

PROGRAM BASICS

THE ISSUE: Flooding and other coastal hazards have devastating impacts on the economies and livelihoods of communities across eastern North Carolina. Coastal development and climate change continue to amplify these risks, and several barriers like economic and capacity constraints hinder the actions needed to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability.

Building resilience to natural hazards is vital for communities to help maintain quality of life, healthy growth, durable systems, and conservation of resources for present and future generations.

OBJECTIVES: The NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program provides **financial grants and technical assistance** to support a proactive, locally-driven, and equitable approach to coastal resilience planning and project implementation.

ELIGIBILITY: County and municipal governments in the 20 CAMA counties are eligible to receive assistance through the RCCP. Any qualified organizations may apply to provide technical assistance.

NC'S FUTURE

Intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes, storm surge flooding, heavy precipitation events, sea level rise, and tidal flooding are all expected to increase in our state (NC Climate Science Report 2020). More must be done to safeguard communities from loss of life, economic hardships, and the destructive impacts of intensifying coastal and climate risks.

FRAMEWORK: The RCCP provides a phased framework to assess coastal risks and vulnerabilities, engage community stakeholders, and develop projects to strategically improve the resiliency of communities and their natural and built infrastructure. The four phases of the program include:

PHASE I Community Engagement; Risk & Vulnerability Assessment PHASE 2 PHASE 3 PHASE 4 Engineering & Design Implementation

Program Goals:

- Address barriers to coastal resilience in North Carolina at the local level, such as limited capacity, economic constraints, and social inequities;
- Assist communities with risk and vulnerability assessments and developing a portfolio of wellplanned and prioritized projects;
- Advance coastal resilience projects to "shovel-ready" status, or ready for implementation; and
- Provide funding for project implementation and link to additional funding streams.

PROGRAM ORIGINS: The Resilient Coastal Communities Program is a component of the statewide North Carolina Resilient Communities Program, called for in the North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan. It is also a continuation of several years of coastal resiliency work at DCM.

PROGRAM PARTNERS:







PROGRAM PLANNING HANDBOOK:

Communities and contractors participating in this program are provided guidance to complete Phases I and 2 in DCM's Program Planning Handbook, available here.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications for Phases I and 2 are closed for the current round. Applications for grant funding to complete Phases 3 and/or 4 will open in Winter 2021. Communities wishing to receive funding for engineering, design, and/or implementation must complete the requirements of the RCCP Planning Handbook – via Phase I and 2 participation or independently.

PROGRAM CONTACT: Email us at RCCP@ncdner.gov with any questions about the program.

WESBITE: Also visit our website <u>here</u> for updates.

PROGRAM FUNDERS:



