Accelerating Climate Resiliency

Municipal Grant Program

Winter 2021 Invitation for Proposals

**NEW! Winter 2021 ACR Grant Round**

1. One-year grants from $15,000-$50,000
2. Further explanation of evaluation criteria
3. Updated Application Form

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## Overview

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) seeks to accelerate climate resilience in the Metro Boston region by helping municipalities advance strategies that protect people, places, and communities from the impacts of climate change. The intent is to deploy actionable resilience interventions through local projects, policies, and strategies. Our funded projects will facilitate long-term innovative changes that lead to greater readiness for climate change. In particular, MAPC seeks to elevate projects that will advance climate equity, regional coordination, and social cohesion. MAPC’s Accelerating Climate Resiliency Municipal Grant program is supported by the Barr Foundation.

## Eligible Applicants

[The 101 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Boston area served by MAPC](https://www.mapc.org/get-involved/subregions/) are eligible to apply. Multi-municipal collaboration and partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations are strongly encouraged.

## Program Priorities

The Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant Program seeks to fund local and multi-municipal projects that accelerate climate change preparedness and resilience throughout Metro Boston. Projects should address at least one of the following priority areas. Projects that demonstrate other innovative climate resilience strategies that are transferable at the local or regional level may also be considered.

* *Nature-based solutions for climate resilience, such as green infrastructure, climate-smart parks, urban forestry, floodplain protection, and restoration of natural systems.*
* *Municipal climate resiliency policy, including regulations, zoning, permitting, and inspectional services.*
* *Innovative financing or infrastructure investment program models.*
* *Capacity building through municipal staffing or climate coalitions/convenings, such as stormwater partnerships, regional climate networks, or watershed-based climate resilience initiatives.*
* *Contributions to social resiliency or cohesion, such as public space improvements, dialogues, and gatherings, particularly for populations or neighborhoods vulnerable to climate change.*
* *Projects that combine climate adaptation with climate mitigation.*
* *Local food systems or community agriculture resiliency measures.*
* *District-scale climate resiliency pilots that are scalable and replicable.*
* *Public outreach, marketing, and artistic, cultural, or creative projects that advance climate change knowledge or action.*

## Eligible Projects

Grant funds will support on-the-ground projects that accelerate resiliency to extreme weather events, sea level rise, inland and coastal flooding, extreme heat, and other climate change impacts. Eligible types of projects include:

* Technical assistance or design, such as hiring a consultant for design or developing climate zoning improvements and recommendations;
* Capital projects, such as flood-proofing infrastructure, climate-smart parks, or green infrastructure; and
* Capacity building initiatives, such as supporting or seeding a climate-resilience network or coalition.

All projects should demonstrate clearly how results would increase your community’s climate resilience or adaptive capacity. For previously funded projects, please see MAPC’s Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant Program webpage: https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/accelerating-resiliency/.

## Funding Availability

MAPC is offering one-year grants ranging from $15,000-$50,000 for technical assistance, capacity building, or capital improvement/construction projects. Note: cost-efficient projects with budgets less than the $50,000 maximum may be given higher priority in order to award more projects.

For construction or capital improvement grants, it should be realistic to complete them fully within a one-year timeframe. Municipalities can submit multiple proposals for different projects. MAPC expects to award seven to fifteen grants in this round. Grants funds can be used in any manner that supports the overall project or program within the awarded scope of work.

## Timeline *(subject to change)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Task  | Deadline   |
| Invitation for Grant Proposals Announced | February 1, 2021 |
| Informational Webinar ([registration link](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvduutpjIoH9OEDHhP1Owz7a5uWwYGOWN4)) | February 18, 2021  |
| Deadline to Submit Questions | February 24, 2021 |
| Proposals Due  | February 26, 2021  |
| Award Announcements  | April 2021  |
| Mid-Year Reports Due to MAPC | November 30, 2021 |
| One-Year Project Completion  | April 2022  |
| Final Report | May 6, 2022 |

The deadline for proposals is 5 p.m. on February 26, 2021. Proposals should be sent electronically to Ella Wise by email at Ewise@mapc.org or uploaded [at this link](https://mapc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8k3zzC5rhQd3knI) if files are too large for email. If uploading to the Qualtrics link, please email Ella Wise at ewise@mapc.org to confirm that MAPC received your files.

## Criteria for Evaluation

All proposals for MAPC’s Accelerating Climate Resiliency Municipal Grant Program should:

* Target at least one of the nine Program Priorities described above;
* Identify one or more specific climate risks and how the project will strengthen resiliency;
* Demonstrate feasibility through an achievable scope of work, project team capacity, and realistic budget;
* Be designed and implemented with an equity lens, directing benefits to populations that are vulnerable to climate risks due to systemic inequities (see below for more information);
* Demonstrate meaningful engagement and support from the public or a clear path for generating public support; and
* Create opportunities for learning, replication, and the development of best practices.

