

# MVP 2.0: Building Community Resilience to Climate Change

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MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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# Agenda

- Overview of MVP (MVP 1.0)
- The MVP 2.0 Planning Process

**Climate resilience** is the ability of a community to **address the needs** of its built, social, and natural environment **to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger** from events and trends related to **climate change hazards**.

**Resilient communities don't just recover—they *continuously build capacity*** to reduce the impacts of future climate events.



# MVP 2017 - 2023

## Planning GRANT

Prescribed planning process  
99% of the Commonwealth has completed  
~\$15,000-\$30,000 per plan  
Develops a planning document with priority planning action items



## Action GRANT

Open to MVP communities, political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, & federally recognized tribes  
Up to \$3M per project, and \$5M per regional project  
*At least \$20-30M available*



# MVP Program Status

MVP Director: Kara Runsten  
 MVP Deputy Director: Marissa Robertson  
 MVP Program Coordinator: Elder González Trejo  
 GIS Specialist: Sula Watermulder

## MVP Planning 1.0

99% participation  
 349 communities

## MVP Planning 2.0

FY24 Pilot: 32 municipalities & 1 Tribe

## Action Grant Projects

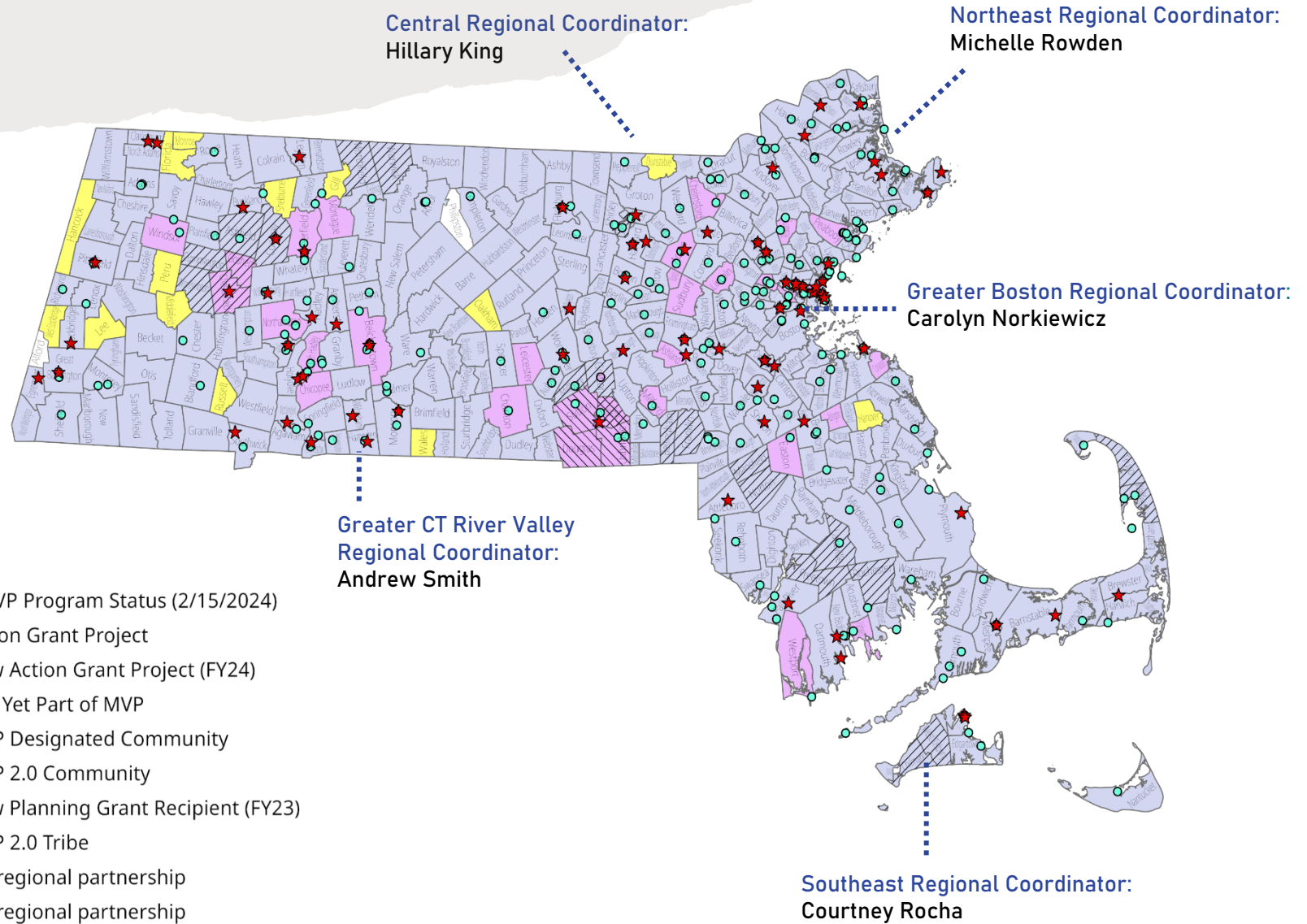
FY 18: 37  
 FY 19: 36  
 FY 20: 53  
 FY 21: 41  
 FY 22: 66  
 FY 23: 73  
 FY 24: 79 (\$28.5M)

