

**NOTE: This pdf version is for reference only. Emailed copies will not be accepted. In order to be considered for participation in this program, you must complete the online application at [www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency).**



# Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities Participation Application

\* Required

## Project Background

Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) is seeking applications from communities interested in receiving technical assistance to develop Climate Resiliency Plans. Selected communities will also have access to funds that support plan implementation. Funds for this project were made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Phase I, 2023-2024: Through a community-driven planning and prioritization process, communities will set goals and identify projects to bolster resiliency. Planning consultants will use community input to develop individualized and detailed digital Climate Resiliency Plans.

Phase II, 2024-2026: Funds will be granted to implement portions of the plans for a variety of possible projects including green infrastructure improvements, stormwater management and renewable energy installations. Projects will be selected based on the needs of each community, cost, feasibility and timelines\*. *Phase II funds will only be available to communities that successfully complete Phase I of the program.*

\*ARPA funds must be obligated by end of 2024 and spent by 2026.

**Eligibility and application details are available here: [www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency)**

## Contact Information

1. First Name \*

2. Last Name \*

3. Job Title \*

4. Municipality \*

5. Email Address \*

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6. Phone Number \*

7. Are you applying on behalf of a municipality (e.g., as a consultant or City Planner)? \*

Yes

No

8. Please include the name and contact information of the municipal leader you report to.

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## Existing Planning Efforts

9. Has your community completed a Climate Resiliency Plan or similar plan in the past? \*

Yes

No

10. Please describe the plan type and when it was written/last updated. Please include a web link to the plan if available.

11. What barriers have prevented your community from completing a Climate Resiliency Plan (or similar) up to this point?

12. Does your community have any relevant existing plans? (Mark all that apply.) \*

- Comprehensive Plan
- Tree Plan
- Bike/Pedestrian Plan
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Other

13. Please provide web links to your plans above if available.

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## Potential Impact

14. Does your community have the following? (Mark all that apply.)

- Staff person dedicated to Climate, Resiliency, or Sustainability efforts
- Active Green Committee or similar entity that is responsible for making decisions regarding resiliency efforts
- Existing contractor or consultant devoted to future planning
- Engineering staff

15. Because the effects of climate change do not stick within municipal boundaries, some approaches are best achieved in a coordinated way. Would you be interested in partnering with neighboring communities on a joint Climate Resiliency Plan?

- Yes
- No

16. Which neighboring communities do you think would be appropriate?

17. We see green infrastructure, including tree planting, as playing a big role in Climate Resiliency Plans for our region. Please describe (including location) any existing green infrastructure projects your community has recently installed or would like to in the near future: \*

18. Maintenance of green infrastructure projects can be a challenge, especially during the first few years after a project as vegetation gets established. Think about your current staffing, community organizations, or resident volunteer groups. What support does your community currently have to care for new plants and trees or what would you need to effectively maintain projects for the first three to five years? \*

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## Community Need

19. Describe your community to someone who hasn't visited before. Think about the culture, physical places, natural areas, businesses, history, etc. What are the greatest strengths? \*

20. This project will be led by community input. If your community is selected for participation, can you assist us in identifying community leaders, active community organizations, faith groups, small business owners, resident volunteers, etc. who would provide valuable input during this planning process? \*

Yes

No

21. Please describe any forums you have for residents to share their input on municipal decisions and methods you use to share updates with residents (public participation at meetings, coffee with the Mayor, newsletters, etc.). \*



## Climate Hazards

The impacts of climate change vary from community to community and may include extreme temperature fluctuations, increased frequency and intensity of storms and damage from flooding,

22. Please describe any issues your community currently faces as a result of climate change, major concerns you see for your community in the next five to 10 years, and your community's most important needs related to climate resilience or climate change. \*

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## Agreement to Participate if Selected

23. Since funds for this project are limited and on a tight timeline, it is imperative that the communities selected are able to participate fully. If your community is selected to participate in Climate Resiliency Planning, you will be asked to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cook County, commit to attending regular check-in meetings with DES and its planning partners, participate in outreach activities, perform a timely review of deliverables and engage in all other efforts necessary to effectively carry out this planning project. Specific details about meeting dates and frequency will be finalized and shared with selected communities prior to signing an IGA. Please indicate your agreement to these requirements. \*

Agree

Disagree

24. Communities that successfully complete the Phase I planning process will be eligible to apply for grant funding to implement portions of their plans during Phase II. Depending on projects identified and selected, municipalities may need to contribute financially to achieve full project implementation. Each community may receive different amounts of funding and participation in Phase I does not guarantee a municipality will receive funds in Phase II. Please indicate your agreement to these terms. \*

Agree

Disagree

25. Enter your name below as a digital signature. \*

26. Enter today's date to complete the application. \*

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