
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

2025 Funding Manual for the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Round 6

Developed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation
in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority



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Part I: Introduction and Overview

Purpose of this Manual

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance regarding the policies, criteria, conditions, and procedures for determining eligibility and awarding grants and loans from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund to local governments per [§10.1-603.25 and §10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia](#); and as required by the [Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act](#) (the Act).

The manual describes the activities that are eligible to receive funds, the conditions under which they are eligible, the process used to award grants, and how eligible applicants may apply.

Community Flood Preparedness Fund (Fund) Overview & Authority

The Fund was established to provide support for regions and localities across Virginia to reduce the impacts of flooding. The Fund will prioritize activities that are aligned with local, state, and federal floodplain management standards, and local, regional, and statewide resilience plans. The Fund will empower communities to plan for and implement action-oriented approaches to flood preparedness and resilience.

Va. Code § 10.1-603.25 E. applies the following conditions:

1. Eligible applicants shall use monies in the Fund primarily for the purpose of implementing flood prevention and protection projects and studies in areas that are subject to recurrent flooding as confirmed by a Certified Floodplain Manager.
2. Monies in the Fund may be used to mitigate future flood damage and to assist inland and coastal communities across the Commonwealth that are subject to recurrent or repetitive flooding.
3. No less than 25 percent of the monies disbursed from the Fund each year shall be used for projects in low-income geographic areas.
4. Priority shall be given to projects that implement community-scale hazard mitigation activities that use nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk.

The Fund consists of all sums that are designated for deposit in the Fund from revenue generated by the sale of emissions allowances pursuant to subdivision C 1 of §10.1-1330 of the *Code of Virginia*, all sums that may be appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly, all receipts by the Fund from the repayment of loans made by it to local governments, all income from the investment of monies held in the Fund, and any other sums designated for deposit to the Fund from any source, public or private, including any federal grants and awards or other forms of assistance received by the Commonwealth that are eligible for deposit in the Fund under federal law. Interest earned on monies in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any monies remaining in the Fund, including any appropriated funds and all principal, interest accrued,

and payments, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. All grants and loans provided under this article shall be deemed to promote the public purposes of enhancing flood prevention, protection, and flood resilience for all communities within the Commonwealth.

As the name and statutory framework indicate, the Community Flood Preparedness Fund is focused on community-scale infrastructure-oriented projects. In this way, it complements the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund (RVRF), which focuses on property-scale projects and providing match for other resilience programs.

Please note: RVRF loans may now be used as match for CFPF grants. RVRF match funds are available independently of other RVRF offerings.

The Department, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth, in consultation with the Virginia Resources Authority, have established this grant manual to establish policy and procedures regarding the distribution and prioritization of loans and grants, including loans and grants that support flood prevention or protection studies of statewide or regional significance.

The Department shall administer and direct distribution of loans and grants from the Fund.

A. Commonwealth Resilience Planning Principles

Regardless of region, the CFPF will be guided by the following principles detailed in §10.1-602.

1. Base decision making on the best available science;
2. Identify and address socioeconomic inequities and strive to enhance equity through adaptation and protection measures by considering all areas of recurrent flooding;
3. Recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing natural infrastructure and nature-based approaches to flood mitigation when possible;
4. Utilize community and regional scale planning to the maximum extent possible, seeking region-specific approaches tailored to the needs of individual communities; and
5. Include an understanding of fiscal realities and focus on cost-effective solutions for the protection and adaptation of communities, businesses and critical infrastructure.

B. Definitions

Some terms used in this manual and in § 10.1-603.24 of the *Code of Virginia* have specific meanings that may vary from other contexts. For the purposes of this manual and the Fund:

“Activity” means one stage of a project, plan, or study. Each activity consists of one or more actions that, upon completion, will lead to the next project stage. Taken together as a series, the activities will result in the final deliverable. Each activity has a defined start and end, as well as a

deadline or period in which it must be completed.

“Capacity Building” means strengthening a local government’s ability to assess flood risk and mitigate impacts through training of existing staff, hiring of personnel, contracting with expert consultants or advisors, and other related actions.

“Certified floodplain manager” means a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) according to the Association of State Floodplain Managers (<https://www.floods.org/certification-program-cfm>).

“Community-scale project” means a flood prevention and protection project that provides flood mitigation benefits 25% or more of the geographic area or population within the designated census block of the project location. For projects whose primary benefit is provided outside of the census block in which the project is physically located, the applicant may designate a different census block to be used in the calculation. This definition includes flood mitigation of critical facilities and infrastructure that have been identified in the regional or state hazard mitigation plan.

“Code” means the *Code of Virginia*.

"Cost," as applied to any activity financed under the provisions of this article, means the total of all costs incurred by the local government in carrying out all works and undertakings necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of any proposed activity.

“Critical facilities (and critical infrastructure)” means assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or cyber, which are so vital to the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or its local jurisdictions that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on physical security, economic vitality, public health or safety, or any combination of thereof at a national, state, or local level.

“Department” means the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

“Eligible Applicants” are local governments and tribes, as defined below. The program allows eligible applicants to join together to submit joint proposals.

"Fund or CFPF" means the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund created pursuant to § 10.1-603.25 of the Code of Virginia.

“Hybrid Solution” means a project that uses both green and gray components to maximize the potential benefits of both types of intervention.

"Local government" means any county, city, town, municipal corporation, authority, district, commission, or political subdivision created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia or laws of the Commonwealth.

“Locality” means the area under the jurisdiction of a local government.

“Low Impact Development” means systems and practices which use or mimic natural processes, and results in the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitats.

“Low-income geographic area” means any locality, or community within a locality, that has a median household income that is not greater than 80 percent of the state median household income or any area in the Commonwealth designated as a qualified opportunity zone by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury via his/her delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

“Nature-based solution” means an approach that reduces the impacts of flood and storm events through the use of environmental processes and natural systems. A nature-based solution may provide additional benefits beyond flood control, including recreational opportunities and improved water quality. This includes a project that reduces these impacts by protecting, restoring, or emulating natural features.

“National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)” means the Program as established by the United States Congress through the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended.

“Overlapping local government” means a situation in which multiple local governments have jurisdiction and intersecting authorities over the same geographic area.

“Pluvial Flooding” means flooding produced from direct precipitation, which is also known as local intense precipitation. Pluvial flooding occurs when precipitation rates exceed the infiltration capacity of soils and the drainage capacity, resulting in excess runoff and induces flooding.

“Project” means any activity or group of activities with a common goal to reduce coastal, riverine or inland flooding. Design and specification development is considered a project.

“Pre-Award Costs ” means costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the award and only with the written approval of the Department. If charged to the award, these costs must be identified in the application budget narrative.

“Recurrent or Repetitive Flooding” means the flooding effects of rain, tides and storm surges that occur on a regular or frequent basis.

“Resilience Plan” means an official, adopted plan that describes the entire local government’s approach to flooding and meets the criteria outlined in Appendix F.

“Tribe” means federally recognized tribes in Virginia, and Virginia recognized tribes.

"Underserved Communities" means populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. As used in this document, underserved communities also include communities environmentally overburdened, which are communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks.

"Underserved Populations" means populations identified as part of the Underserved Communities definition.

"VRA" means the Virginia Resources Authority

Part II: General Department Grant Eligibility Criteria and Application Procedures

A. Department Conditions and Limitations for Making Grants and Loans

1. Availability of Funding and Allocation

Grants and/or loans will be awarded by category on a competitive scoring basis for eligible activities that meet the general conditions of this section and the specific criteria set out for each category. Scoring criteria for each category is contained in Appendix D.

The total amount of funds awarded in any round, funding allocation across categories, and final award decisions are determined by the Department in consultation with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and Chief Resilience Officer. For this funding round, the following amounts are available:

- a. \$50,000,000 in grants for Capacity Building and Planning, Studies, and Projects.
- b. \$25,000,000 in long-term loans for Projects
- c. \$10,000,000 in short-term loans for up-front costs associated with Projects
- d. \$25,000,000 for projects related to US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects and Flood Risk Management Projects that have received construction authorization

The Code requires that no less than 25 percent of the monies disbursed from the Fund each year shall be used for projects in low-income geographic areas. *Priority will be given to activities providing flood prevention and protection to low-income geographic areas and underserved populations.*

The award amount per project will be determined based on scoring, amounts requested from eligible activities and projects, and available funds. Based on the amount of funds available and the viability of the projects, it is possible not all projects or applications received will receive funding or funding at the amounts requested.

2. Reservation of Rights

The Department, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, the Chief Resilience Officer, and the Virginia Resources Authority reserve the right to provide funding at a level less than requested by the applicant, or to refuse to fund an applicant's request. Reasons for such determinations include, but are not limited to, incomplete applications or resilience plans, low project ranking, the feasibility of the proposal, total funding determined to be necessary to complete the project, an anticipated inability to complete the project by the specified completion date, and total available funding.

3. Grant and Loan Terms and Conditions

Grant and loan terms and conditions are described in detail for each category in Part III.

4. Submission and Scope

Applications will be accepted beginning October 15, 2025.

Each application submitted must be for a discrete activity or project. Adherence to the submittal and scope requirements will be strictly enforced.

No discrete activity, project, nor portion thereof identified in a previously awarded grant that was reimbursed, or loan that was provided, by the Department or the Authority from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund is eligible for funding.

5. Eligible Costs

Awarded funds may be used for all reasonably incurred direct costs associated with the planning and completion of an activity. Indirect costs are not an eligible use of funds.

The Fund does not allow supplanting of salaries for *existing* staff. New positions may be funded to hire new staff or create new organizational roles to support activities identified in this manual. Existing salaries can be used as match instead.

Local governments may contract or provide subgrant agreements with public, private, and non-profit organizations or entities to execute approved activities or projects.

Pre-award or startup costs may be allowed with approval from the Department. Up to 25% or \$250,000, whichever is less, of the total grant award may be provided. These costs must be explicitly requested within the application. All monies dispersed will be subject to the requirements outlined in the final agreement with VRA.

Up to 50% of the maintenance cost or 5% of total award, whichever is less, may be allowed from the Fund to be used for project maintenance. Applicants must itemize the cost of maintenance within the application. Projects that fail before the projected lifespan must be replaced at grantee expense or funds repaid to the Department.

6. Disbursement

Grant funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis and can be drawn down quarterly or after the completion of the approved project, except for previously approved pre-award and startup costs.

Loan funds will be disbursed based on the agreement negotiated with VRA and the requirements of the locality. Short Term Loans will generally be payable once a loan agreement is finalized and signed.

7. General Conditions

For a grant or loan to be authorized, the following general conditions must be satisfied:

- a. A complete application meeting the requirements set forth in this manual has been submitted to the Department within the specified application period.
- b. The local government managing body (City Manager, County Administrator, Town Manager) has authorized the request for assistance from the Fund and has also confirmed the availability of identified matching funds. Authorizations not received prior to the close of the application period will cause the application to be disqualified for the current round of funding. *In-kind match may be used in lieu of cash funds for match.*
- b. Where project completion is dependent on a variety of funding sources, including from the Fund, the local government has provided satisfactory assurances of all necessary funds to fully finance the project. This must include signed, written verification as outlined in requirements for the Budget Narrative on in Part IV.B.
- c. For projects that will require future maintenance, a maintenance, management, and monitoring plan for the projects must be provided demonstrating how the project will be maintained with funds secured by the grant recipient independent of the Fund over the lifespan of the project. The plan must also outline procedures for monitoring the project, replacement at the project owner's expense should the project fail under normal operating conditions during the course of its expected operational lifespan and reporting deficiencies or failures in the project's intended use that require remediation due to insufficient design, lack of maintenance, neglect or misuse, over the life of the project. If a grant or loan is sought for capacity building and planning activity, studies or a project that will be carried out in concert with a federal agency, the applicant must have authorization to enter into any necessary written agreement with the federal agency endorsing the application, including any provisions for cost-sharing. A copy of the agreement must be submitted with the application.

Funds awarded may be used as match for other sources of funding; however, funds awarded from the Fund (including loans) may NOT be used as match for other monies from the Fund. Monies used to match awards from the Fund may not be used as match for other grants.

8. Match Requirement

Match may be cash, RVRF loans, or in-kind contributors of property, structures, and

services including labor, contributed during the period of performance. Match must be adequately documented, necessary and reasonable to achieve project or activity objectives. **RVRF loans may be used as match for the CFPF Project category only.**

Local staff may be considered as in-kind match on a prorated basis if providing direct services for the grant-funded activity but will not be charged to the project's budget expenditures as a line-item request to the Department.

In-kind match does not include:

- (1) An interest in land or water,
- (2) The value of any structure completed before the period of performance, unless the Department approves the activity as a pre-award or startup cost,
- (3) Costs or in-kind contributions that have been or will be counted as satisfying the cost-sharing or match requirement of another grant, cooperative agreement, or contract, unless authorized by the Department, or
- (4) Funds received from a previous CFPF award.

Applicants must maintain records, receipts, descriptions of services or products utilized, and explanation of valuation and methodology for determining in-kind matching funds.

Examples of in-kind descriptions include:	Explanation
Space and equipment	The community will provide office space of 800 square feet for two new staff supporting the project or activity. Office includes 2 computers and workstations with internet access, telecommunications, meeting room, audio, and video system. Monthly rental cost is \$1,000.00 and includes building security and cleaning. 28 months of estimated use for \$28,000.00 total value.
Supplies	The community will provide 10 boxes of printer paper at a retail cost of \$35 per box for a value of \$350. The community will provide access to our copier, shredder, fax and filing cabinets. Estimated value 6,000 pages at \$0.05 each for a value of \$300. Total contributions are \$700
Labor - Volunteer	The community will provide 1 volunteer at \$15 per hour averaging 10 hour per week, for a duration of 10 weeks. Total value of volunteer services is \$1,500.

Labor – Salary	The community will provide 1 local staff member to perform the activities and execute the project being funded. Staff will spend 20% of their time on grant funded activities and tasks. Current staff salary is \$50,000 annually. Period of performance is 3 years or 36 months. Total value of staff salary is $\{(50 \times .2) \times 3\} = \$30,000$
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B. Application and Selection Process

1. General Submittal Information and Deadline

A complete electronic file with all required attachments **is the required method of submission**. All electronic applications should be submitted via the WebGrants Portal <https://vadcr.webgrantscloud.com/index.do>.

With Department approval, hard-copy applications may be submitted mailed to:

600 East Main Street, 4th floor Richmond, VA
23219

Attn: CFPF/RVRF Grant Submittal

For proposals that can only be submitted in paper format, it is important that applications be printed on one-sided pages. All pages must be sized to 8.5 x 11 inches. Photographs are acceptable. All photos and images and their captions must be on 8.5 x 11-inch paper and be of a quality suitable for reproduction by a photocopier. It is not necessary to submit 4 sets of original images, but all reproduced images must be clear and discernable. Images and photos will not be returned.

The deadline for Department approval of hard-copy submission is *ten business days prior* to application submission deadline.

All applications must be made using the forms provided by the Department in this manual.

Files should be saved as follows:

- CID51XXXX_LocalgovernmentName_CFPF.pdf
(Example: CID510090_LoudounCounty_CFPF.pdf).
- If multiple applications for the local government, then please use CID510090_LoudounCounty_CFPF-1.pdf; LoudounCountyCFPF-2.pdf. etc.

“Community Identification Number (CID#)” is a 6-digit designation identifying each National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) community. The first 2 numbers are the state code.

Virginia's state code is "51". The next 4 digits are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-assigned community number and can be found in FEMA Community Status Book (<https://www.fema.gov/cis/VA.html>).

The CID# applies to the local government where the work is being done, not necessarily where the applicant is based. Where no CID# has been assigned, CID# will be 510 plus the three-digit FIPS code and Dept designation (example: City of Richmond – 510760- DCR1).

Please ensure signature pages are completed prior to submitting. Applications without signatures will be considered incomplete and will be removed from funding consideration for the current round.

Applications will be accepted beginning on October 15, 2025 and end December 1, 2025.
Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applications will be scored, ranked, and funded based on scoring criteria in Appendix D and the availability of funds.

All applications will be posted on the Department's website, with the exception of non-public financial information. Applicants should flag any additional confidential information.

General Application Inquiries: For any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Floodplain Management at (804) 371-6095 or via email at cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov.

2. Application Contents: All categories

Application Form

The Application Form (Appendix A) contains general organizational information, including the title, category, and location of the project, the amount of grant or loan funds requested, and contact information for the applicant or the applicant's designated contact person. For applicants seeking loans, certain financial information must also be provided.