## Total Awards

Planning & Action  
**\$130M** to date

### FY24 MVP Program Status (2/15/2024)

- Action Grant Project
- ★ New Action Grant Project (FY24)
- Not Yet Part of MVP
- MVP Designated Community
- MVP 2.0 Community
- New Planning Grant Recipient (FY23)
- MVP 2.0 Tribe
- 1.0 regional partnership
- 2.0 regional partnership



# MVP 1.0 Planning: Strengths and Vulnerabilities



Infrastructure ✓



Societal



Natural Resources ✓

# Community Resilience



# EJ Council and Focus Groups

*Two Latinx members described in detail attending MVP planning workshops where they **were overtly made to feel unwelcome and where their contributions or questions were dismissed.** These individuals lived in different parts of the state, were active members of their communities, and had relevant expertise. One **person left the workshop and did not participate in any further local MVP processes.***

*“I don't think an updated climate resilience planning process will help accomplish these goals unless it is focused **on bridging the gap between planning and grant applications.** The communities that I work with are generally **burnt-out on planning processes,** especially if they don't lead to more resources being brought into the town through grants.”*



## What's MVP 2.0?

MVP 2.0 continues to support Massachusetts communities in increasing resilience to climate change by building off of and filling gaps from the MVP 1.0 (Planning Grant) process. In particular, MVP 2.0 focuses on revisiting local climate resilience priorities through an equitable and inclusive process and building out and implementing these priorities.



## MVP 2.0...

- Convenes **a community team** to do equitable climate resilience work
- Provides **training** on strategies for building resilience, equity, and climate justice
- Revisits resilience priorities with the **involvement of the wider community**
- Helps the municipality and community co-develop and **implement a project**, with guaranteed funding for implementation
- Provides a process that can be replicated for **future Action Grants**

**Eligibility for Pilot: Municipalities, MVP-eligible Tribes, and MVP-eligible RPAs applying on behalf a municipality/ies**

# Other Benefits of MVP 2.0

1

- The process is designed to make it easier for communities to apply for future Action Grants.

2

- Data and information collected in the MVP 2.0 process will also be applicable for other grant programs.

3

- Process supports municipalities in developing relationships to expand and broaden the people involved in government decision-making.

4

- Supports municipalities in piloting a process for equity-focused community engagement that is relevant for many other efforts.

# The MVP 2.0 Process



MVP 2.0 Process Guide Walks through Steps in Detail

## Phase 1 Steps 1 - 3

# Develop a Core Team

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(~5 months)

- 1) Groundwork to identify perspectives needed on your Core Team
- 2) Recruitment of your Core Team through relationship building
- 3) Core Team Training in knowledge and skills to do this process well

### What's the Core Team?

A team (of about ten people) of municipal staff and community members that will lead this project.



## Core Team Composition



**Roughly 10 people, with approximately half being community liaisons**

### Community Liaisons

Individuals from and/or with strong connections to Environmental Justice and other priority populations.\* These individuals will be compensated with grant funding.

