



**REQUEST FOR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

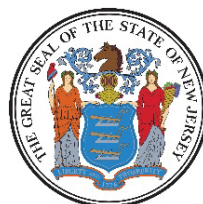
**2023 Municipal Assistance Program
Regional Climate Change-Related Hazard
Vulnerability Assessment**

Issued by:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Climate Resilience
New Jersey Coastal Management Program

Issuance Date: March 8, 2023

Due Date: April 5, 2023



Resilient NJ: 2023 Municipal Assistance Program

1.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT

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

Resilient NJ is an assistance program that supports local and regional climate resilience planning by helping your community plan for how the changing climate may affect your residents, businesses, and natural and built environments. Through increased communication, leveraged resources, and engagement with the public, Resilient NJ enables an impactful planning process for all. Essential resilience planning steps include public engagement, community visioning, vulnerability and risk assessments, and development and implementation of resilience actions. Additional information on Resilient NJ support projects and tools can be found at <http://resilient.nj.gov/>.

This opportunity seeks to coordinate planning at the regional level to address climate resilience needs through alignment of the 2021 amendment to the Municipal Land Use Law (P.L. 2021, c. 6, codified at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28 et seq.), which requires municipalities to include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment upon updating the land use plan element of their master plan, and the State Plan Endorsement process.

The purpose and intent of this Request for Expression of Interest is to identify and select multi-municipal regions located in New Jersey's coastal zone that are undergoing the State Plan Endorsement process that are interested in developing a regional and individual municipal climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessments. The selected region will be partnered with a qualified consultant to develop a regional and individual municipal vulnerability assessments consistent with the 2021 amendment to the Municipal Land Use Law. The goal is for each participating municipality to be able to utilize this assessment to update their master plans consistent with these requirements.

2.0 OFFER OF NO-COST RESILIENCE PLANNING

Through the issuance of this Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Coastal Management Program is offering to assist one multi-municipal region located in the New Jersey coastal zone with resilience planning support to conduct an extensive climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment (CCRHVA) at no cost. Accordingly, the NJDEP will engage the services of qualified contractors on behalf of the selected region to provide individualized resilience planning services. This opportunity seeks to fund regional planning project that will:

- Satisfy the climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment requirements set forth in P.L. 2021, c. 6, codified at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28 et seq., with the intent of each municipality within the region being able to incorporate the climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment into the municipal master plan land use element and other master plan elements;
- Support the region's efforts in the Plan Endorsement process;
- Identify and address gaps in climate resilience planning;
- Effectuate a robust outreach and engagement strategy to ensure that the participating communities guide the planning and collaboration processes among a wide variety of stakeholders;
- Reach overburdened and socially vulnerable populations by ensuring representation and participation, as well as developing solutions to address their needs and risks; and
- Enhance the value and integrity of the ecological, recreational, and economic resources in the region.

This RFEI is intended to solicit interest from a collaboration of local governments wishing to engage in resilience planning to address their vulnerability to climate impacts. To participate, a lead entity must be identified and agree to represent and coordinate with all other municipal partners, NJDEP, and the contractors to fulfill the goals and intended use of the funding. To ensure this is achieved, it is expected that the lead will coordinate and submit the RFEI on behalf of the region and all participating local governments. The lead must designate an appropriate and qualified member of staff to serve as a liaison for the project and commit staff hours as needed to arrange and participate in public meetings for stakeholder engagement and/or public information sessions. The lead must also work to ensure representation from each municipality throughout the project, including public engagement and meetings. The lead is not required to be a municipality. It is expected that all municipalities within the region will be represented and participate throughout the course of the project.

No funding will be provided to the eligible entities identified in Section 3.0. The NJDEP will evaluate the letters of interest as described in Section 4.0 below, will engage the consultant on behalf of the selected region, will pay the consultant for all costs associated with the work outlined herein, will provide guidance to the selected entity and contractor, and participate in the process, as needed. The NJDEP will select as many regions as the available funding allows.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

This offer for resilience planning technical assistance is open to:

- Regions that consist of at least three municipalities which share at least one municipal border with another municipality; and
- At least 75% of the region consists of municipalities within New Jersey's Coastal Zone (Municipalities in New Jersey's Coastal Zone are identified in Appendix A); and
- Municipalities participating together as a Region in the State Plan Endorsement process. This project is meant to be complimentary to the State Plan Endorsement process, utilizing both programs to adhere to New Jersey climate-related laws at the regional scale.