Scope of Work Narrative

The Scope of Work Narrative describes the activity for which funding is sought. Requirements are outlined in Part IV of this manual. Applicants may attach letters of support from impacted stakeholders as a part of the narrative.

Scoring criteria can be found in Appendix D, organized by application type.

Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative establishes the proposed budget for the project. It should include evidence of the source of funds available to fully fund the project, including the required matching funds, pre award or startup costs, and maintenance costs (if applicable). A description of the Budget Narrative is outlined in this manual. Applicants must use the form provided in Appendix B as a part of their Budget Narrative submission.

3. Application Review and Approval Process

Qualifying activities in each category are selected for funding on a competitive scoring basis. The Department will use the following review procedure:

Initial Department Review

The Department will provide an initial review of grant applications for completeness in accordance with the eligible grant or loan categories and submission requirements, as well as compliance with floodplain regulations. The Department will then provide applications to the established Review Committee with recommended scoring.

Committee Review

The Director shall convene an Advisory Review Committee (the Committee) to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Fund. The Committee shall review applications to the Fund and make recommendations on the disbursement of monies from the Fund and any other appropriate issues to the Department, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth. The Committee shall include representatives from the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Housing and Community Development, a nonprofit group engaged in resilience efforts, the agriculture industry, the manufacturing industry, and the business community, the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and others as the Director deems appropriate. (Code of Virginia 10.1-603.25)

The Committee will review and rank each complete application to determine its merits in accordance with the criteria set out in this manual and pursuant to the scoring criteria contained in Appendix D. The Committee will provide scoring, ranking and award recommendations to the Department. During this time, the Committee may consider management of active grants in the final determination of funding.

Department, SNHR and Chief Resilience Officer Consultation

The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), will consider recommendations provided by the Review Committee to finalize awards.

Virginia Resources Authority Review

Following final acceptance and approval, and pending further necessary submittals,

an approval letter for a grant or the application for a loan will be forwarded to VRA for the execution of a grant agreement or the review and subsequent execution of a loan agreement.

Loan funding requires a repayment plan based on a reliable revenue stream and appropriate security.

Part III: Award Administration

A. Notice and Agreements

After application approval, a preliminary award letter will be sent from the Department to the applicants, and notice of awards will be posted on the Department's Floodplain Management Flood Resilience Grant Funds web page at <https://vadcr.webgrantscloud.com/index.do>.

If agreeable to the applicant, the grant agreement will be executed via DocuSign. Otherwise, VRA will email grant agreements to recipients using the email address provided in the original application. If no email address was provided, the Grant Agreements will be sent via U.S. mail. Recipients shall return the signed grant agreement within 90 days of receipt to:

Virginia Resources Authority
1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1920
Richmond, VA 23219

Grant agreements not signed and returned to VRA within 90 days as required may be rescinded. A draft Financing Agreement will be sent to recipients after credit approval. VRA will coordinate a loan closing schedule with the recipient and their bond counsel. Detailed and itemized budget must be received prior to the execution of the grant agreement.

B. Required Commencement and Completion Schedule

Eligible activities must commence *after* the award is made, but *no later than nine months* post award. **For capacity building, funded activity must be completed within 60 months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of the Department. For studies and projects, funded activity must be completed within 36 months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of the Department.**

Activities which commence after the first nine months but prior to one year from the original agreement date, may be considered for funding at the discretion of the Department if applicant provides a narrative detailing the schedule delays or constraints to substantiate the request within the application. Otherwise, funding may be withdrawn and redistributed to other qualifying projects at the discretion of the Department in consultation with the

Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the Chief Resilience Officer.

Extensions of the total performance period may be granted at the discretion of the Department; however, all extension requests (Appendix E) must be received *no later than 90 days prior to the expiration of the original agreement*, and the approved activity must have commenced within the first nine months of the original agreement period. **The Department will approve no more than two, one-year extensions for projects.**

Projects, capacity building and planning, and studies with a time horizon longer than the standard period of performance should be submitted in phases.

C. Virginia Resources Authority Disbursement of Funds

Funds may be disbursed on a quarterly basis. All requests for reimbursement or award advances shall be provided to the Department for approval according to terms of the manual and award agreement.

The Department shall forward the approved request to VRA for payment to the applicant. VRA will not disburse funds prior to receipt of a fully executed grant or financing agreement signed by the recipient and subsequently signed by VRA's Executive Director. A checklist for reimbursement will be included in the VRA award agreement.

Invoices must be detailed and specific to the project awarded and must provide sufficient information to determine the work (and hours) completed is directly related to the approved project. Proof of payment shall be required. Where applicable, the Department will conduct site visits and inspections to monitor project compliance.

D. Reporting and Close-Out Guidelines

Final reimbursement requests must be submitted within 90 days of the authorized project completion date. This request must include completed and signed Reimbursement Request Form, signed Form of Requisition along with the signed Certificate of Approval Floodplain Management, proof of payment (canceled checks, bank statements, accounting system reports, etc.) and invoices through the WebGrants portal.

Final project deliverables defined in the approved Scope of Work are also due to the Department *within 90 days* following the project end date unless another date is approved by the Department.

- a. ***All final project deliverables and associated materials shall be provided digitally to the Department via the WebGrants Portal (<https://vadcr.webgrantscloud.com/index.do>), or by mail with prior approval from the Department.***
- b. All documents must be provided in PDF and/or a Microsoft Word compatible format, including any embedded maps or other figures/illustrations.

- c. All engineering files (including hydrologic and hydraulic studies) and assumptions necessary to replicate various analyses or other calculations need to be provided in a format compatible with the software used to perform those calculations; likewise, all output files are also required.
- d. All tabular information not included in the engineering files above, whether contained within any report or appendix, which was used as the basis for any calculation, shall be provided in a Microsoft Excel compatible format or Microsoft Access compatible format.
- e. All map data shall be delivered as a geodatabase or individual shapefiles. Additionally, maps shall be provided in a PDF format if not already included embedded within the report(s).
- f. If digital submittal is not possible, printed materials, together with all attachments and supporting documentation, may be submitted to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at the address below:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Attention: Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund
Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Part IV: Award Categories

A. Capacity Building and Planning

While certain local governments and regions have taken significant steps in developing and implementing comprehensive approaches to flood preparedness and resilience, many areas have yet to establish the necessary foundation for such activities, often due to a lack of resources. It is imperative that such planning activities take place.

To encourage sound flood preparedness and resilience planning, the Fund will provide grants for capacity building and planning efforts, prioritizing vulnerability assessments and the creation or updating of resilience plans, as defined in this manual.

Applicants may apply for up to 60 months of funding for capacity building and planning activities.

Total Amount Available

\$50,000,000 in grant funding (shared with Studies and Projects categories). The number of grants awarded for this purpose will be dependent on available funds.

Grant Terms

Match:

For low-income geographic areas – Fund 90%/Match 10%*

For all other areas – Fund 75%/Match 25% for planning activities; Fund 50%/Match 50% for capacity building and staffing

Minimum Grant Amount - \$5,000

*Upon request, match may be waived for grants \$50,000 or less

Additional Information

Applicants may seek funds to secure services or personnel necessary to develop plans, programs, and activities within the defined project period. This may include efforts for increased capacity to prepare for flooding disasters such as evaluation of new locality wide property management systems, policy and procedure revisions, comprehensive evacuation plans, etc. Details on resilience plan requirements for the purposes of CFPF are included in Appendix F to help localities assess the need for capacity building and planning assistance.

Localities may be eligible for one additional round of funding for staff salary upon request of renewal.

Updates to Resilience Plans previously funded by the Fund is allowable. Updated Resilience Plans must incorporate requirements from the Round in which funding is provided.

Resilience Plans, both new and previously approved by the Department are now approved for a period of five years.

Localities must demonstrate collaboration between overlapping local governments during the development of the Resilience Plan and consistency with other local plans (Hazard Mitigation Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Stormwater Maintenance Plan, etc).

B. Studies

To assist the Commonwealth and its local governments, the Fund will provide grants for various studies designed to improve long term planning and effectiveness of resilience plans and projects.

Total Amount Available:

\$50,000,000 in grant funding (shared with Capacity Building and Planning, and Projects categories). The number of grants awarded for this purpose will be dependent on available funds.