### Municipal Staff & Partners

Individuals who work in planning, housing, public works, conservation, health, or social services could all be a fit.

\*Priority Populations: In addition to factors that contribute to Environmental Justice status (i.e., income, race, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health, and age can indicate whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected by climate change.

## ▶ Hiring a Primary Vendor/ Vendor Team

1–2 Months

### Skills required of the primary vendor/ vendor team



#### **Equity-Centered Project Facilitation**

Skills in consensus building, equitable community processes, cultural sensitivity, project management, and organizational development to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

#### **Community-Driven Processes**

Expertise in developing and implementing equitable and inclusive approaches to outreach, engagement, and community-led processes, and particularly processes designed with and for Environmental Justice and other priority populations.

#### **Climate and Community Resilience**

Expertise in climate projections and community data, assessing climate and social vulnerability, approaches to building climate resilience, climate justice, and project design and development.

Qualifications and example RFP provided.

# Core Team Training

The Core Team receives training and resources on the following topics:

Understanding social vulnerability	Build understanding of structural inequity as a driver of social vulnerability
Conducting an equity-centered community process	Learn principles and practices for equity-centered outreach and engagement
Measuring equity	Address the question: How do we know if a project is beginning to create equity?
The MVP Planning 2.0 process	Go over procedural side of MVP Planning 2.0
Understanding local climate vulnerability	Walk through MVP GEAR tool, most recent climate data and projections, MA Climate Change Assessment
Building community climate resilience: Key considerations and examples	Share examples and best practices for building successful climate resilience projects

## **Phase 2** Steps 4 & 5

# Revisit Resilience Priorities

(5 months, January – May of Year 1)

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- 4) Uncover factors that shape vulnerability and resilience through community outreach and data
- 5) Update your community resilience priorities (from MVP Planning 1.0) and vet with community



