

New Approaches to Building Resilience in Counties

Virginia Association of Counties Webinar
October 13, 2022



Resilience to What? (What Does That Mean, Anyway?)

VA Coastal Resilience Master Plan Framework:

“We define **resilience** as the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment.”

MANUAL OF THE VDOT STRUCTURE & BRIDGE DIVISION, PART 2, CH 33, 2 (2021), defines **resiliency** as “the successful integration of transportation mobility, SLR adaptation measures, and resistance to the extreme effects of coastal storms into design decisions at both the planning and project delivery levels.”

Federal Update

2021 Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

- \$550 B in new spending over the next 5 years;
 - \$50 B to protect against droughts, heat, floods, wildfires
 - Funds distributed via **formula grants** for states (amounts based on population, state size, etc.) and **competitive grants**
- \$1B over 5 yrs for **Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)**
- \$500M (\$100M/yr for 5 yrs) for the **Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act (2021)**
- \$3.5B in **Flood Mitigation Assistance** grants over 5 yrs;
 - \$700M/yr for FY2022–2026
- **NOAA habitat restoration and coastal resilience funding**

Federal Update, cont.

2022 Inflation Reduction Act

- More than \$300B for clean energy; over \$20B in Ag conservation funding for “climate smart agriculture” from USDA
 - Carbon Capture Opportunities: soils (peat), trees and marshes

*See **NACo website** ([Resiliency \(naco.org\)](https://naco.org)) for updates and NOFOs, and information on building resilience!*

Federal Update, cont.

NFIP Risk Rating 2.0

- Launched for new policies Oct. 1, 2021; expanded to existing policyholders in April 2022.
- More aligned with real risk.
- Lower premiums for an estimated 1.2M property owners.

State Update

- HRSD SWIFT

- Chesapeake Bay restoration, sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, land subsidence
- Research Center open and replenishing Potomac Aquifer

- Community Flood Preparedness Fund

- More than \$452M in RGGI proceeds since 2021; 45% went to CFPF
- 3rd round: just awarded 27 grants (totaling \$13.6M) & 32 (totaling \$68M) were given 60-day extension to provide more info.
- Schedule not set yet for 4th round (early 2023). **Looking at loans.**
- June grants manual update included incentives for projects that use nature

- Resilient VA Revolving Loan Fund (SB756)

- VA Coastal Resilience TAC

Local Government Tools & Resources

- **The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (The RAFT)**
- **Heat** – New Extreme Heat Model at property scale, with 30-yr projections (https://assets.firststreet.org/uploads/2022/08/FSF_HEAT-MODEL-PR-1.pdf)
- **Increasing Chronic Flooding**
 - VIMS tools: [AdaptVA, NOAA NNBFS](https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/research/climate_change/adaptation/nnbfs/index.php) (https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/research/climate_change/adaptation/nnbfs/index.php)
 - [MARISA Mid-Atlantic Climate Data Tools](https://www.midatlanticcrisa.org/data-tools/climate-data-tools.html) (<https://www.midatlanticcrisa.org/data-tools/climate-data-tools.html>)
- **APA - VA Chapter monthly lunchtime webinars**

Local Government Tools & Resources

Sudden, emergency events

- *Hurricanes, tornadoes, unnamed “rain bomb” events, forest fires*
- [NOAA Billion Dollar Disasters Mapping Tool](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/) (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>) now at census tract level, with CDC SOVI data
- [NOAA/USDN Climate & Hazard Mitigation Planning \(CHaMP\) Tool](https://champ.rcc-acis.org) (<https://champ.rcc-acis.org>) – historical & projected data by county for extreme heat, severe weather/tropical storms/hurricanes, wildfire, extreme rainfall
- The [Infrastructure Funding Navigator \(IFN\) Beta tool](#) by HR&A Advisors filters 350+ federal infrastructure funding and financing programs