

North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program

Phase 3 Grant Application 2022



Division of Coastal Management
Department of Environmental Quality



NORTH CAROLINA RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
Announcement of Request for Applications (RFA)
Phase 3-Engineering & Design
Released: March 25, 2022
All applications due June 3rd, 2022, by 5:00 P.M. ET

Submit Applications to:
RCCP@ncdenr.gov

Direct questions regarding the application to Mackenzie Todd, DCM Coastal Resilience
Specialist:
Mackenzie.todd@ncdenr.gov

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) is pleased to announce the availability of grants for Phase 3 of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP). The RCCP is a state-local partnership designed to help overcome barriers in coastal resilience and adaptation planning, boost local government capacity, and support a proactive, sustainable, and equitable approach to coastal resilience planning and project implementation. Phase 3 will implement the engineering and design of hazards resilience projects for communities within the 20 CAMA counties. This Request for Applications (RFA) is seeking applications for projects that will support communities in restoring and improving the hazards resilience of vulnerable coastal habitats. Grants will be awarded based upon the criteria identified in this document.

Program Objectives

The RCCP is a component of the North Carolina Resilient Communities Program, called for in the 2020 North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan. DCM has received funding from the State Legislature and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to develop and begin implementing the RCCP in coordination with the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and NC Sea Grant (NCSG).

Program Objectives:

1. Address barriers to coastal resilience in North Carolina at the local level, such as limited capacity, economic constraints, and social inequities;
2. Assist communities with risk and vulnerability assessments and developing a portfolio of planned and prioritized projects;
3. Advance coastal resilience projects to “shovel-ready” status; and
4. Link communities to funding streams for project implementation

Program Phases:

Phase 1: Community Engagement and Risk/Vulnerability Assessment

Phase 2: Planning, Project Identification, and Prioritization

Phase 3: Engineering and Design

Phase 4: Project Implementation

DCM will be hosting an informational webinar on the Phase 3 RFA on April 25th from 2- 3:30 p.m. You can register for it [here](#).

Notice of Available Funds and Requirements

2022

Overview: The primary objective of Phase 3 of the RCCP is to provide funding to assist communities in the engineering and design of a prioritized project identified in their RCCP Resilience Strategy, or other existing plan that meets the RCCP's Phases 1 and 2 planning criteria.

Eligible Applicants: The 20 CAMA counties and municipalities within their jurisdictions. Two or more eligible applicants may submit a joint application to carry out jointly sponsored regional projects. Applicants may submit applications for more than one project but must indicate funding priority and submit a separate (and complete) application for each project. The main applicant must be a community within the 20 CAMA coastal counties and/or municipalities within their jurisdiction.

NOTE: All eligible applicants must have completed Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP or equivalent. Please see the Resilience Strategy Matrix below to show how you have completed the steps and minimum requirements, and contact DCM staff with any questions.

Eligible Projects: Projects include requests for the engineering and design of a priority resilience project identified by the applicant. Proposals for development of ordinances or policies to further resiliency in the community may also be submitted for consideration.

Applications from communities within the 12 Hurricane Florence declared counties must feature a nature-based component. Communities in the other 8 counties are highly encouraged to submit a project that includes a nature-based component. "Nature-based" components means incorporating natural features or processes into the project design; working with nature to promote resilience, reduce flood risks, improve water quality, protect coastal property, restore, and protect wetlands, stabilize shorelines, and address other coastal hazards. See FEMA's "[Building Community Resilience with Nature Based Solutions](#)" for guidance on projects that incorporate nature-based components.

Funds Available: The N.C. Division of Coastal Management (DCM) estimates that a total of \$1.2 million will be available for local engineering and design projects in FY 2022-23.

Anticipated Average Funding Level: \$45,000 per project.

Anticipated Contract Period: July 2022 - February 2023.

Match Requirements: There are no matching requirements. Project costs that exceed the maximum funding availability are the community's responsibility and must be available prior to an award being made.

Program Criteria & Project Prioritization: DCM will review applications and select proposals for

consideration based on available funding and alignment with program goals and objectives. In funding Phase 3 of the RCCP, DCM shall select projects that are expected to increase local resilience and meet the vision and goals set out in the local RCCP Resilience Strategy completed in Phases 1 & 2. Funding will be prioritized for projects that create engineering and design plans towards a shovel ready project that includes a nature-based component or create an ordinance or policy to further resilience goals.