# GEAR: Guides for Equitable & Actionable Resilience

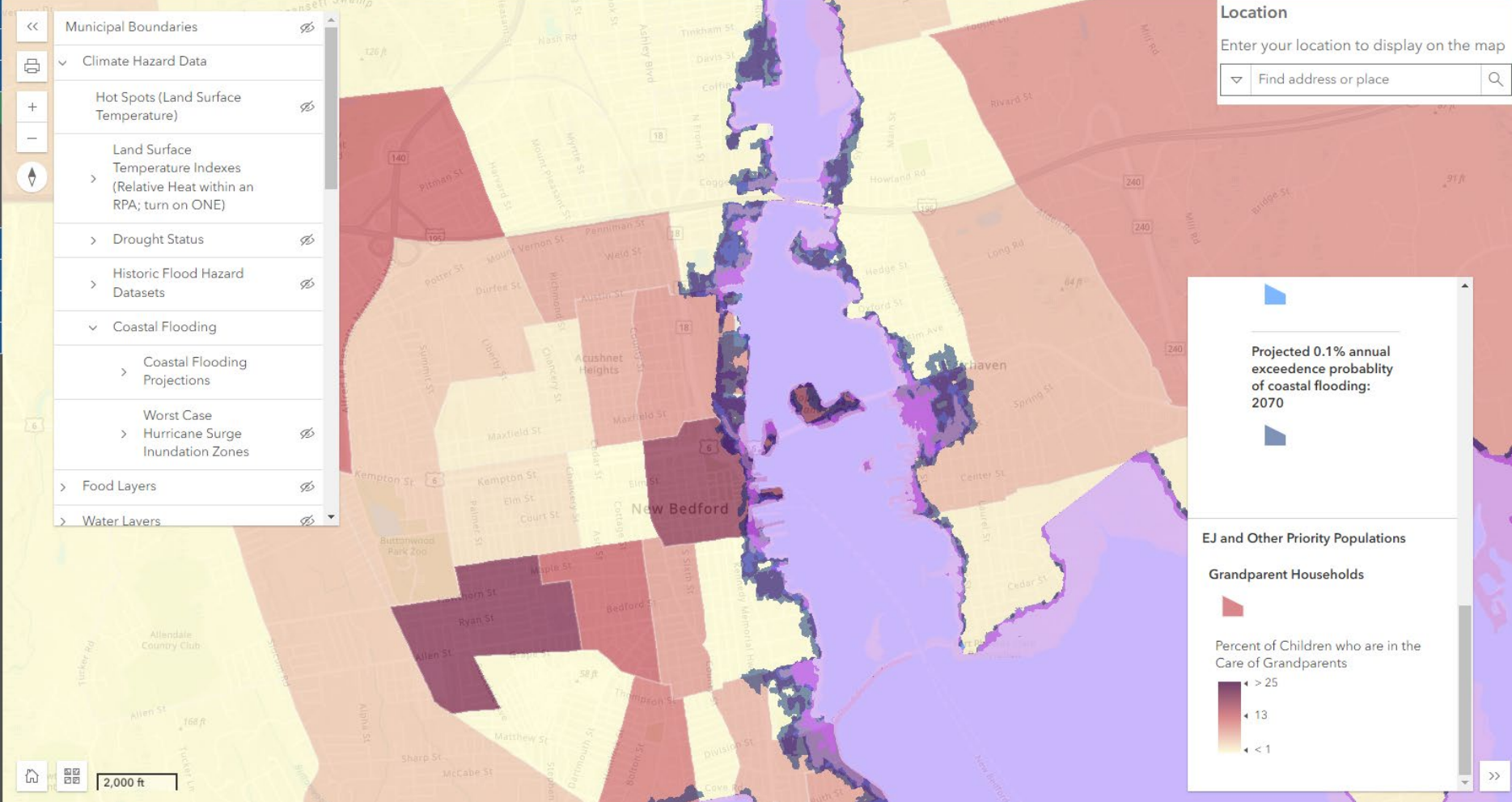
GEAR Maps for MVP 2.0 Pilot



- > Community
- > Economy
- > Ecosystems
- > **Food + Water**
- > Health
- > Housing
- > Infrastructure
- > Land Use

Consider the impacts of climate change on both community food systems and water supply, and identify resources to reduce food and water insecurity.

- << Municipal Boundaries
- > Climate Hazard Data
  - > Hot Spots (Land Surface Temperature)
  - > Land Surface Temperature Indexes (Relative Heat within an RPA; turn on ONE)
  - > Drought Status
  - > Historic Flood Hazard Datasets
  - > Coastal Flooding
    - > Coastal Flooding Projections
    - > Worst Case Hurricane Surge Inundation Zones
  - > Food Layers
  - > Water Layers



**Location**  
Enter your location to display on the map

Projected 0.1% annual exceedance probability of coastal flooding: 2070

**EJ and Other Priority Populations**  
**Grandparent Households**  
Percent of Children who are in the Care of Grandparents  
◀ > 25  
◀ 13  
◀ < 1

## Phase 3 Steps 6 - 9

# Developing & Implementing a Seed Project

(13 months, May of Year 1 – June of Year 2)

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- 6) Select a Seed Project & Vet with Community
- 7) Develop a Seed Project Implementation Plan
- 8) Implement the Seed Project
- 9) Reflect on the process to integrate learnings

### What's a Seed Project?

A project selected by the Core Team that will jump-start or advance the community's resilience priorities, and that can be completed in 9-10 months. Communities will receive \$50,000 to complete a Seed Project.

# MVP 2.0 FY25-26 Details & Timeline



- ▶ Eligibility: Municipalities, MVP-eligible Tribes, and MVP-eligible RPAs applying on behalf a municipality/ies
- ▶ Regional applications encouraged
- ▶ \$ 45,000 for Steps 1 -7 and Step 9
- ▶ \$ 50,000 per community for Step 8 (Implementing the Seed Project)
- ▶ Two-year grant
- ▶ No formal match requirement
- ▶ Communities with older MVP plans (2017-2018) particularly encouraged to apply



- ▶ RFR release: ~Oct 2024
- ▶ RFR Q&A period ~2 weeks
- ▶ Applications due: ~Dec 2024
- ▶ Projects start: January 2025
- ▶ Projects end: June 30, 2027