Grant Terms

Match:

For low-income geographic areas – Fund 90%/Match 10%*

For all other areas – Fund 50%/Match 50%

Minimum Grant Amount: \$5,000

*Upon request, match may be waived for grants \$50,000 or less

Additional Information

Examples of applicable studies include:

- a. Studies to revise floodplain ordinances in order to maintain compliance with the NFIP or to incorporate higher standards that may reduce the risk of flood damage. This shall include establishing processes for implementing the ordinance, including but not limited to, permitting, record retention, violations, and variance procedures. This may include revising a floodplain ordinance when the community is getting new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), updating a floodplain ordinance to include floodplain setbacks or freeboard, or correcting issues in a Corrective Action Plan.
- b. Hydraulic or hydrologic studies of a floodplain with historic and predicted floods, the assessment of flood risk, and the development of strategies to prevent or mitigate damage from coastal or riverine flooding.
- c. Hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains to update FEMA-issued FIRMs.
- d. Studies and Data Collection of Statewide and Regional Significance:
 1. Updating precipitation data and IDF information (rain intensity, duration, frequency) including such data at a sub-state or regional scale on a periodic basis.
 2. Regional relative sea level rise projections for use in determining future impacts.
 3. Vulnerability analysis to transportation, water supply, water treatment, impounding structures, or other significant and vital infrastructure from flooding.
 4. Flash flood studies and modeling in riverine regions of the state.
 5. Statewide or regional stream gauge monitoring, inc. expansion of existing networks.
 6. Delineations of areas of recurrent flooding, stormwater flooding, and storm surge vulnerability in coastal areas that include projections for future conditions based on sea level rise, more intense rainfall events, or other relevant flood risk factors.

7. Regional hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains.
8. Studies of potential land use strategies or other proposals that could be implemented by a local government to reduce or mitigate damage from flooding.
9. Pluvial flood studies.

Applications for studies may not duplicate existing data or studies. Leveraging existing data sources encouraged where available.

C. Projects

The purpose of this category is to assist local governments with flood prevention or protection activities to prevent loss of life and reduce property damage caused by coastal, riverine or inland flooding. Design and specifications development is considered a project.

Applications with more than one discrete project may be disqualified for funding during this round. Please consult with DCR staff if you have questions on what constitutes a discrete project.

No applicant shall be awarded more than a cumulative total of \$7,500,000 in grants.

Applicants may apply for, and be awarded, both grants and loans for a project. Caps listed for grants and loans are not cumulative across funding types – i.e., an applicant may receive \$7,500,000 in grants and \$7,500,000 in long-term loans.

Eligible project costs include pre-award, startup, and maintenance activities. Costs must be identified and itemized within the budget narrative.

Applicants selected to receive funding are required to submit and/or update information about their projects and initiatives in the Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer's Projects and Initiatives Inventory to be eligible for reimbursement. This requirement applies to all awards except capacity building & planning award types which pertain exclusively to enhancing staff capacity. The requirement applies only to awards for work in the geographic extents of the eight easternmost planning district commissions of **Virginia (Northern Virginia Regional Commission, George Washington Regional Commission, Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, PlanRVA, Crater Planning District Commission, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, or Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission)**. For more information or assistance with submitting records to the inventory, please visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/user-portal> or contact the DCR Office of Resilience Planning at flood.resilience@dcr.virginia.gov

Total Amount Available

\$50,000,000 in grant funding (shared with Capacity Building and Planning, and Studies)

\$25,000,000 in long-term loans

\$10,000,000 in short-term loans

Grant Terms

Match* (low-income geographic areas):

Projects that will result in nature-based solutions - Fund 95%/Match 5%

Projects that will result in hybrid solutions - Fund 90%/Match 10%

All other Projects - Fund 85%/Match 15%

Match (all other areas):

Projects that will result in nature-based solutions - Fund 70%/Match 30%

Projects that will result in hybrid solutions - Fund 60%/Match 40%

All other Projects - Fund 50%/Match 50%

Minimums and Maximums:

Minimum Grant Amount:

\$50,000

Maximum Grant Amount:

\$7,500,000

*Grant maximum is the cumulative total allocated for project awards per applicant.

*Upon request, match may be waived for grants \$1,000,000 or less.

Long-Term Loans and Match Loans

Standard loan terms will be made at an interest rate of 2.0% with an administrative fee of 0.20% for a total Costs of Funds of 2.20%. Duration may be for 20 years or less after estimated project completion and not longer than the expected design life of the project.

Such loans will be appropriately secured by a general obligation pledge, certain revenues, or an annual appropriation, subject to VRA underwriting criteria.

Loans for Low-Income Geographic Areas will be made at an interest rate of 1.0% with an administrative fee of 0.20% for a total Costs of Funds of 1.20%. Duration may be for 20 years or less after estimated project completion or less term after estimated project completion and not longer than the expected design life of the project. Such loans will be appropriately secured by a general obligation pledge, certain revenues, or an annual appropriation, subject to VRA underwriting criteria.

Applicants may stack grants and long-term loans for a project. Loans from the CFPF may not

be used as match for CFPF grants; however, RVRF loans are available for CFPF match (see below). Long-term loans are not required to be paired with a grant.

Applicants seeking funding for Projects have the option to use loans from the RVRF as match. RVRF loans will be provided at the rates and terms noted above. An authorization to request funding from the local government shall be submitted to the Department with all costs clearly identified. **Applicants do not need to complete a separate application form to request an RVRF loan;** rather, they should indicate their intent to use an RVRF loan as match on this application. Additional financial information required for closing the loan will be obtained after a CFPF grant has been awarded, prior to the signing of a grant agreement.

All loan requests are subject to credit review and approval by Virginia Resources Authority. Applicants with approved projects will be required to submit additional financial information to VRA as a part of the loan process.

Long-term Loan Minimum: \$250,000

Long-term Loan Maximum: \$7,500,000 per applicant

Match Loan Maximum: 100% of required CFPF match

Short-Term Loan Terms

Short-Term Loans are designed to cover up-front costs of projects. Loans must be paired with an approved project grant and will be extended for a period of no more than 36 months, at an annual interest rate of no more than 1.0% for projects in low-income geographic areas or Underserved Communities, and 2.0% for projects in all other areas. *Note that these loans are distinct from upfront startup grant funds.*

Short-term Loan Minimum: \$100,000

Short-term Loan Maximum: Up to 20% of the total project grant award.

Additional Information

All projects that demonstrate a primary purpose of prevention or protection to reduce coastal, riverine, or inland flooding will be considered, subject to the following:

- 1) **All project applications must have an approved resilience plan (see Appendix F), and an endorsement of a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) included in the application. Resilience Plans must be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the application period, in order to be eligible in the current round.**
- 2) All project applications must include studies, data, reports that demonstrate proposed project minimizes flood vulnerabilities and does not create flooding, increase flooding, or cause adverse impact to other properties.

- 3) All project applications, including property acquisitions, must demonstrate, through data and analysis, the flood protection benefits and projected lifespan of the project. Projects with an expected useful lifespan of less than ten years will not be considered.
- 4) All projects must have a minimum expected useful life of 10 years. All project applications must include maintenance, management and monitoring plans tied to the lifespan of project.
- 5) All projects occurring within the regulatory floodway must demonstrate no-rise and be certified by a Professional Engineer. If rise has been determined within the regulatory floodway, then a Letter of Map Change shall be required prior to reimbursement.
- 6) Projects on private property will not be considered unless the project provides (i) a community-scale benefit, or (ii) a public benefit and is within an easement granted to the local government that allows for the construction and maintenance of the project.
- 7) Projects that would result in development that is not in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program will not be considered.
- 8) Costs associated with the dredging of waterways will not be considered unless the dredging provides demonstrable flood reduction to the SFHA surrounding the waterway.

Land acquisition projects must be explicitly and demonstrably tied to community-scale flood mitigation benefits. Documentation (proposed easement, maintenance agreement, deed language, etc.) must be provided which ensures the property will be maintained in perpetuity as an open space or conservation area, with the exception that flood control structures may be built on the property. In some instances, the Department may require the applicant to enter into a Deed of Easement or other legally binding document, giving the Commonwealth certain property rights in perpetuity.

Additionally, any relocation strategy must be achievable within the period of performance and approved by the Department, address depressed housing values when buy-outs are used, and provide a pathway to relocation for all individuals residing in the occupied structures, including tenants.

- 9) When calculating required match, the nature-based solution percentage will be based on the degree to which a completed project is comprised of a nature-based solution. Removal of existing infrastructure or structures may be necessary to achieve the nature-based solution. Where removal of infrastructure or structures and the nature-based solution would occur in the same grant period, the applicant should apply under the nature-based solutions category. Projects that consist solely of acquisition of developed land, where flood mitigation activities or projects will occur in the future, should apply under the “other

projects” category.