In addition to evaluating proposals in accordance with the above priorities, DCM shall consider the following factors:

- Community has completed Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP or meets the requirements as outlined in the RCCP Planning Handbook.
- Project's contribution towards the objectives of the RCCP.
- Project's alignment with the community's Resilience Strategy developed in Phases 1 and 2.
- Project produces engineering and design plans for a shovel-ready project or a final draft of the developed ordinance or policy.
- Project incorporates nature-based components.
- Project ensures equitable consideration of socially vulnerable and historically disadvantaged and underserved populations (e.g., low-income and minority)
- Potential transferability of the project to other coastal area municipalities and counties.
- Availability of additional funds required to complete the project, if necessary.
- Size and scope of expected benefits.
- Cost effectiveness.

Project-Specific Guidelines for Natural and Nature-Based Strategies

1. Shoreline stabilization proposals should document erosion trends and threatened infrastructure or habitats. "Living shorelines" using biodegradable, natural, and inert materials and vegetation should be prioritized over gray (hard) approaches (bulkheads, revetments, breakwaters) where they can be successfully used given site conditions.
2. Where practical, flood control projects should prioritize nature-based strategies that protect, restore, or replicate the natural capacity of the landscape to store and treat flood waters.
3. Stormwater control projects should focus on reducing the volume and rate of runoff caused by land uses by providing for natural infiltration and other best management practices that restore, enhance, or replicate natural hydrology. Projects may include strategic land or easement acquisition to provide space for wetland restoration or creation, riparian buffer protection or restoration, and redirection of runoff to green space or natural infiltration areas; as well as the use of stormwater management measures (as outlined in the [DEQ Stormwater Manual](#)), such as disconnecting impervious surfaces, rain gardens, bioswales; vegetation, stormwater wetlands and permeable pavement.
4. Coastal wetland and oyster reef restoration projects should analyze habitat trade-offs that may result (e.g., conversion of existing shallow-bottom habitat), and document historical deterioration or loss of wetland or oyster habitats. Proposed oyster reef restoration projects

should document early coordination with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries with respect to site selection and materials.

5. Beneficial use of dredged materials proposals should document early coordination with federal and state regulatory agencies, describe any seasonal restrictions that may be required to limit impacts to sensitive coastal and marine resources, and evaluate the compatibility and suitability of the dredged materials for the proposed use. The disposal of dredged materials on coastal wetlands will require more intensive regulatory reviews, and likely would require a Variance from the NC Coastal Resources Commission.
6. Land acquisition proposals should reference and align with existing coastal land conservation, local or regional resilience, and/or watershed management plans. Priority should be given to proposals that provide tangible long-term resilience benefits; for example, those that allow for upland migration of coastal wetlands over time, provide infiltration areas for stormwater or floodwaters, or provide natural protection of public or private infrastructure.
7. All projects proposed on (or impacting) federal, state, local, or private lands should include participation or written support of the relevant management or ownership entity.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Post Grant Funding Award: After DCM issues the applicant an award notice, the applicant must enter into a contract with DEQ prior to any work being completed. Any changes to the scope of the project or project budget after submission of a grant application will require the written approval of the DCM Grant Administrator and may also require a DEQ contract amendment. In seeking DCM approval, the grantee must submit, at a minimum, a justification for any proposed changes, revised scope of work narrative, and a revised budget. Unapproved changes to the project scope or budget shall not be eligible for reimbursement.

A DEQ grant contract is considered ‘fully-executed’ once it has been signed by both a signatory authority of the grantee and DEQ Financial Services. A copy of the fully executed contract will be provided to the grantee after being signed by DEQ.

Project Reporting: Consistent with the “Project Timeline” provided in the application, the grantee will be required to submit reports as to the status and progress of the project in conjunction with bi-monthly invoices. The Contract Administrator will provide the periodic and final closeout report form templates. Adjustments to the schedule will require approval by the Contract Administrator.

Contract Duration & Extension Requests: Grant contracts for funds will have a term of 6 months. Grant contracts will be executed between DCM and the grantee. If necessary, grantees may request a no-cost extension for an additional 30 days. A request for an extension must be submitted in writing on official letterhead and include the following information:

1. Justification for the extension request
2. Summary of the current project status
3. Anticipated project schedule moving forward

A request for an extension must be submitted 45 days prior to the contract expiration date and must be submitted via email to RCCP@ncdenr.gov. Extension requests that are approved by DCM require a grant contract modification.

Project Deliverables: Engineering and design projects will require engineered site plans that are ready for submittal to applicable permitting agencies (e.g., DEQ-stormwater, CAMA, etc.). If an ordinance or policy, the final draft document will need to be submitted.

