliency and align existing planning efforts, the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) is making \$540,000 available to fund updates to CAMA Land Use Plans in approximately three communities, with allocations based on demand, need, and geographic scope.

Maximum funding request: \$130,000

Match Requirements: No cash or in-kind match is required from applicants or contractors.

Eligibility: Local governments in the 20 coastal counties who have completed or will be undertaking Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP are eligible to apply. Municipalities seeking funding for a land use comprehensive plan must have planning authority authorization from their respective county or the Coastal Resources Commission.

Anticipated Project Period: June 2025 – June 2026 (12-months)

Prioritization and Selection Criteria: Plans will be prioritized for communities with lower capacity (staff, resources, etc.) and communities that have plans that are 10 years or older. Additionally, communities will be selected based on the selection criteria listed on [Page 4](#).

Contracting: DCM will be contracting directly with 3rd party contractors to assist communities in completing this project.

Process Requirements: To incorporate resiliency into land-use plans, applicants must use the [Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard](#), a tool that spatially evaluates land-use policies and addresses existing vulnerabilities. The intended outcomes include:

- A deeper understanding of the benefits of land-use planning among community members, staff, and decision-makers.
- Increased awareness of how land-use plans influence vulnerability to natural hazards.
- Adjustments to plans and policies that improve integration and enhance community resilience.

The [Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard](#) follows a three-phase process, incorporating physical and social vulnerabilities identified in Phase 1 of the RCCP. The results, along with the community's Resilience Strategy, will be integrated into the land use plan to develop resilience-focused policies.

The Land Use or Comprehensive Plan must:

- Comply with G.S. 113A-110 of the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) and the Coastal Resources Commission's (CRC) Planning Rules ([15A NCAC 07B](#)).
 - The [Comprehensive Land Use Planning in Coastal North Carolina Guide](#) provides valuable guidance to help communities meet this requirement.
- Include at least two resilience policies per CAMA Management Topic:
 - Public Access, Land Use Compatibility, Infrastructure Carrying Capacity, Natural Hazard Areas, and Water Quality ([15A NCAC 07B .0702\(d\)\(2\)](#)).
 - For example, under Public Access, the plan must include at least two resilience-related policies. At a minimum, the plan should contain 10 policies that enhance resilience to coastal hazards.
- Outline action-oriented strategies for implementing resilience policies, such as the adoption and amendment of local ordinances, other plans, and special projects.
 - Specify years in which each action is anticipated to start and finish,
 - Include Estimated Costs or Other Resources Needed and;
 - Assign specific aspects of implementation to specific departments and staff members.
- Include the [Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard](#) and the relevant RCCP Resilience

Strategy in the Appendix.

Deliverables: A draft land use or comprehensive plan that meets the outlined plan criteria and is ready for submission to DCM for review as part of the [CRC's Land Use Plan Certification Process](#).

DCM will review submitted plans for consistency with the criteria outlined above and compliance with the CRC's Planning Rules ([15A NCAC 07B](#)). Local governments are responsible for incorporating revisions in response to DCM's review, adopting the plan locally, and submitting it for state certification.

The submission of incomplete plans will result in a reduced grant award. Additionally, failure to adopt the plan locally and obtain state certification may impact a local government's ability to receive future funding from DCM.

Submission: Submit the application to rccp@deq.nc.gov by 5:00 pm EST, **Friday, April 25th, 2025**

Direct questions regarding the application to:

- **Mackenzie Todd, DCM Coastal Resiliency Coordinator:** Mackenzie.todd@deq.nc.gov
- **Kasen Wally, DCM Coastal Resilience Specialist:** Kasen.wally@deq.nc.gov

Examples of current CAMA Land Use Plans can be found [here](#).