10) While the locality, and therefore responsible party, is defined in the *Code of Virginia*, projects may serve a smaller geographic area within the local government, particularly low-income geographic areas, and underserved communities. Projects undertaken by municipal corporations, authorities, districts, commissions, or political subdivisions created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, or any combination of these, must be consistent with resilience plans and efforts in the local government where the project takes place. Letters of support from affected localities must be included with the application. Applicants may also wish to include letters of support from impacted community stakeholders.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Nature-based solutions including but not limited to wetland restoration, floodplain restoration, swales and settling ponds, living shorelines and vegetated buffers.
- Additional flood control solutions including but not limited to floodwalls, levees, berms, flood gates, structural conveyances and storm water systems, and medium to large scale Low Impact Development (LID) in urban areas
- Dam repair or removal to mitigate the risk of catastrophic flooding, loss of life or property damage
- Beneficial reuse of dredge materials for flood protection
- Preservation and creation of open space in perpetuity for flood mitigation including:
 - property acquisition and demolition/relocation, and
 - easements and the permanent conservation of lands identified as having flood resilience value by ConserveVirginia “Floodplain and Flooding Resilience” layer or a similar data driven analytic tool.

D. Projects Related to Approved US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management and Flood Risk Management Projects

The purpose of this category is to provide financial support to local governments that are partnering with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to complete a Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) or Flood Risk Management (FRM) Project.

Eligible applicants are local governments who are nonfederal sponsors of USACE CSRM or FRM projects that have received construction authorization.

Total Amount Available

\$25,000,000 in grants or loans. These funds are made available separately from other project grant and loan funds noted in parts A-C of this section.

Grant Terms

Grants – Fund 50%/Match 50%*

Loans – No Match required

Notwithstanding any other limitations in this manual, no applicant shall receive more than \$25,000,000 in funds from this category. However, funds awarded from this category count against award limits stated elsewhere.

*Applicants seeking funding for this category have the option to use loans from the RVRF as match. An authorization to request funding from the local government shall be submitted to the Department with all costs clearly identified. **Applicants do not need to complete a separate application form to request an RVRF loan;** rather, they should indicate their intent to use an RVRF loan as match on this application. Additional financial information required for closing the loan will be obtained after a CFPF grant has been awarded, prior to the signing of a grant agreement. **CFPF loans may not be used to match CFPF grants.**

Standard loan terms will be made at an interest rate of 2.0% with an administrative fee of 0.20% for a total Costs of Funds of 2.20%. Duration may be for 20 years or less after estimated project completion and not longer than the expected design life of the project.

Such loans will be appropriately secured by a general obligation pledge, certain revenues, or an annual appropriation, subject to VRA underwriting criteria.

Loans for Low-Income Geographic Areas will be made at an interest rate of 1.0% with an administrative fee of 0.20% for a total Costs of Funds of 1.20%. Duration may be for 20 years or less after estimated project completion or less term after estimated project completion and not longer than the expected design life of the project. Such loans will be appropriately secured by a general obligation pledge, certain revenues, or an annual appropriation, subject to VRA underwriting criteria.

Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) produced for federal application must be included.

Eligible Costs

All costs related to CSRM and FRM projects that have received construction authorization, including nonstructural projects that are eligible to be counted towards nonfederal match.

Part V: Required Application Components

A. Application Form

See Appendix A for the Application Form, which asks for basic organizational information. In addition to the Form, applicants should attach a Scope of Work Narrative and a Budget

Narrative as described below.

B. Scope of Work Narrative

All applications shall contain a narrative that clearly describes the need for the proposed activity and its components, goals and objectives. Supporting documentation should be included as necessary.

At a minimum, the Scope of Work Narrative for all applications shall include the following:

General Requirements

1. Need:
 - a. Specific problem being solved (not just that flooding exists or may occur in the future).
 - b. Factors which contribute to the identified problem.
 - c. Why the activity is needed either locally or regionally.
 - d. How the activity decreases the risk to public safety through flood risk reduction.
 - e. How the activity protects or conserves natural resources.
 - f. Who or what is protected.
 - g. The safety threats, or environmental concerns related to flood risk.
 - h. Groups who might directly benefit from this flood risk reduction effort.
 - i. What would happen (or not happen) if the applicant does not receive funding.
 - j. Alternatives analysis of the viability of the project, how selected project reduces risk to populations at risk of flooding. Provide examples of current or previous related projects, data, outcomes etc. that justify the approach chosen. Include how long and how much protection to be achieved.
2. Goals and Objectives:
 - a. Goals should be listed as an outcome that solves the problem identified.
 - b. Objectives must be specific, measurable and timebound.
 - c. Objectives be achievable within the agreement period.
3. Work Plan:
 - a. What are the major activities and tasks?
 - b. Who is responsible for completing the activities and tasks?
 - c. What is the timeframe for accomplishing activities and tasks?
 - d. Identify the required partners and where they are represented in the workplan.
 - e. Deliverables
 - f. Maintenance plan tied to the identified viability of the project. Plan for sustaining the project after the agreement period (if applicable).
4. Evaluation
 - a. Indicators of success.
 - b. Data that will be collected and how the data will be used to measure success.
 - c. How was cost effectiveness evaluated and measured against the expected outcomes?
 - d. What products, services, meetings, outreach efforts etc. will be conducted and how will success be measured?

- e. Project progress monitoring plan to ensure project meets the requirements of the agreement and is delivered on time. Outline how delays or other findings may be used to modify or improve outcomes/deliverables.
- f. **Existing staff resources available to support activities.**

In addition to the list above, the following category-specific components shall be required:

Supporting Documents for Capacity Building & Planning Applications

Assess capacity/ planning needs to include financial, human, technical assistance and training.

- Resource development strategies: where capacity is limited by funding this may include working with non-governmental organizations, applying for grants, loans, or other funding sources.
- Plan for developing, increasing, or strengthening knowledge, skills, and abilities of existing or new staff. This may include training of existing staff, hiring personnel, contracting with of expert consultants or advisors.
- Policy management and/or development.
- Stakeholder identification, outreach, and education strategies.

Supporting Documents for Study Applications

- The specific type of study proposed including whether the study is new or updates a prior study.
- The relationship of the study to the local government's needs for flood prevention and protection, equity, community improvement, identification of nature-based solutions or other priorities contained in this manual.
- The qualifications of the individuals or organizations charged with conducting the study or the elements of any request for proposal that define those qualifications.
- The expected use of the study results in the context of the local resilience plan or, in the case of regional plans, how the study improves any regional approach.
- If applicable, how the study may improve Virginia's flood protection and prevention abilities in a statewide context.
- Other necessary information to establish project priority.

Repetitive Loss and/or Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

Do not provide specific addresses but include an exact number of NFIP repetitive loss and/or severe repetitive loss structures within the project area. Work with the local floodplain administrator or emergency manager to find this information. If they do not have a list, the Department can assist them.

Repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss can occur outside of the SFHA and to properties not captured in NFIP reporting databases. While the Fund requires

localities to maintain records according to the Code of Virginia records retention policy (*Code of Virginia* [§ 42.1-85](#)), the NFIP requires all records of flooding to be maintained by the participating locality in **perpetuity**.

Residential and/or Commercial Structures

Describe the residential and commercial structures impacted by this project, including how they contribute to the community such as historic, economic, or social value. Provide an exact number of residential structures and commercial structures in the project area.

Critical Facilities/Infrastructure

Describe any critical facilities/infrastructure within the project area.

Supporting Documents for Project Applications

Note: some elements are more detailed versions of those outlined as General Requirements.

Project Information:

- a. *Population* – Provide population data for the local government in which the project is taking place, including identification of any low-income geographic area and the estimated number of residents that will be impacted by this project.
- b. *Historic flooding data*– Provide information on the flood risk of the project area, including whether the project is in a mapped floodplain, what flood zone it is in, and when it was last mapped. If the property or area around it has been flooded before, share information on the dates of past flood events and the amount of damage sustained.
- c. *No adverse impact* – Studies, data, reports must demonstrate proposed project minimizes flood vulnerabilities and does not create or increase flooding to other properties.
- d. *The ability of the local government to provide its share of the cost* – This must include an estimate of the total project cost, a description of the source of the funds being used, evidence of the local government’s ability to pay for the project in full or quarterly prior to reimbursement, and a signed pledge agreement from each contributing organization.
- e. *Benefit-cost analysis or narrative of benefits* must be submitted with project applications **over \$2,000,000**. (<https://www.fema.gov/grants/tools/benefit-cost-analysis>)

In lieu of using the FEMA benefit-cost analysis tool, applicants may submit a narrative to describe in detail the cost benefits and value. The narrative must explicitly indicate the risk reduction benefits of a flood mitigation project and compares those benefits to its cost- effectiveness.