Regions that do not satisfy all three requirements are not eligible.

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

4.0 EVALUATION OF SUBMISSION

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

All eligible regions are encouraged to apply. The NJDEP Office of Climate Resilience intends to consider the following in selection of a region.

- Areas defined as overburdened and/or socially vulnerable communities. Overburdened communities are defined under N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157 (see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html>).
- The region's vulnerability to climate change-related impacts, intended use of this opportunity, and the climate resilience planning gaps that will be addressed across social, ecological, recreational, and economic resources.
- The region's commitment to resilience planning through past and current efforts.
- Demonstrated support from all municipalities in the region.
- The ability of the lead entity to provide sufficient oversight and coordination throughout the project.
- Commitment to outreach and engagement to ensure that communities and stakeholders guide the planning process.

5.0 REQUIRED INFORMATION

A written letter of expressed interest shall provide all information required under this RFEI including, but not limited to, the following:

- Sufficient information to demonstrate eligibility under Section 3.0, including:
 - A map of the region identifying all municipalities, and
 - The status of the region in the State Plan Endorsement Process.
- Sufficient information to evaluate entities under Section 4.0, including:
 - A narrative explaining the need and scope of resilience planning activities that the region is interested in, and any work performed previously in support of that work. Including, any preliminary studies, inventories, assessments, or reports completed or partially completed that support regional resilience planning and completion of a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. Provide links to such products if possible.
 - A description of overburdened and socially vulnerable communities within the region.
- Signature of an administrator, executive officer, ranking elected official, or equivalent positions from each of the municipalities that make up the region.
- The Expression of Interest must also include for the lead entity and each municipality, the name, address, and email of the individual municipal lead responsible for participating in the work and must indicate who will act as the liaison to the regional lead, NJDEP, and contractor.
- Responsibilities the lead entity agrees to undertake.

6.0 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL

All required information must be submitted no later than **5:00pm EST, April 5, 2023**. All proposals must be submitted to resilientnj@dep.nj.gov.

Any questions about this RFEI must be submitted to resilientnj@dep.nj.gov no later than **10:00am EST, Friday, March 17, 2023**. A response and comment document will be posted **Thursday, March 23, 2023** and provided to all entities that submitted questions.

APPENDIX A: Municipalities in New Jersey's Coastal Zone

Note: This is a list of municipalities located in New Jersey's Coastal Zone.

Atlantic County			
Absecon City	Estell Manor City	Margate City	Somers Point City
Atlantic City	Galloway Twp	Mullica Twp	Ventnor City
Brigantine City	Hamilton Twp	Northfield City	Weymouth Twp
Corbin City	Linwood City	Pleasantville City	Egg Harbor City
Egg Harbor Twp	Longport Boro	Port Republic	

Bergen County			
Alpine Boro	Fairview Boro	Moonachie Boro	River Edge Boro
Bogota Boro	Fort Lee Boro	New Milford Boro	Rutherford Boro
Carlstadt Boro	Garfield City	North Arlington Boro	Teaneck Boro
East Rutherford Boro	Hackensack City	Oradell Boro	Tenafly Twp
Edgewater Boro	Little Ferry Boro	Ridgefield Boro	Wallington Boro
Englewood Cliffs Boro	Lyndhurst Twp	Ridgefield Park Village	South Hackensack Twp

Burlington County			
Bass River Twp	Cinnaminson Twp	Mansfield Twp	Riverton Twp
Beverly City	Delanco Twp	Maple Shade Twp	Springfield Twp
Bordentown City	Edgewater Park Twp	Moorestown Twp	Washington Twp
Bordentown Twp	Fieldsboro Boro	Mount Holly Twp	Westampton Twp
Burlington City	Florence Twp	Mount Laurel Twp	Willingboro Twp
Burlington Twp	Hainesport Twp	Palmyra Boro	Delran Twp
Chesterfield Twp	Lumberton Twp	Riverside Twp	