Preference is given to projects that:

* Demonstrate that the community that will be affected by the project has leadership in decision-making and/or implementation;
* Build social cohesion[[1]](#footnote-2) and connections between and within community members through community-based assets, dialogues, networks, etc.; and/or
* Advance regional or multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

Because equity is one of the pillars of MAPC’s mission, projects that advance climate equity and directly benefit vulnerable populations are given higher priority in the project selection process. MAPC’s [Climate Vulnerability in Metro Boston](http://climate-vulnerability.mapc.org) website illustrates how some people are disproportionately affected by climate change compared to others. The site contains a tool to help identify those with greater vulnerability, greater sensitivity, and less adaptive capacity to extreme heat, current flooding, and future flooding from sea level rise. Please refer to this tool or another more applicable to your community and to the Figure 1 Vulnerability Checklist below to identify how your project advances climate equity and benefits populations vulnerable to climate due to systemic inequities. For additional resources, please see MAPC’s Municipal Net Zero Playbook [Framework for Equity](http://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03052020-Playbook_Framework-for-Equity.pdf) and [State of Equity for Metro Boston Policy Agenda.](https://equityagenda.mapc.org/) Please contact Ella Wise at ewise@mapc.org if you need assistance in prioritizing equity in your project.

*Figure 1. Climate Vulnerability Indicators from MAPC’s Climate Vulnerability in Metro Boston analysis. These indicators are a guide toward prioritizing equity in your climate resiliency project. Please see* [*climate-vulnerability.mapc.org*](file:///%5C%5Cdata-001%5CPublic%5CSG%20Environment%5CAccelerating%20Climate%20Resiliency%5CFY21%5CInvitation%20for%20Proposals%5Cclimate-vulnerability.mapc.org) *for more information.*

## Receiving Award Funds and Reporting

All recipients will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with MAPC, complete a mid-year progress report, and complete a final report. MAPC will reimburse expenses incurred to date after acceptance of the six-month progress report. The remainder of the grant award will be distributed to the grantee after MAPC’s acceptance of the final report.

## Resilience Community of Practice

As part of the grant program, MAPC is launching a Resilience Community of Practice (RCOP). Grantees will be required to attend at least four workshops/programs during the grant period. Grantees may include expenses incurred for attending the workshops, if travel is required. Workshops and programs may be virtual during COVID social distancing protocols.

The RCOP is designed to provide the technical, value-based, and instructional guidance to aid municipalities in deploying, scaling, and amplifying their climate resilience practices across all municipal functions. It will provide a forum to discuss sensitive topics, projects, and programs that municipalities might not otherwise pursue. It will also foster a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and help break down barriers to progress. Workshops and programs will feature experienced local and national practitioners on key climate topics such as climate equity, extreme precipitation, extreme heat, sea level rise, and extreme storms.

## Permits

Applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project can successfully acquire all local, state, and federal permits, if applicable.

## Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support

Award recipients will be required to accord MAPC and the Barr Foundation the right and authority to publicize the project and the financial support from the grant in press releases, publications, conferences, and other public communications.

## Questions and More Information

MAPC will host an informational session on February 18, 2021 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom Webinar. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend. Please register at:
 <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvduutpjIoH9OEDHhP1Owz7a5uWwYGOWN4>

All questions and answers related to the grant program will be posted weekly at [www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency](http://www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency). Please submit questions directly to Ella Wise at ewise@mapc.org. Questions will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

# Appendix A Application Form

## 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Project name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Lead Municipality: Click or tap here to enter text.

Municipal Staff Project Manager: Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Manager Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

This is the person who will be the day-to-day contact for the project and who will represent the municipality in regular communication with MAPC.

[ ]  **Please attach a signed authorization from the Chief Executive Officer identifying the individual named above.**

Address:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email address: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project Partner(s)**

Name(s) of Partner Municipalities, Non-Profits, and/or Community-Based Organization:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Partner Point of Contact, Name and Title:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

E-mail address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please list additional partners in Question 6.

## 2. PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Grant Amount Request: Click or tap here to enter text.

Total Project Cost: Click or tap here to enter text.

MAPC Subregion *(*[*click here for list*](https://www.mapc.org/get-involved/subregions/)*)*: Click or tap here to enter text.

Location/Address of the Project (if applicable):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Which type of project is it?

[ ] Technical Assistance/Design Grant

[ ] Capital Project

[ ] Capacity Building

Which climate risk(s) does the proposal address?