- f. *The administration of local floodplain management regulations* – The Department will determine if the community is in good standing with the NFIP. If applicable, provide the Department with the current floodplain ordinance by link or attachment.
- g. *Other necessary information to establish project priority:*

Repetitive Loss and/or Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

Repetitive Loss and/or Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

Do not provide specific addresses but include an exact number of NFIP repetitive loss and/or severe repetitive loss structures within the project area. Work with the local floodplain administrator or emergency manager to find this information. If they do not have a list, the Department can assist them.

Repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss can occur outside of the SFHA and to properties not captured in NFIP reporting databases. While the Fund requires localities to maintain records according to the Code of Virginia records retention policy (*Code of Virginia § 42.1-85*), the NFIP requires all records of flooding to be maintained by the participating locality in **perpetuity**.

Residential and/or Commercial Structures

Describe the residential and commercial structures impacted by this project, including how they contribute to the community such as historic, economic, or social value. Provide an exact number of residential structures and commercial structures in the project area.

Critical Facilities/Infrastructure

Describe any critical facilities/infrastructure within the project area.

Need for Assistance: Identify issues or problems that will be addressed by the project.

- Explain the local government's financial and staff resources.
 - Identify relevant staff members (floodplain administrators, planners, emergency managers, building officials, engineers) employed with the local government.
 - Identify relevant software the local government has access to.
 - Explain the local government's capabilities.
- Include the project area's Social Vulnerability Score.
 - Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) layer is available at this link: [Virginia Flood Risk Information System \(VFRIS\)](#)
 - The index score for the **census block that contains the project area** should be used. If the project area falls within multiple census blocks, please average the score across the blocks.
 - SVI scores are required and will be used in scoring. For more information, please see [ADAPT Virginia's fact sheet](#).

Alternatives: If the project proposed does not employ a nature-based or hybrid solution and the total project cost is greater than \$2 million, describe at least one alternative that could reasonably address the issue identified. Please also consider the No Action Option as a third alternative as part of the analysis. Explain these alternatives and the reason the proposed project was selected.

Goals and Objectives: Identify and describe the goals and objectives of the project. Include a

description of the expected results of the completed project and explain the expected benefits of the project. This may include financial benefits, increased awareness, decreased risk, etc.

Approach, Milestones, and Deliverables: Outline a plan of action laying out the scope and detail of how the proposed work will be accomplished with a timeline identifying expected completion dates. Determine milestones for the project that will be used to track progress. Explain what deliverables can be expected at each milestone, and what the final project deliverables will be. Identify other potential project partners.

- If assistance is sought for a project that will be carried out in concert with a federal agency, provide evidence of an agreement with agency endorsing the project.

Relationship to Other Projects: Where applicable, briefly describe the relationship between this project and other past, current, or future resilience projects. If the applicant has received or applied for any other grants or loans through the CFPF, please identify those projects, and, if applicable, describe any problems that arose with meeting the obligations of the grant and how the obligations of this project will be met.

Maintenance Plan: For ongoing projects or projects that will require future maintenance, such as infrastructure, flood warning and response systems, signs, websites, or flood risk applications, a maintenance, management, and monitoring plan for the projects must be provided demonstrating how they will be maintained, managed, and monitored after the lifespan of this award for a minimum of ten years or the expected lifespan of the project, whichever is longer.

Criteria: Describe how the project meets each of the applicable scoring criteria contained in Appendix D and provide the required documentation where necessary. Documentation can be incorporated into the Scope of Work Narrative or included as attachments to the application.

C. Budget Narrative

Applicants must submit a Budget Narrative explaining all proposed expenditures for any grant category via the WebGrants Portal. The following items must be included:

Estimated total project cost: This amount must reflect the total cost of bringing the project to completion. Estimates for all work to be completed by third parties (engineers, contractors, etc.) should be included. If multiple project types are selected, a detailed breakdown of how the funding is proposed to be allocated must be included for each selected project type. *Please note: Final reimbursement costs for contractor support may not exceed 5% of the estimated contract amount nor exceed the estimated total project cost submitted in the application.*

Amount of funds requested from the Fund: This is the total amount of any grant assistance

sought from the Fund. Include a detailed breakdown of how this funding is proposed to be allocated. *At a minimum* this should include a breakdown of salaries, including any position requested, position title, 100 percent of salary amount, and percent directly dedicated to grant activity fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, construction, contracts, and any other direct costs. The budget narrative must include detailed and itemized costs for each activity sufficient to determine reasonableness and allowability.

Indirect costs are not eligible for funding. Salaries of existing staff are ineligible; however, salaries of staff who provide direct and documented support to the grant effort may be considered as match. Please refer to the match requirements in Part III of this manual

Amount of funds available: This amount, when combined with the amount of funding requested from the Fund, must reflect the total estimated project cost to demonstrate that all necessary funding has been secured to complete the project. Include a description of the source of these funds and evidence of the applicant's ability to obtain these funds to complete the project.

RVRF Match loans: The match loan and amount of funding requested for loan. RVRF loans may not exceed the required CFPF match.

Authorization to request for funding: Local governments seeking funding shall also attach signed documentation authorizing the request for funding. Local governments seeking RVRF Match loans must indicate so in the authorized documentation.

Where a local authorization is not applicable, a pledge agreement is required for each contribution, signed by the authorized representative of the contributing organization and the applicant organization, which must include:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the contributor,
- The name of the applicant organization,
- The title of the project for which the match contribution is made,
- The source of funding for the match contribution,
- The dollar amount of the match contribution, and
- A statement that the contributor will pay the match contribution during the agreement period.

Reminder: Grant and loan funds may be used as match for other sources of funding; however, grant and loan funds awarded from the Fund may NOT be utilized as match funds for other monies from the Fund. Monies used to match grants from the Fund may not be used as match for other grants.

Appendix A: Application Form for Grant and Loan Requests for All Categories

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

Name of Local Government: _____

Category Being Applied for (check one):

☐ Capacity Building/Planning

☐ Project

☐ Study

NFIP/DCR Community Identification Number (CID) _____

Name of Authorized Official and Title: _____

Signature of Authorized Official: _____

Mailing Address (1): _____

Mailing Address (2): _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Contact and Title (If different from authorized official): _____

Mailing Address (1): _____

Mailing Address (2): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Is the proposal in this application intended to benefit a low-income geographic area as defined in the Part 1 Definitions? Yes ____ No ____

Categories (select applicable activities that will be included in the project and used for scoring criterion):

Capacity Building and Planning Grants

- ☐ Floodplain Staff Capacity.
- ☐ Resilience Plan Development
 - ☐ Revisions to existing resilience plans and integration of comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans.
 - ☐ Resource assessments, planning, strategies, and development.
 - Policy management and/or development.
 - Stakeholder engagement and strategies.
- ☐ Other: _____

Study Grants (Check All that Apply)

- ☐ Revising other land use ordinances to incorporate flood protection and mitigation goals, standards, and practices.
- ☐ Conducting hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) studies of floodplains. *Changes to the base flood, as demonstrated by the H&H must be submitted to FEMA within 6 months of the data becoming available.*
- ☐ Studies and Data Collection of Statewide and Regional Significance.

- ☐ Revisions to existing resilience plans and modifications to existing comprehensive and hazard.
- ☐ Other relevant flood prevention and protection project or study.
- ☐ Pluvial studies.
- ☐ Studies to aid in updating floodplain ordinances to maintain compliance with the NFIP, or to incorporate higher standards that may reduce the risk of flood damage. This must include establishing processes for implementing the ordinance, including but not limited to, permitting, record retention, violations, and variances. This may include revising a floodplain ordinance when the community is getting new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), updating a floodplain ordinance to include floodplain setbacks, freeboard, or other higher standards, RiskMAP public noticing requirements, or correcting issues in a Corrective Action Plan.