Submit applications by  
online form

Applicants are still able to apply for MVP Action Grants at the same time



**Thank you!**

## Tasks required of the primary vendor

- 
- Project management
  - Help to recruit and train the Core Team
  - Facilitate discussions for climate resilience training
  - Facilitate working sessions and meetings with the Core Team
  - Guide and support community outreach and engagement
  - Guide and support in assessing community and climate data
  - Help develop a Seed Project and draft an implementation plan to build equitable community resilience
  - Guide reflection process

### Other Notes:

- The list of MVP certified providers that was provided for the original MVP Planning Grant program has been retired. Pilot communities will be provided instead with an example RFP and set of vendor qualifications to find a primary vendor or vendor team for MVP 2.0.
- A second vendor will likely be needed for Step 8: Implementing the Seed Project

# Grant Deliverables

## Completed materials:

- Engagement Plan
- Social Resilience Roadmap (Parts A + B)
- Resilience Priorities Guide
- Seed Project Plan (Parts A + B)
- Reflection Roadmap
- Final Submission Form (including final invoices, deliverables from seed project, photos from process)



Process Guide will outline when to submit these & check in with your Regional Coordinator

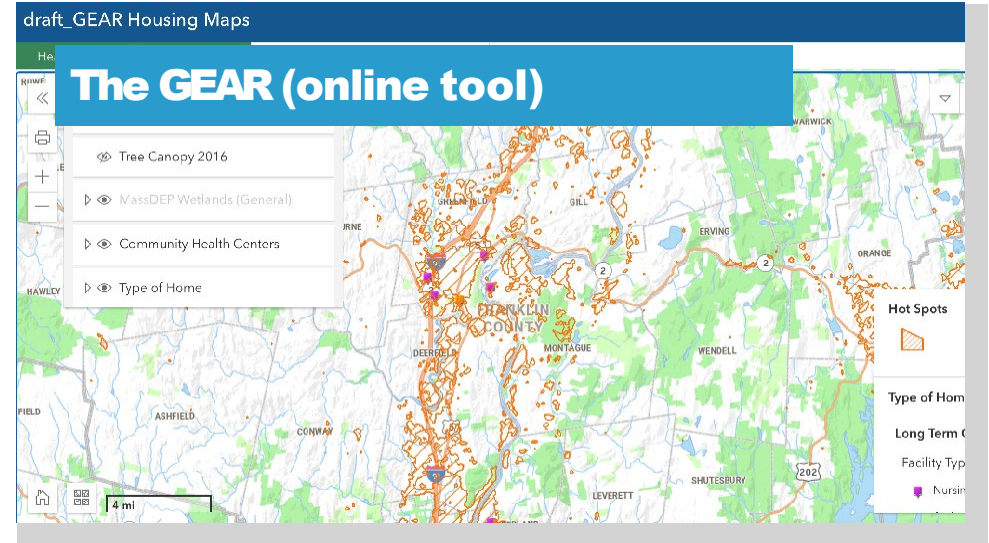
Pilot round will have a few required meetings/feedback points to hear your input on improving the program and provide networking opportunities with other pilot communities in your region