The project will be required to be completed consistent with the deliverables outlined in the application. A PDF document of the work called for in the grant application shall be provided for review at the end of the contract period.

GIS data shall be provided in map package format. A Map Package (.mpk) contains a map document (.mxd) and the data referenced by the layers it contains, packaged into one portable file. See esri’s “[Creating a map package](#)” for guidance on creating and sharing a map package. Products must be referenced to the North Carolina State Plane North American Datum 83 US Survey Foot, to include Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata. One digital copy on USB Flash drive of the work called for in the contract shall be provided for review at the end of the contract period. The digital version shall be labeled with software and version. Each plan, map, and drawing shall be provided as a single digital file. Acceptable digital formats for image files include: .gif, .jpg, .bmp, and .tif.

Acceptable digital formats for document files include: .doc, .docx, .txt, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, and .pdf. CAD or AutoCAD drawings (.dwf, .dxf, and other CAD formats) are not acceptable and should be converted to .pdf for submittal.

Depending on funding source, all reports, maps, and other documents completed as part of a contract shall carry one or more of the following notations:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Disclosure Statement to be included in the deliverable:

"The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation or its funding sources."

NOAA Fund Statement: "This (report, map document, etc.) was prepared by the (local gov't name) under grant award # to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Coastal Management from the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of DEQ, OCM or NOAA."

NCORR/HUD: Statement will be provided with your closeout package.

Invoicing and Payment Schedule: Reimbursements for actual expenses are subject to Contract Administrator's approval, and a reserve of 10 percent of the grant award shall be held pending submittal and acceptance of all final project deliverables. The grantee shall request reimbursement payments not more frequently than once every two months.

Final invoices must be received by DCM within 30 days after end of the grant contract period. Upon approval of the final deliverables, the State will release the final 10 percent of the grant award.

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North Carolina

**RESILIENT
COASTAL
COMMUNITIES
PROGRAM**



2022 Phase 3 Application Cover Sheet

Local Government: _____

Lead Project Administrator: _____

Lead Applicant Address: _____

Street Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____

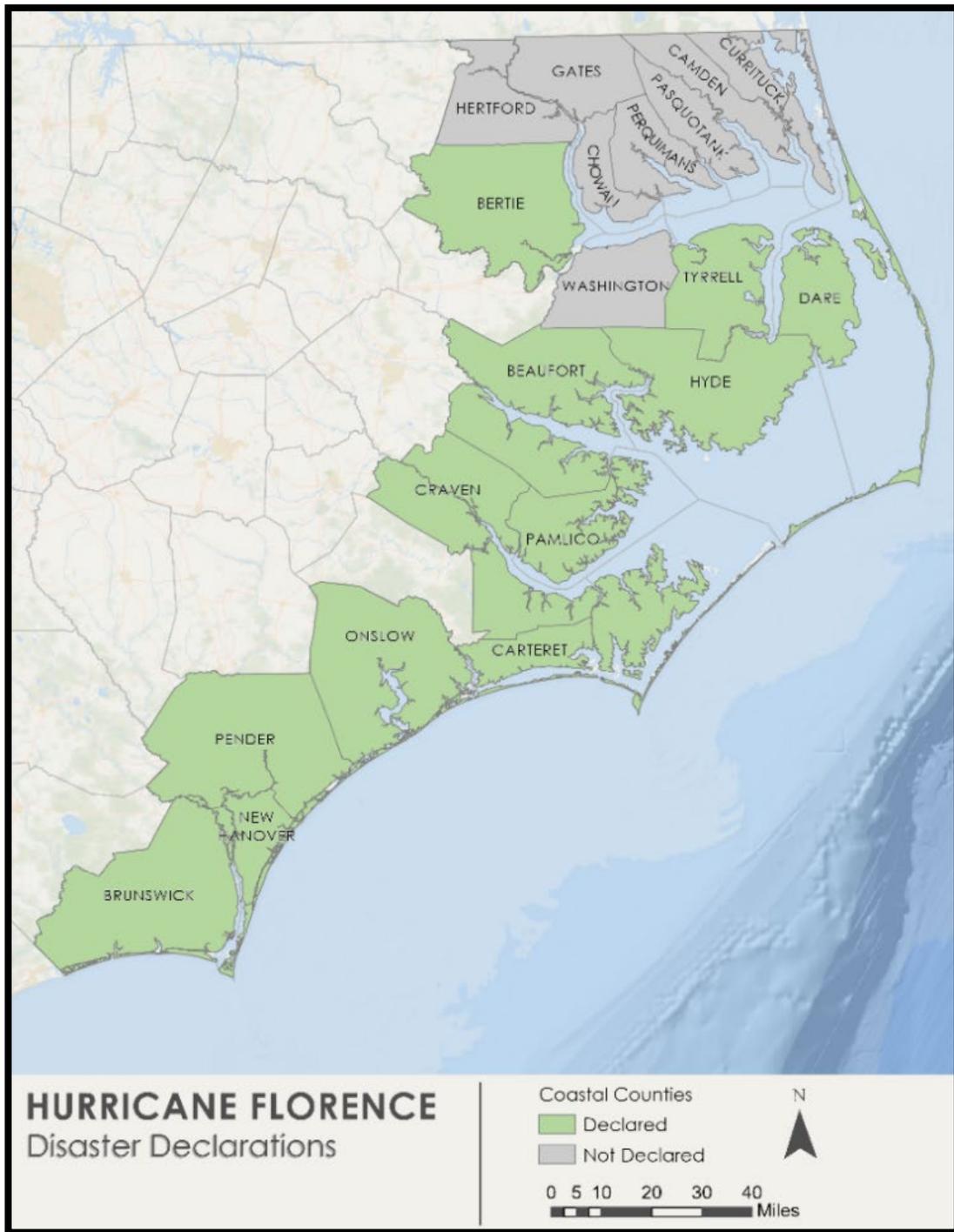
Is your community located in a Hurricane-Florence declared county? **YES** **NO**

