NORTH CAROLINA RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

FY 2020-2021 – Request for Applications

TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM PHASES 1 & 2

Released: November 20, 2020

A. Overview and Objectives

The North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program aims to address this need through technical and financial assistance to advance coastal resilience efforts throughout the state's 20 coastal counties. The program is a state-local partnership designed to help overcome barriers in coastal resilience and adaptation planning, boost local government capacity, and support a proactive and equitable approach to coastal resilience planning and project implementation.

Program Objectives:

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

Program Phases:

Phase 1: Community Engagement and Risk/Vulnerability Assessment

Phase 2: Planning, Project Identification, and Prioritization

Phase 3: Engineering and Design

Phase 4: Project Implementation

Phase 1 & 2 Objectives:

- Perform data- and community-driven risk and vulnerability assessments with participating communities.
- Develop a portfolio of well-planned and prioritized solutions to address risks.

Phases 1 and 2 of the program walk communities through a series of steps to qualitatively and quantitatively assess risks and vulnerabilities, engage representative stakeholders, and complete a community-involved process to prioritize projects and action items to improve the resiliency of their critical assets. Once communities complete Phases 1 & 2, they become eligible to apply for Phase 3 funding for project engineering and design, and Phase 4 implementation funding.

B. Proposals Sought

DCM is seeking professional services from qualified organizations to provide direct technical assistance to localities participating in Phases 1 and 2 of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program. Selected contractors will lead the effort in completing Phases 1 and 2 of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program following the Program Planning Handbook, which outlines the steps of the process, specific requirements, and products for Phases 1 and 2.

C. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include private planning and engineering firms, Councils of Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions (private and public). Multiple organizations may partner on one application.

D. Available Funding

A total of $600,000 will be made available through this funding program. It is anticipated that a total of 20 communities will be served in this round, leaving an average budget of $30,000 per community. However, funding per community may vary according to need and geographic scope.

E. Application Deadline

Proposals must be submitted no later than midnight on January 29, 2021.

F. Total Anticipated Duration of Contract(s)

Contracts are anticipated to begin April 2021 and run through December 2021. Extension requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis but may impact the community's ability to participate in Phases 3 and 4 of the program.

G. Match Requirement

A cash or in-kind match is not required from applicants for this program but will be considered in making the award determination.

H. Deliverables

The main deliverable of this effort will include a Resilience Strategy, including two major components:

1. *Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Report*

   A key component of this framework includes a quantitative risk and vulnerability assessment, which will evaluate the vulnerability of the community's population with special attention to socially vulnerable and critical community assets to a number of coastal and climate risks, including flooding (rainfall, tidal and riverine), storm surge, sea level rise, and other locally-relevant hazards.

2. *Project Portfolio*

   Participants will develop a project portfolio of options aimed at reducing exposure, reducing sensitivity, or increasing adaptive capacity to flooding and other hazards. A combination of policy, nonstructural, hybrid, and structural approaches should be considered.

I. Ownership and Credit Due

Products generated by this effort will be made publicly available and owned by the N.C. Division of Coastal Management and will need to be credited as such.

J. Payments

Payments will be submitted based on quarterly reimbursements, with 20% of the total grant amount being held back until the final products are submitted.

K. Reporting

Contractors will be required to submit progress reports to DCM in June and September 2021. The September progress report should indicate whether an extension to the contract will be necessary. A final report, due upon the end of the contract period in December 2021, will detail the program deliverables.

L. Proposal Checklist

☐ Applicant cover sheet

☐ Narrative responses

☐ Supplemental documentation, if applicable

M. Submission

Please send proposal materials in pdf format to RCCP@ncdenr.gov by midnight on January 29, 2021 using a file transfer link or zipped folder. The applicant cover page and responses to the narrative questions should be submitted as one document. If applicable, submit a separate document with compiled supplemental documentation. Applications must be limited to no more than 10 pages, not including samples of previous work and Letters of Intent.

N. Program Contact

Please direct questions related to the Resilient Communities Program and this Request for Applications to:

Mackenzie Todd, *Coastal Resilience Specialist*
NC Division of Coastal Management
NC Department of Environmental Quality
Email: Mackenzie.Todd@ncdenr.gov

Cover Sheet

NORTH CAROLINA RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

FY 2020-2021 APPLICATION

TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM PHASES 1 & 2

Lead Applicant:	
Partner Applicant(s): *If Applicable*	
Point of Contact:	
Name:	
Title:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Mailing Address:	

Narrative Questions

Please provide detailed responses to the following questions in a separate document titled "Narrative." Each question should be answered separately, and the applicant should indicate which question their answer corresponds to. If multiple organizations are partnering on this application, answer each question based on combined qualifications of each partner (i.e. do not submit separate narratives). Applications must be limited to no more than 10 pages, not including samples of previous work and Letters of Intent.

1. How do your organization's qualifications align with the Program Handbook? Please identify project leads and qualifications.

2. What experience does your team have with community outreach and engagement, including reaching and engaging with underserved communities? How have you adapted your engagement strategy during COVID19?

3. Identify which of the following, if any, your team has developed: Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAMA Land Use Plans, Matthew Resilient Redevelopment Plans, Watershed Restoration / Management Plans, Stormwater Plans, Resilience Plans, Floodplain Management Plans.

4. Has your organization conducted a risk and vulnerability assessment? If yes, what factors did the assessment include? Did it include economic evaluation and/or social vulnerability assessment? Please attach an example risk and vulnerability assessment, if applicable (does not count towards page limit).

5. What is your experience with utilizing natural and nature-based solutions to address coastal resilience challenges?

6. What communities in within CAMA's 20 coastal counties have you worked with in the past? In what capacity?

7. Which communities, if any, have you had discussions with about working with on this program? Please attach Letters of Intent, if applicable.

8. Applicants may apply to assist more than one community. Indicate if your team is interested in assisting multiple communities, and if applicable, please describe your capacity to do so.

9. If selected to participate in this program, in what ways will your team prioritize and ensure cost-effectiveness throughout the process?