# Resources for these steps:



## Engagement Plan

**Designing your  
Inclusive and Equitable  
Outreach and Engagement  
Activities**



## Social Resilience Roadmap

**Part 2:  
Investigating Community  
Vulnerability and Resilience**

## Resilience Priorities Guide

**Craft and Update Priorities with  
Insight from Community**

# Resources for Supporting Core Team Recruitment



## The Social Resilience Roadmap

### Part 1:

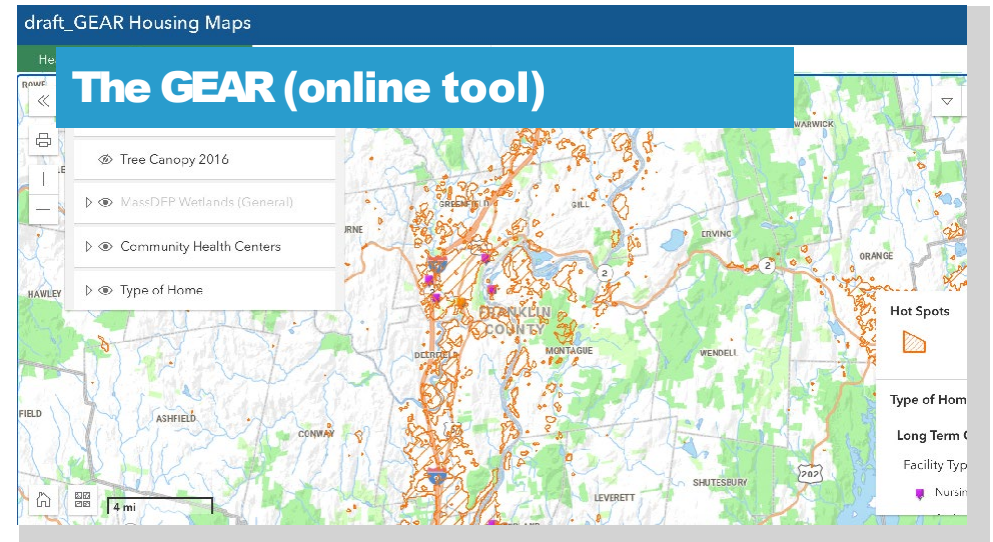
## Identifying Lived Expertise in Your Community

Asks questions such as....

*What languages other than English are predominantly spoken in your community?*

*What proportion of people in your community live with a disability?*

*What proportion of people in your community don't have regular access to*



### Select Your Factors

Community Systems	Climate Hazards
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing 🏠	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat 🌡️
<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems 🌿	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Flooding 🏠
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure 🛣️	<input type="checkbox"/> Drought 🌵
<input type="checkbox"/> Health 🏥	<input type="checkbox"/> Storms 🌪️
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Water 🍴	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Flooding 🌊
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use 🏡	
<input type="checkbox"/> Economy 💰	

[Generate Guide](#)

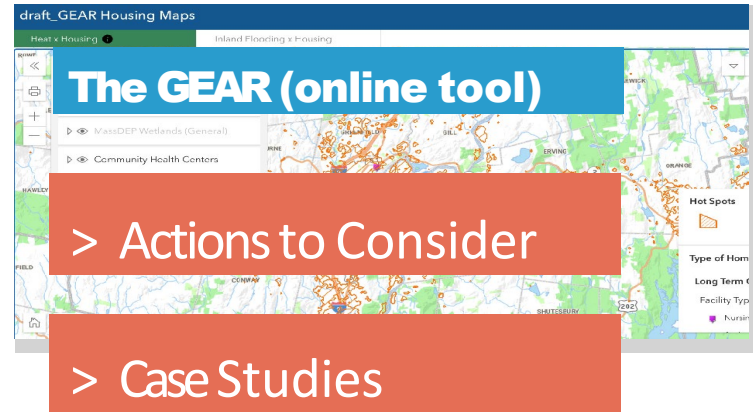


# Resources for these steps



## Seed Project Plan

Selecting a Seed Project & Implementation Plan



## Example Seed Projects

Example Seed Projects



## Engagement Plan

Designing your Inclusive and Equitable Outreach and Engagement Activities

## Reflection Roadmap

Pause to reflect on the Process

## How is 2.0 different than the Original MVP Planning Grant (1.0)?

- ▶ Not a traditional planning process
- ▶ Expands community involvement
- ▶ Dives deeper into social resilience
- ▶ Focuses on translating priorities into action
- ▶ Trains a community team

# BRIDGING GAPS AND BUILDING RESILIENCY

Strategies for Building Local Capacity and Fostering Regional Collaboration in Watershed Restoration



REGIONAL RESTORATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM  
Division of Ecological Restoration

*Invested in Nature and Community*



# TODAY'S FOCUS

- Overview of DER and the Regional Restoration Partnerships Program
- Discuss the gaps and opportunities to advance Ecological Restoration in MA
- Share insights on how local capacity building and regional collaboration have advanced restoration in Buzzards Bay





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY + ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



DEPARTMENT OF FISH + GAME



Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Ecological Restoration

*Invested in Nature and Community*

HABITAT RESTORATION  
BRANCH

TECHNICAL SERVICES  
BRANCH

CAPACITY BUILDING  
BRANCH

RESTORATION  
PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM



MA Division of Ecological Restoration's mission:  
To restore and protect rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for  
the benefit of people and the environment