(Projects in these counties are required to have a Nature-based or hybrid component. See Map 1.)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Map 1: Hurricane Florence Declared Counties





2022 Phase 3 Application

A. Project Details: RCCP communities; this information was identified in your Resilience Strategy (see [RCCP Planning Handbook](#), pg. 26)

1. Project Name: _____

2. Project Type:

a. Engineering & Design

b. Development of ordinances or policies to further resiliency in the community

3. Project Summary (provide a concise summary of the work to be done, including why the project is necessary)

4. Hazards addressed by the project:

5. Project Estimated Cost: _____

6. Potential Implementation Funding Sources:

7. Potential project partners:

8. Projected estimated timeline: _____

9. Priority rating (High, Medium, or Low):

10. Project Map (attach to your application):



Resilience Strategy Matrix

If you did not participate in Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP, please provide documentation showing how you meet the requirements by linking where these strategies are met in your specific documents. **If you participated in Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP this matrix is not required.**

Resilience Strategy Requirements	Documentation showing you meet the Resilience Strategy requirement
Community Resilience Vision & Goals	<i>Insert document(s) name and page #'s and link if available</i>
Any community goals/vision that have a focus on building resilience. These may be found in existing plans or ordinances.	
Community Action Team	
Planning Board, Floodplain Management Committee Members, or any community group that has met on multiple occasions to discuss the community's vision/goals towards resilience.	
Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	
A document that details how you communicate with your community, especially any vulnerable populations (via Town Meetings, email distribution lists, informational brochures, and webpages, etc.)	
Review of Existing Plans and Efforts	
You have reviewed existing planning documents (Land Use Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Capital Improvement Plans etc.) and are familiar with your existing plans and ongoing efforts.	
Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Report	
You have access to data from your Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan or have had recent assessments conducted.	
Project Portfolio	
A list of potential projects that have been identified by staff and/or the community. These might be found within a Floodplain Management Plan, or Council minutes.	
Additional files	
These can include maps or any other pertinent documents.	



2022 Phase 3 Project Budget

Lead Applicant _____ Project Name _____

This form below must be completed and included with your application. Round project costs to the dollar.
 Local cash match contributions are not required and should only be included in the chart below if they are necessary to complete the project.

Project Elements		Requested Amount	Local Match	Total Cost
Item				
Outside Consultants				
Project Administration				
Mapping/GIS Expenses				
Addnl. Expense				
Addnl. Expense				
Addnl. Expense				
TOTAL				

Use the form below to show the sources of your matching funds. Indicate if these funds are currently available or yet to be approved. If funds are yet to be approved, list the date for approval. If applicable, provide additional narrative related to the match.

Type of Matching Funds (Local/State/Federal)	Amount	Funding Source	Availability
TOTAL			



2022 Phase 3 Project Timeline

The purpose of the timeline is to establish benchmarks during the project period to ensure timely completion. Progress monitoring will occur at 2-month intervals for the duration of the 6 month contract. The schedule is meant to be an aid for measuring the progress of the project and a guide to making adequate contract adjustments when necessary.

	Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	
Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6