



DRAFT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Building resilience to natural hazards is vital for communities to help maintain quality of life, healthy growth, durable systems, and conservation of resources for present and future generations. Coastal storms and flooding continue to have devastating impacts on the economies and livelihoods of communities across eastern North Carolina. A number of barriers to developing resilience to coastal risks exist, including economic and capacity constraints that have been exacerbated in recent times.

Making informed decisions to work towards more resilient communities requires careful, thorough planning efforts using sound, locally-relevant data. The new *Resilient Coastal Communities Program* aims to address this need through **technical and financial assistance** to advance coastal resilience efforts throughout the 20 coastal counties in North Carolina. The Program is intended to be a state-local partnership to help overcome barriers in coastal resilience and adaptation planning, boost local government capacity, and support a proactive, sustainable, and equitable approach to coastal resilience planning and project implementation.

NC'S FUTURE

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

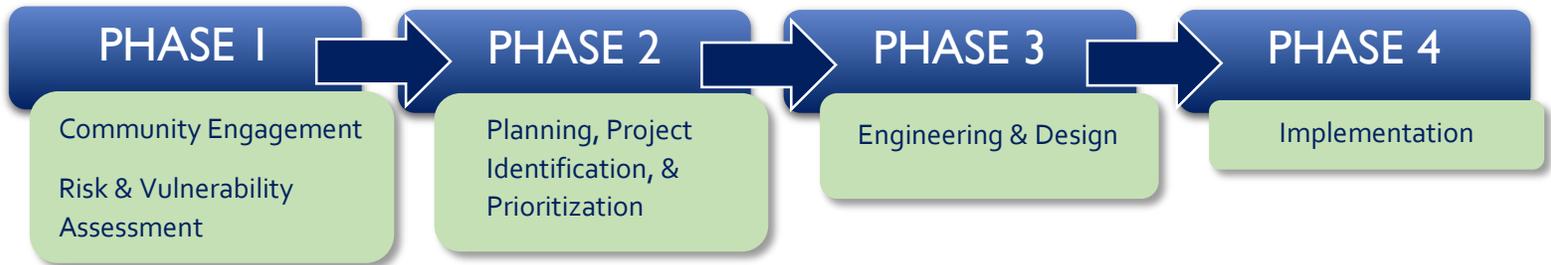
Program Objectives

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 well-planned and prioritized projects;
3. Advance coastal resilience projects to “shovel-ready” status, or ready for implementation; and
4. Link communities to funding streams for project implementation.

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



Beginning in the fall of 2020, the Resilient Coastal Communities Program aims to facilitate a community-driven process for setting coastal resilience goals, assessing existing and needed local capacity, and identifying and prioritizing projects that enhance community resilience to coastal hazards. The program provides a framework to assess coastal risks and vulnerabilities, engage community stakeholders, and develop projects to strategically improve the resiliency of communities and their natural and built infrastructure. The four phases of the program include:



Understanding that each community is at a different level of resilience planning, the program is designed to meet communities where they are in the process by building upon existing efforts. A Program Curriculum will provide detailed guidance for completing the requirements of each phase of the program. Communities will have the opportunity to apply for technical assistance to complete Phases 1 and 2, and upon completion, will become eligible to apply for financial assistance to complete Phases 3 and 4. Local governments that wish to complete the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 without applying for technical assistance may do so according to the Program Curriculum. Ultimately, the Resilient Coastal Communities Program aims to provide tools and resources to help promote safer communities for years to come.

Please register for one of our virtual events to learn more and provide your feedback!