Project Grants and Loans (Check All that Apply – Hybrid Solutions will include items from both the “Nature-Based” and “Other” categories)

Nature-based solutions

- ☐ Acquisition of property (or interests therein) and/or structures for purposes of allowing floodwater inundation, strategic retreat of existing land uses from areas vulnerable to flooding; the conservation or enhancement of natural flood resilience resources; or acquisition of structures, provided the acquired property will be protected in perpetuity from further development, and where the flood mitigation benefits will be achieved as a part of the same project as the property acquisition.
- ☐ Wetland restoration.
- ☐ Floodplain restoration.
- ☐ Construction of swales and settling ponds.
Living shorelines and vegetated buffers.
- ☐ Permanent conservation of undeveloped lands identified as having flood resilience value by *ConserveVirginia* Floodplain and Flooding Resilience layer or a similar data driven analytic tool, or the acquisition of developed land for future conservation

- ☐ Dam removal.
- ☐ Stream bank restoration or stabilization.
- ☐ Restoration of floodplains to natural and beneficial function.

Other Projects

- ☐ Developing flood warning and response systems, which may include gauge installation, to notify residents of potential emergency flooding events.
- ☐ Dam restoration.
- ☐ Beneficial reuse of dredge materials for flood mitigation purposes
- ☐ Removal or relocation of structures from flood-prone areas where the land will not be returned to open space.
- ☐ Structural floodwalls, levees, berms, flood gates, structural conveyances.
- ☐ Storm water system upgrades.
- ☐ Medium and large-scale Low Impact Development (LID) in urban areas.
- ☐ Acquisition of property (or interests therein) and/or structures for purposes of allowing floodwater inundation, strategic retreat of existing land uses from areas vulnerable to flooding; the conservation or enhancement of natural flood resilience resources; or acquisition of structures, provided the acquired property will be protected in perpetuity from further development, and where the flood mitigation benefits will **not be** achieved as a part of the same project as the property acquisition.
- ☐ Other project identified in a DCR-approved Resilience Plan.

Location of Project or Activity (Include Maps): _____

NFIP Community Identification Number (CID#) : _____

Is Project Located in an NFIP Participating Community? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is Project Located in a Special Flood Hazard Area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Flood Zone(s) (If Applicable): _____

Flood Insurance Rate Map Number(s) (If Applicable): _____

Total Cost of Project: _____

Total Amount Requested _____

Amount Requested as Grant _____

Amount Requested as Project Loan (Long-Term, not including short-term loans for up-front costs)

RVRF Loan Amount Requested as Project Match (Not including short-term loans for up-front costs)

Amount Requested as Short-Term loan for Up-Front Costs (not to exceed 20% of amount requested as Grant) _____

For projects, planning, capacity building, and studies in low-income geographic areas: Are you requesting that match be waived? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For informational purposes only: Supplemental information for loan requests may include but are not limited to the following. This information will be collected AFTER a CFPF award is made, prior to the signing of a grant agreement.

- General Obligation
- Lease, Revenue
- Special Fund Revenue
- Moral obligation from other government entity)
- Desired loan term
- Since the date of your latest financial statements, any new debt
- Pending or potential litigation by or against the applicant
- Five years of current audited financial statements (FY18-22) or refer to website if posted
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Financial Policies
- List of the ten largest employers in the jurisdiction.
- List of the ten largest taxpayers in the jurisdiction

All loan requests are subject to credit review and approval by Virginia Resources Authority.

Appendix C: Checklist All Categories

(Benefit-cost analysis must be included if the proposed Project is over \$2 million.)

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

- ☐ Detailed map of the project area(s) (Projects/Studies)
- ☐ FIRMette of the project area(s) (Projects/Studies)
- ☐ Historic flood damage data and/or images (Projects/Studies)
- ☐ A link to or a copy of the current floodplain ordinance
- ☐ Non-Fund financed maintenance and management plan for project extending a minimum of 10 years from project close
- ☐ A link to or a copy of the current comprehensive plan
- ☐ Social vulnerability index score(s) for the project area from VFRIS SVI Layer
- ☐ If applicant is not a town, city, or county, letters of support from affected localities
- ☐ Letter of support from impacted stakeholders
- ☐ Budget Narrative
- ☐ Supporting Documentation, including the Benefit-Cost Analysis tool or narrative (for projects over \$2 million)
- ☐ Authorization to request funding from the Fund and/or RVRF Match loan from governing body or chief executive of the local government
- ☐ Signed pledge agreement from each contributing organization
- ☐ Detailed budget and narrative for all costs

Appendix D: Scoring Criteria

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

SCORING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY

Capacity Building and Planning

Eligible Capacity Building and Planning Activities. Up to 100 points.

- Development of a new resilience plan *(95)*
- Revisions to existing resilience plans and integration of comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans *(60)*
- Resource assessments, planning, strategies, and development *(40)*
- Policy management and/or development *(35)*
- Stakeholder engagement and strategies *(35)*
- Goal planning, implementation, and evaluation *(25)*
- Long term maintenance strategy *(25)*
- Other proposals that will significantly improve protection from flooding on a statewide or regional basis approved by the Department *(15)*

Social Vulnerability Index Score, up to 10 points.

- Very High Social Vulnerability (More than 1.5) *(10)*
- High Social Vulnerability (1.0 to 1.5) *(8)*
- Moderate Social Vulnerability (0.0 to 1.0) *(5)*
- Low Social Vulnerability (-1.0 to 0.0) *(0)*
- Very Low Social Vulnerability (Less than -1.0) *(0)*

Community scale of benefits, up to 30 points.

- More than one census block *(30)*
- 50-100% of census block *(25)*
- 25-49% of census block *(20)*
- Less than 25% of census block *(0)*

Remedy for NFIP probation or suspension *(yes 5, no 0)*

Proposed project part of a low-income geographic area *(yes 5, no 0)*

SCORING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY

Studies

Revising floodplain ordinances to maintain compliance with the NFIP or to incorporate higher standards that may reduce the risk of flood damage, *30 points*.

Creating tools or applications to identify, aggregate, or display information on flood risk or creating a crowd-sourced mapping platform that gathers data points about real-time flooding. This could include a locally or regionally based web-based mapping product that allows local residents to better understand their flood risk, *25 points*.

Conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains. Applicants who create new maps must apply for a Letter of Map Change through FEMA , *15 points*.

Studies and Data Collection of Statewide and Regional Significance. Funding of studies of statewide and regional significance and proposals will be considered for the studies listed below, *Up to 45 points*.

- Updating precipitation data and IDF information (rain intensity, duration, frequency estimates) including such data at a sub-state or regional scale on a periodic basis. (45)
- Regional relative sea level rise projections for use in determining future impacts. (45)
- Vulnerability analysis either statewide or regionally to state transportation, water supply, water treatment, impounding structures, or other significant and vital infrastructure from flooding. (45)
- Flash flood studies and modeling in riverine regions of the state. (45)
- Statewide or regional stream gauge monitoring to include expansion of existing gauge networks. (45)
- New or updated delineations of areas of recurrent flooding, stormwater flooding, and storm surge vulnerability in coastal areas that include projections for future conditions based on sea level rise, more intense rainfall events, or other relevant flood risk factors. (45)
- Regional flood studies in riverine communities that may include watershed scale evaluation, updated estimates of rainfall intensity, or other information. (45)
- Regional hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains. (45)
- Studies of potential land use strategies that could be implemented by a local government to reduce or mitigate damage from coastal or riverine flooding. (40)
- Other proposals that will significantly improve protection from flooding on a statewide or regional basis (35)

Social Vulnerability Index Score, up to 10 points.

- Very High Social Vulnerability (More than 1.5) (10)
- High Social Vulnerability (1.0 to 1.5) (8)
- Moderate Social Vulnerability (0.0 to 1.0) (5)
- Low Social Vulnerability (-1.0 to 0.0) (0)
- Very Low Social Vulnerability (Less than -1.0) (0)

Remedy for NFIP probation or suspension (yes 5, no 0)

Proposed project part of a low-income geographic area (yes 10, no 0)

Proposed project implements a Chesapeake Bay TMDL BMP (yes 5, no 0)

SCORING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY

Projects

Eligible Projects, up to 30 points.