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# 15 YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



40 river and wetland projects in planning



~5-10 projects constructed every year



>50% in EJ neighborhoods



60+ dams removed



>300 river miles opened



>3000 acres of wetlands restored





# UNMET NEEDS + GAPS

- Growing demand for restoration
  - 3,000 dams and 25,000 culverts
  - Sea-level rise and intense storms inland
  - Increasing municipal requests for assistance
  - Over 100 dam owners pursuing removal
  - MVP identified need for restoration and protection
- Restoration gaps
  - Municipalities want to support these projects, but often lack **capacity** and **technical expertise** to advance
  - Project implementation-focused grant funding
  - Projects are often **locally focused** and lack a more comprehensive, watershed-scale approach
  - Regional collaboration can be hard and relationship building takes time



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Habitat restoration is tied to climate adaptation benefits
  - Growing state and federal funding
  - Growing interest from municipalities/ land owners
- Many regional / watershed orgs eager to lead and support restoration
- Capacity building of municipalities and NGOs to lead and support restoration projects

**We are ramping up our work  
to support the needs of  
communities**



# RESTORATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM GOALS

- Watershed scale, locally-driven projects and regionally-led priorities
- Capacity Building
- Building a resilient and collaborative restoration community
- Multi-year funding
- Share restoration knowledge



# PILOT REGIONAL RESTORATION PARTNERSHIPS

Matthew Cranney,  
Merrimack Restoration  
Partnership



Kate Bednaz,  
Berkshire Clean, Cold, Connected  
Partnership



**HIRING!**  
Buzzards Bay Watershed  
Restoration Partnership



# BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Capacity-building funding has supported:

- Restoration Coordinator staff position
- Strategic project development and prioritization through relationship building
- Advancement of early project stages
- Grant development/ cash match
- Collaborative approaches to training/ shared learning
- Updates to planning documents including strategic plans and annual work plans



# RESTORATION PARTNERSHIPS OUTCOMES

- Locally-led projects
- Regional collaboration
- Capacity building
- Advancing both community and statewide resiliency and biodiversity goals
- Project bundling and Leveraged funding
- DER Partnership Program Learning and Development



# PARTNERSHIP IMPACTS

*Small, consistent investment can catalyze watershed-scale restoration and resiliency by allowing the time for organizations to:*

- build internal capacity and relationships
- share and build knowledge and coordinate on joint priorities
- strategically plan for watershed-scale restoration
- provide seed money to initiate early project development>>>grant-ready



# QUESTIONS

Restoration Partnerships RFR  
*anticipated Fall 2024*

Website: [www.mass.gov/how-to/  
ders-partnerships-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/developers-partnerships-program)

Email: [Allison.Perlman@mass.gov](mailto:Allison.Perlman@mass.gov)





# Case Study in Regional Resilience: “Installation & Community Resilience Exchange”

*SNEP Symposium • Bristol, RI • June 12, 2024*



# Event Overview

## Installation and Community Resilience Exchange

- Newport, RI
- September 26-27, 2023
- Part of the ongoing Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) with NAS Patuxent River and St. Mary's County, MD
- **Peer-learning forum to share best practices, challenges, and lessons learned regarding community resilience**



# What is a Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) ?

- Funder: DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Installation Resilience program
- Partnerships between govt, installations, and DOD
- “*One community*” approach
- **MIRR activities**: Risk assessments, project planning, feasibility studies, design, stakeholder engagement, community outreach, peer learning



# Participating Communities, Installations, and Organizations



## Day 1: Peer-to-Peer Workshop

- Hosted at Innovate Newport
- Resilience opportunities in defense communities
- Collaboration between installation, municipal emergency managers
- Innovative funding/investment tools (e.g., Community Wealth Funds)



## Day 2: Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

- Hosted at Norman Bird Sanctuary
- “Mini TTX” focused on inter-jurisdictional emergency response
- Identify effective communication strategies
- Prioritize emergency actions and resilience infrastructure



