

Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities Participation Application

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This list will be updated as questions are received from community applicants. For full program description and eligibility requirements, please visit www.cookcountyil.gov/climateresiliency

When are applications due?

Applications are due through the [online application](#) by March 8, 2023.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please email Debra Kutska, Sustainability Program Manager, debra.kutska@cookcountyil.gov, subject line: Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities

I already have a Climate Resiliency Plan. Can I just apply for funds to implement it?

No. To receive funding for implementation through this program, communities must apply, be selected, and successfully complete Phase I planning with Cook County and its partners.

I am a resident, can I apply on behalf of my community?

We request only municipal leaders or their designated partners complete this application. We ask you to send the links to your leaders and encourage them to apply.

How is this project being funded?

Funds for this project come from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). For more information on this funding and how projects were selected, please visit: [Cook County ARP & Racial Equity \(engagecookcounty.com\)](http://engagecookcounty.com).

What types of projects are eligible for funding in Phase II?

We anticipate a lot of variation in how the funds are spent depending on what communities participate and what their needs are, so the funding structure/eligibility has not been finalized yet. Many possible projects could be considered, including but not limited to: Upgrading hvac equipment to more efficient models, planting trees, installing rain gardens, developing resiliency training programs.

Can multiple communities submit a joint application for a collective plan?

Yes! Question 15 on the application asks: *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?* Question 16 allows you to enter the names of other communities with which you would be interested in partnering.

If we would like to apply to be part of a joint plan with other communities, do we each need to submit an application?

If you are intending to do a joint plan with more than one community, you may submit a single application and include all relevant contact information. If you would like to be considered for individualized plans, then each community should submit its own application.

Will there be one consultant for each community or one consultant for all five? Have you selected a planning consultant? How are you selecting the consultant and how can my organization/company be involved in the planning process?

The solicitation for this partner is under development and has not been issued for this project. We cannot discuss or share any details about the process or scope at this time. Please visit the [Office of Procurement](#) to learn more about the County's procurement process and current opportunities.

Will only five plans be completed? How much is allocated for this program?

We are planning on servicing five communities through this program in developing plans. There is almost \$16 million in funding available for this program, which includes the planning as well as implementation. Knowing that implementation of a lot of climate resiliency projects can be expensive with cost of shipping and labor, we want to make sure we have enough funding to implement portions of these plans. We are regularly looking at other funding opportunities to see how this can be a model for other

If we have a stormwater master plan, bike and ped plan, or tree plan are we eligible for participation?

Yes! You are still eligible to participate if you have these types of plans. If you have a current resiliency plan or climate action plan, you would not be eligible.

If a community endorsed the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region, is that considered having a Climate Action Plan?

No, endorsing this regional plan is not considered having a Climate Action Plan. We intend these the plans for this project to be individualized for communities.