- Acquisition (30)
- Wetland/floodplain restoration, Construction of swales and settling ponds, Living shorelines and vegetated buffers, Permanent conservation of undeveloped lands identified as having flood resilience value by *ConserveVirginia's* "Floodplain and Flooding Resilience" layer or a similar data driven analytic tool, Dam removal, Stream bank restoration or stabilization, Restoration of floodplains to natural and beneficial function. (25)
- Other nature-based approach (20)
- Hybrid approach resulting in nature-based solution (15)

- All other projects (10)

Social Vulnerability Index Score, up to 10 points.

- Very High Social Vulnerability (More than 1.5) (10)
- High Social Vulnerability (1.0 to 1.5) (8)
- Moderate Social Vulnerability (0.0 to 1.0) (5)
- Low Social Vulnerability (-1.0 to 0.0) (0)
- Very Low Social Vulnerability (Less than -1.0) (0)

Community scale of benefits, up to 30 points.

- More than one census block (30)
- 50-100% of census block (25)
- 25-49% of census block (20)
- Less than 25% of census block (0)

Expected lifespan of project, up to 10 points.

- 10 -14 Years (3)
- 15 - 20 Years (5)
- Over 20 Years (10)

Remedy for NFIP probation or suspension (yes 5, no 0)

Proposed project part of a low-income geographic area (yes 10, no 0)

Proposed project implements a Chesapeake Bay TMDL BMP (yes 5, no 0)

SCORING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY

USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management and Flood Risk Management Projects

Eligible Projects, up to 30 points.

- Acquisition (30)
- Wetland/floodplain restoration, Construction of swales and settling ponds, Living shorelines and vegetated buffers, Permanent conservation of undeveloped lands identified as having flood resilience value by *ConserveVirginia's* "Floodplain and Flooding Resilience" layer or a similar data driven analytic tool, Dam removal, Stream bank restoration or stabilization, Restoration of floodplains to natural and beneficial function. (25)
- Other nature-based approach (20)
- Hybrid approach resulting in nature-based solution (15)
- All other projects (10)

Social Vulnerability Index Score, up to 10 points.

- Very High Social Vulnerability (More than 1.5) (10)
- High Social Vulnerability (1.0 to 1.5) (8)
- Moderate Social Vulnerability (0.0 to 1.0) (5)
- Low Social Vulnerability (-1.0 to 0.0) (0)
- Very Low Social Vulnerability (Less than -1.0) (0)

Community scale of benefits, up to 30 points.

- 50-100% (by land area or population) of incorporated locality (25)
- 25-49% of incorporated locality (20)
- Less than 25% of incorporated locality (10)

Expected lifespan of project, up to 10 points.

- 50 or more years (10)
- 36 - 49 Years (5)
- 20 - 35 (3)
- Less than 20 years (0)

Proposed project part of a low-income geographic area (yes 10, no 0)

Does this project directly protect critical infrastructure (yes 10, no 0)

Has project received construction authorization from USACE (yes, no)

Appendix E: Extension Request Form

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

***Request to Amend Contract between Virginia Resources Authority and Grant Recipient of the
2024 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant or Loan***

For capacity building, funded activity must be completed within 60 months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of the Department. For studies and projects, funded activity must be completed within 36 months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of the Department. A one-year extension for studies and projects may be granted at the discretion of the Department provided such request is **received not later than 90 days prior to the expiration of the original agreement.** Requests should be submitted through the WebGrants Portal *and* emailed to cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov. If email is not available, please mail to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Attention:
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Division of Dam Safety
and Floodplain Management
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond,
Virginia 23219

Grant Recipient: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address (1): _____

Mailing Address (2): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No ***Has the Contact Name changed?*** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grant Recipient Printed Name

Title

Title

DEPARTMENT Use Only

Reason for Denial

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Date Approved

Date Denied

Printed Name

Title

VRA Use Only

Reason for Denial

Virginia Resources Authority

Date Received

Appendix F: Resilience Plan Requirements

A local government must have a Department-approved Resilience Plan to be considered for funding under the Project Category.

In order to meet the project category threshold, a resilience plan may be created as either one stand-alone document or as a matrix of excerpts from related documents that meet the critical element requirements described below. This may include sections cited from a local comprehensive plan, land use plan, local hazard mitigation plan, and other plans and ordinances developed to address flooding and resilience. This may also include regional strategies or plans in which a local government is party. In either case, the plan should include an executive summary that specifically identifies and summarizes the locality's approach to satisfying the relevant elements. **Note: If the resilience plan is created with funding from CFPF it must be a full, original stand-alone document, not a matrix-style compilation plan.**

The resilience plan must be submitted no less than 30 days before the grant round opens. This will allow time for any changes or corrections necessary to meet the requirements of the Fund prior to the submission deadline. Once the Department verifies the plan has met the minimum requirements, that approval is valid for a period of five years.

Resilience plans should be clearly identified with the name of the local government in the file name (example: CID#.Essex.resilienceplan) and submitted to cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov. The CID# is unique to each county, city, or town in Virginia.

If multiple eligible entities are included in one application, applicants should list all localities with their CID#s, for example: CID510XXX-KellerTown_CID510XXX-MelfaTown_CID510XXXPainterCFPF-1

The contents of a resilience plan for the purpose of this grant round must include the following elements.

1. It is project-based with projects focused on flood control and resilience.
2. It incorporates nature-based infrastructure to the maximum extent possible.
3. It includes considerations of all parts of a locality regardless of socioeconomics or race, and addresses flood resilience needs of underserved populations within the community.
4. It identifies and includes all flooding occurring in all areas of the community, not just within the SFHAs, and provides the number and location of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties. Repetitive loss and/or severe repetitive loss often occurs outside of the SFHA and to properties not captured in NFIP reporting. All flooding should be tracked and addressed by the community.
5. If property acquisition and/or relocation guidelines are included, the guidelines include equitable relocation strategies for all affected and where land is acquired. Property acquisitions must remain undeveloped, as permanent open space and under ownership or easement by the locality in perpetuity, except that flood control structures may be built on the property.
6. It includes a strategy for debris management.

7. It includes administrative procedures for substantial improvement/substantial damage of structures within the SFHA.
8. It includes coordination with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities and has a clearly articulated timeline or phasing for plan implementation.
9. Is based on the best available science, and incorporates climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge (where appropriate), and current flood maps.

The following list of plans and considerations are provided to help guide the development and identification of strategies/documents helpful for a successful resilience plan.

- ☐ Strategic policies for local government-wide flood protection and prevention.
- ☐ Proposed projects that enables communities to adapt to and thrive through natural or human hazards.
- ☐ Documentation of existing social, economic, natural, and other conditions.
- ☐ Review of the vulnerabilities and stressors, both natural and social.
- ☐ Forward-looking goals, actionable strategies, and priorities that incorporate protections for all impacted parts of a locality.
- ☐ Strategies that guide growth and development away from high-risk locations.
- ☐ Proposed acquisition of land or conservation easements or identification of areas suitable for conservation particularly areas identified as having high flood attenuation benefit by *ConserveVirginia* or similar data driven tools.
- ☐ Identification of areas suitable for property buyouts in frequently flooded areas. Documentation (proposed easement, maintenance agreement, deed language, etc.) must be provided which ensures the property will be owned and maintained by the locality in perpetuity as an open space or conservation area.

Additionally, any relocation strategy must address depressed housing values when buy outs are used, and provide a pathway to relocation for all individuals residing in the occupied structures, including tenants.
- ☐ Identification of critical facilities and their vulnerability throughout the local government such as water and sewer or other types identified as “lifelines” by FEMA.
- ☐ Identified ecosystems/wetlands/floodplains suitable for permanent protection.
- ☐ Identified incentives for restoring riparian and wetland vegetation.
- ☐ A framework for implementation, capacity building and community engagement.
- ☐ Strategies for creating knowledgeable, inclusive community leaders and networks.
- ☐ A community dam safety inventory and risk assessment posed by the location and condition of dams.
- ☐ A characterization of the community including:
 - Population, economics, cultural and historic resources,
 - Dependence on the built environment and infrastructure and, the risks posed to such infrastructure, and
 - Characteristics of flooding from climate change, riverine flooding, sea level rise,

tidal events or storm surges or other weather.

- Strategies to address other natural hazards, where applicable, that would cause, affect or result from flooding events including:
 - Earthquakes.
 - Storage of hazardous materials
 - Landslides/mud/debris flow/rock falls.
 - Dam failures
 - Prevention of wildfires that would result in denuded lands making flooding, mudslides or similar events more likely.
 - Preparations for severe weather events including tropical storms or other severe storms, including winter storms.