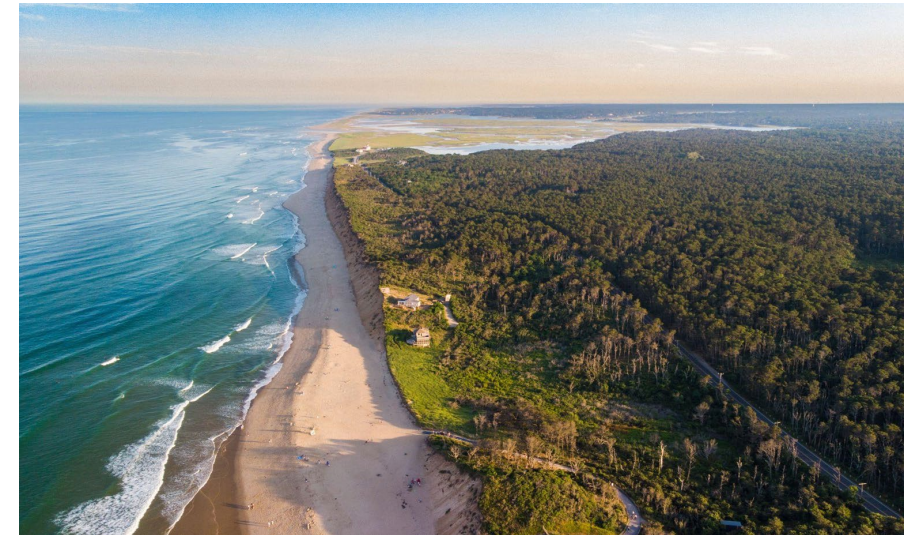
# Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices\*



*\*Relevant to all communities!*

# Prioritizing Resilience Infrastructure

<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Narrow view of “resilience” (<i>i.e, environmental only</i>)</li><li>● Limited local govt. capacity</li><li>● Siloed governance systems</li></ul>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Consider environmental, social, <u>and</u> economic</li><li>● Integrate all departments into whole-of-government planning</li></ul>
<b>Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Routinely <b>assess climate hazards</b> and vulnerabilities</li><li>● Keep up-to-date <b>asset inventory</b> for accuracy, to stay ready for funding</li><li>● <b>Conduct cost estimates and identify funding sources</b> for priority projects</li></ul>



# Regional Resilience Action

<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Redundant planning across jurisdictions</li><li>● Infrequent collaboration</li></ul>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Identify and leverage shared priorities, constraints, resources</li><li>● Coordinate communications across jurisdictions</li></ul>
<b>Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Conduct joint planning</b> for regional emergencies</li><li>● <b>Map critical assets</b> with regional partners to enhance preparedness</li><li>● <b>Align communications systems</b> for streamlined response</li><li>● <b>Pursue funding in unison</b> to be more competitive</li><li>● <b>Consider regional “point person(s)”</b> to coordinate efforts</li></ul>





# Effective Emergency Communications

<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Siloed emergency communications channels</li><li>● Infrequent collaboration</li></ul>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Coordinate communications across all relevant jurisdictions</li><li>● Leverage shared resources to address capacity constraints</li><li>● Embed intentional redundancies to ensure reliability</li></ul>
<b>Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Align communications systems and protocols</b> for streamlined response</li><li>● Conduct <b>mock TTXs</b> to enhance preparedness</li><li>● Clearly establish <b>Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs)</b> and leadership structures</li></ul>



# Funding and Investment

<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Limited funding</li><li>● Stringent grant requirements, hard to apply and manage</li><li>● Myopic focus on short-term revenue sources</li></ul>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prioritize sustainable revenue streams</li><li>● Diverse revenue portfolio = financial stability</li><li>● Leverage community assets and local resources where possible</li></ul>
<b>Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Use <b>short-term funding to spark long-term investments</b> (e.g., use grants or local seed \$ as catalyst)</li><li>● Create <b>funding portfolio</b> to implement priority resilience projects</li><li>● <b>Explore innovative financing/investment opportunities</b> (e.g, Community Wealth Funds)</li><li>● <b>Establish institutions</b> to manage diverse revenue sources</li></ul>



# Thank You!

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