Camden County			
Bellmawr Boro	Cherry Hill Twp	Mount Ephraim Boro	Woodlynne Boro
Brooklawn Boro	Gloucester City	Pennsauken Twp	Haddon Twp
Camden City	Gloucester Twp	Runnemede Boro	

Cape May County			
Avalon Boro	Lower Twp	Sea Isle City	West Wildwood Boro
Cape May City	Middle Twp	Stone Harbor Boro	Wildwood City
Cape May Point Boro	North Wildwood City	Upper Twp	Wildwood Crest Boro
Dennis Twp	Ocean City	West Cape May Boro	Woodbine Boro

Cumberland County			
Bridgeton City	Fairfield Twp	Maurice River Twp	Upper Deerfield Twp
Commercial Twp	Greenwich Twp	Millville City	Hopewell Twp
Downe Twp	Lawrence Twp	Stow Creek Twp	

Essex County		
Belleville Twp	Newark City	Nutley Twp

Gloucester County			
Deptford Twp	Mantua Twp	Wenonah Boro	Westville Boro
East Greenwich Twp	National Park Boro	West Deptford Twp	
Greenwich Twp	Paulsboro Boro	Woodbury City	
Logan Twp	Swedesboro Boro	Woolwich Twp	

Hudson County			
Bayonne City	Harrison Town	Kearny Town	Weehawken Twp
East Newark Boro	Hoboken City	North Bergen Twp	West New York Town
Guttenberg Town	Jersey City	Secaucus Town	

Mercer County	
Hamilton Twp	Trenton City

Middlesex County			
Carteret Boro	Highland Park Boro	Sayreville Boro	Woodbridge Twp
East Brunswick Twp	Old Bridge Twp	South Amboy City	New Brunswick City
Edison Twp	Perth Amboy City	South River Boro	Piscataway Twp

Monmouth County			
Aberdeen Twp	Hazlet Twp	Monmouth Beach Boro	Tinton Falls Boro
Allenhurst Boro	Highlands Boro	Neptune City Boro	Union Beach Boro
Asbury Park City	Interlaken Boro	Neptune Twp	Wall Twp
Atlantic Highlands Boro	Keansburg Boro	Oceanport Boro	West Long Branch Boro
Avon-By-The-Sea Boro	Keyport Boro	Red Bank Boro	Ocean Twp
Belmar Boro	Little Silver Boro	Rumson Boro	Holmdel Twp
Bradley Beach Boro	Loch Arbor Village	Sea Bright Boro	Lake Como Boro
Brielle Boro	Long Branch City	Sea Girt Boro	Colts Neck Twp
Deal Boro	Manasquan Boro	Shrewsbury Boro	
Eatontown Boro	Matawan Boro	Spring Lake Boro	
Fair Haven Boro	Middletown Twp	Spring Lake Heights Boro	

Ocean County			
Barnegat Light Boro	Harvey Cedars Boro	Pine Beach Boro	Surf City Boro
Barnegat Twp	Island Heights Boro	Pt. Pleasant Beach Boro	Toms River Twp
Bay Head Boro	Lacey Twp	Point Pleasant Boro	Tuckerton Boro
Beach Haven Boro	Little Egg Harbor Twp	Seaside Heights Boro	Lavallette Boro
Beachwood Boro	Long Beach Twp	Seaside Park Boro	Manchester Twp
Berkeley Twp	Mantoloking Boro	Ship Bottom Boro	Lakehurst Boro
Brick Twp	Ocean Gate Boro	South Toms River Boro	Lakewood Twp
Eagleswood Twp	Ocean Twp	Stafford Twp	Jackson Twp

Passaic County	
Clifton City	Passaic County

Salem County			
Alloway Twp	Lower Alloways Creek	Penns Grove Boro	Salem City
Carneys Point Twp	Mannington Twp	Pilesgrove Twp	Pennsville Twp
Elsinboro Twp	Oldmans Twp	Quinton Twp	

Somerset County		
Franklin Twp		

Union County		
Elizabeth City	Linden City	Rahway City