N.C. Resilient Coastal Communities Program

Community Application Cover Page

- ❖ RCCP Phases 1 & 2
- ❖ Integrating Resiliency into CAMA Plans

Community Name: Municipality, County <i>(include focus area) or Tribe</i>	
Partner Applicant(s) <i>If applicable</i>	
Requesting update to CAMA Land Use Plan (Yes/No)	
Economic Tier Status	
Lead Project Manager Name & Job Title	
Department/Agency	
Email	
Phone Number	
Mailing Address	

Signature: _____

Date: _____

COMMUNITY APPLICATION (2025-2026): North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program Phase 1 & 2 and Integrating Resiliency into CAMA Land Use Plans

- **Phase 1 & 2 applicants** must answer **all** the following questions.
- **Integrating Resiliency into CAMA Plan applicants** must only answer sections marked with an asterisk (*).

Please check the appropriate box below to indicate the type of applicant and provide answers to the following questions:

County: Counties are encouraged to select an area of interest within their jurisdiction to evaluate. Describe your specific area of study and its boundaries. Include a map of the planning area.

Municipality: Name the municipality/municipalities applying for technical assistance. Please describe the jurisdictional boundaries and any previous planning. Include a map of the planning area.

Tribal Applicants: Name the state or federally recognized tribe applying for technical assistance. Please describe the jurisdictional boundaries and any previous planning. Include a map of the planning area.

***Integrating Resiliency into CAMA Plan Applicants:**

1. Title and certification date of your [CAMA Certified Land Use Plan](#).
2. For Counties, list any municipalities that will be included in a county plan.
3. Are you applying to complete Phases 1 & 2 and the Land Use Plan concurrently, or have you already completed Phases 1 & 2? If so, when did you complete Phases 1 & 2, and who completed the project?
4. Do you prefer a particular contracting firm to assist you in updating your CAMA Land Use Plan, or would you like DCM to match you with one?

Risk & Vulnerability

1. Of the following risks, which are most applicable and impactful to your community and why? (Storm surge, heavy precipitation events, sea level rise, tidal flooding, erosion, and riverine flooding)
2. Describe the impact these risks have had on your community and its residents.
3. What efforts has your community undertaken to understand these risks? If you have conducted previous resilience planning, how would this program expand upon those

previous planning efforts? If none, what are the barriers?

4. What critical assets (i.e., roads, hospitals, schools) are vulnerable to flooding? How often are your critical assets affected by flooding or other coastal hazards?
5. What type of natural infrastructure (i.e., wetlands, rivers, streams) do you have that protects you from storm events?

Vulnerable Communities

People who are considered socially vulnerable to climate impacts, such as: 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, and populations identified by the American Public Health Association.

6. Who are the socially vulnerable populations in your community?
7. Describe the impact of flooding or other coastal hazards on socially vulnerable groups in your community.

***Community Engagement (CAMA Plan applicants must complete this section)**

8. Please describe any efforts your locality has undergone to engage with or educate the public regarding coastal resilience, storm preparedness, and/or hazard mitigation.
9. How does your community best engage? Do you have barriers to community engagement? If so, please describe them. What upcoming community events could provide opportunities for engagement?

***Internal Capacity & Partnerships (CAMA Plan applicants must complete this section)**

10. Which of the following plans and ordinances related to land use and development has your locality adopted? Please check and denote the adoption date(s).

- a. Resilience/Adaptation Plan (Adopted _____)
- b. Watershed Restoration (Adopted _____)
- c. Stormwater Plan (Adopted _____)
- d. Comprehensive or Land Use Plan (Adopted _____)
- e. Unified Development Ordinance (Adopted _____)
- f. Hazard Mitigation Plan (Adopted _____)
- g. Capital Improvement Plan (Adopted _____)
- h. Other Plan: _____ (Adopted _____)

11. What projects from these existing plans have been implemented? If none, what are your barriers to implementation?

12. Identify staff, officials, and community members who would be willing and able to participate in the program.

13. Is there a person in your community who has the capacity to be a leader on the Community Action Team or Land Use Plan Committee to help champion the effort? If so, please identify that person in your community.

14. Briefly describe any partnerships your community has built with any agencies or organizations to help address coastal hazards.