[ ] Sea Level Rise

[ ] Extreme Heat or Urban Heat Island Impacts

[ ] Flooding

[ ] Extreme Weather Events

[ ] Other Climate Impacts

## 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In three to five pages, please provide more information on your project by responding to the following:

1. Please provide a brief summary of your overall project, as well as how these grant funds will specifically be used.

Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Describe the climate risk your project addresses, and how your project strengthens resiliency in the face of the climate risk.

Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Identify which program priorities your project addresses, and explain how your project relates to the identified priorities.

[ ] Nature-based solutions

[ ] Policy, including regulations, zoning, and permitting

[ ] Innovative financing or infrastructure investment

[ ] Climate coalitions/convenings or increased municipal staff capacity

[ ] Social resiliency or cohesion

[ ] Synergies between climate adaptation and mitigation

[ ] Local food systems or community agriculture

[ ] District-scale climate pilots

[ ] Public outreach, marketing, or arts and culture

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Describe the project team, including partners. Will the hiring of a consultant or vendor be required, and if so, what type and to perform which tasks? Name the consultant or vendor if known.

Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Describe how the project advances implementation of a local or regional planning effort (e.g. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness workshop, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Housing Production Plan).

Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Please describe the communities who will most benefit from your project. Using the Climate Vulnerability Indicators in Figure 1 or another related tool, describe how the project will or will not directly benefit populations that are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change due to systemic inequities.

Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Describe the public engagement completed or planned, including involvement with or leadership from the communities that will be most impacted by the project. Discuss any anticipated challenges regarding public support and/or political will for the project.

Click or tap here to enter text.
5. FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. Please complete Appendix B Permitting and Regulatory Approval for Construction Projects. Please describe contingency plan for permitting and/or construction delays.

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 4. PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

In no more than two pages, please provide:

1. A detailed timeline for completing the project, including milestones at regular intervals. Describe the mechanism for completion within a 12-month period.

Click or tap here to enter text.
2. A detailed budget for the project indicating how the funds will be used.
	1. Describe the staff and other personnel time committed to the project.
	2. Matching funds are not required for this grant. However, if the total project cost exceeds the grant proposal, describe the matching funds and their respective status and certainty.

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Attachment B Permitting and Regulatory Approval for Construction Projects

*Adapted from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs MVP Action Grant RFR.*

1. Project Site Ownership: If the project is not municipally owned, please demonstrate readiness of transfer of ownership or landowner approval of use for the construction site.
2. Please indicate the level of planning readiness for the construction project:

\_\_ Conceptual Design

\_\_\_50%-75% Design

\_\_\_Construction Documents

1. Please complete the following table to indicate the permitting and regulatory review of the construction project as well as your planned dates for securing authority.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Environmental Permits / Licenses / Approvals** |  **Required****(Y/N)** | **Filing Date** | **Issue/Decision Date** |
| MEPA Review (ENF or EIR) |  |  |  |
| Waterways (Chapter 91) |  |  |  |
| Wetlands Protection Act (Order of Conditions, Request for Determination of Applicability, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Army Corps (USACE) Permit (Section 10 or 404) |  |  |  |
| FEMA Conditional Letter of Mapping Revision (CLOMR) |  |  |  |
| CZM Federal Consistency Review |  |  |  |
| Chapter 91 Waterways Permit or License |  |  |  |
| Water Quality Certification |  |  |  |
| Endangered Species Consultation (State or Federal) |  |  |  |
| Water Management Act Permit |  |  |  |
| Dam Safety Chapter 253 Permit |  |  |  |
| MHC Historic Review (including Underwater Historical Resources) |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Municipal or Special District Coordination Considerations** |
| **Construction Permits and Approvals** | **Required (Y/N)** | **Filing Date** | **Issue/Anticipated Issue Date** |
| Planning Board |  |  |  |
| Conservation Commission |  |  |  |
| Zoning Board |  |  |  |
| Sewer Extension Permit |  |  |  |
| Utility Relocation |  |  |  |
| Local Historical Commission |  |  |  |
| Public Water Supply Tie-in |  |  |  |
| Public Wastewater Tie-in |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. Strong social cohesion enables communities to develop and enforce social norms (e.g. appreciation for nature, respect for elders), connects people to information and resources across social networks (i.e. social capital), and facilitates collective action. These factors are critical to our response to and recovery from climate-related disasters and other moments of crisis. Researchers have demonstrated that community cohesion saved lives during the Chicago heat wave of 1995, and positively influenced recovery following Superstorms Sandy and Katrina. For more information on social cohesion and how it relates to climate resiliency, see *Climate-Ready Healthy Plymouth* <<https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3691/f/uploads/final.climatereadyhealthplymouth_reportv.6.16.20.pdf>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)