Accelerating Climate Resilience Municipal Grant Program
FY2024 Invitation for Proposals

- Now accepting applicants for one-year projects (up to $50,000 per project). **Deadline to apply: Friday, September 15, 2023, by 5PM.**
- All potential applicants are encouraged to attend the ACR Grant Informational Webinar on August 21, 2023, 12PM. **Register [here](#).**

Table of Contents

ACCELERATING CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PRIORITIES

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. MAPC seeks to elevate projects that will advance climate equity, regional coordination, and social cohesion. MAPC's Accelerating Climate Resilience (ACR) Municipal Grant program is supported by the Barr Foundation.

About MAPC

MAPC is the regional planning agency that serves the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Metro Boston. Our long-standing mission is to promote smart growth and regional collaboration. Over the past decade, we have elevated advancing equity and climate mitigation and resilience as core Strategic Priorities for the agency. MAPC's recent MetroCommon2050 plan identified Climate Change Mitigation & Resiliency as a key action area, supported by recommendations that include:

- Prepare for, and response to, the threats of climate change
- Accelerate the transition to a clean energy future
- Address regional water challenges
- Decarbonize the building and transportation sectors

More information about MetroCommon2050, visit https://metrocommon.mapc.org/.

ACR Program Priorities

The ACR 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.

1. Nature-based solutions for climate resilience, such as green infrastructure, climate-smart parks, urban forestry, floodplain protection, and restoration of natural systems.
2. Municipal climate resilience policy; including regulations, zoning, permitting, and inspectional services.
3. Innovative financing or infrastructure investment program models.
4. Capacity building through municipal staffing or climate coalitions/convenings, such as stormwater partnerships, regional climate networks, or watershed-based climate resilience initiatives.
5. Contributions to social resilience or cohesion, such as public space improvements, dialogues, gatherings, training programs, and public health improvements, particularly for populations or neighborhoods vulnerable to climate change.
6. Projects that combine climate adaptation[1] with climate mitigation.[2]

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1 Climate adaptation includes resilience strategies that help prepare for the impacts of extreme events, including flooding, heat, and severe storms. Strategies could include creating a rain garden or installing shade trees.
2 Climate mitigation includes sustainability strategies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuel consumption. Strategies could include developing a microgrid or installing solar panels.

7. Local food systems or community agriculture resilience measures.
8. District-scale climate resilience pilots that are scalable and replicable.
9. Innovative public outreach, engagement, and education efforts; including artistic, cultural, or creative projects that advance climate change knowledge or action.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

MAPC expects to award up to ten (10) grants in this FY24 grant round, up to $50,000 per project. Grants funds can be used in any manner that supports the overall project or program within the awarded scope of work.

Notes: <u>Cost-efficient projects with budgets less than the stated maximums above may be given higher priority to award more projects.</u> 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.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

Grant funds will support on-the-ground projects that accelerate resilience 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 designing or developing climate zoning improvements and recommendations
- Capital projects, such as flood-proofing infrastructure, climate-smart parks, or green infrastructure
- 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. See **Appendix C** for some examples of potential projects. For information about previously funded projects, please see MAPC's Accelerating Climate Resilience Grant Program webpage: www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency.

Permits

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

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The 101 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Boston area served by MAPC are eligible to apply. Multi-municipal collaborations and partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations, are strongly encouraged.

FY23 ACR GRANT TIMELINE *(subject to change)*

Task	Deadline
Expression of Interest Form (EOI) / Office Hours	July 17 – August 11, 2023
FY2024 Invitation for Proposals Open	August 15, 2023
Informational Webinar (registration link)	August 21, 2023

Proposals Due	September 15, 2023
Award Announcements	November 2023
ACR Project Start & End Date	January – December 2024
Mid-Year Reports Due to MAPC	June 30, 2024
Completion and Final Report due to MAPC	December 31, 2024

The deadline for proposals is **5 p.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023**. Proposals should be sent electronically to **Van Du** by email at **vdu@mapc.org** OR uploaded **at this link** if files are too large for email. If uploading to the Qualtrics link, please email Van Du to confirm that MAPC received your files.

MAPC will host an informational webinar on **August 21, 2023, at 12PM** via Zoom. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend. **Register here to attend.**

CRITERIA FOR PROJECT EVALUATION

All proposals for MAPC's Accelerating Climate Resilience 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 resilience
- Demonstrate feasibility through an achievable scope of work and timeline, 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.

Note that proposed capital improvement and construction projects should demonstrate project readiness by completing **Appendix B - Permitting and Regulatory Approval**. Preference is given to projects that:

- Demonstrate that the community that will be affected by the project has a leadership role in decision-making and/or implementation
  Build social cohesion[3] and connections between and within community members through community-based assets, dialogues, networks, etc.
- Advance regional or multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

Equity is one of the pillars of MAPC's mission, as such, projects that advance climate equity and directly benefit climate vulnerable populations are given higher priority in the project selection process. MAPC's Climate Vulnerability in Metro Boston website illustrates how some people are

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3   Strong social cohesion enables communities to foster social awareness and expand social empathy (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 the value of social cohesion in climate resilience, check out The Center for American Progress's 2015 report *"Social Cohesion: The Secret Weapon in the Fight for Equitable Climate Resilience"* < https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SocialCohesion-report2.pdf>.

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 Vulnerability Checklist below (Figure 1) 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 MetroCommon2050 Plan, including the "Equity of Wealth and Health" section
- MAPC's Municipal Net Zero Playbook Framework for Equity
- MAPC's State of Equity for Metro Boston Policy Agenda.

Exposure

Indicators
Extreme heat (land surface temp)
Flood risk (FEMA Flood Zones)
Future storm surge with 8" of sea level rise
Future storm surge with 3'5" of sea level rise

Woods Hole Group
Boston Harbor Flood Risk Model

Sensitivity

Indicators
Overcrowded housing units
Population in group quarters
Age 5 or below
Age 65 and up
Central air conditioning
Basements at risk of flooding
Disability prevalence
Cardiovascular disease prevalence
Asthma hospitalization rate
Diabetes prevalence
Highly exposed workers

Adaptive Capacity

Indicators
Renter-occupied housing units
Mobile housing units
Households w/o a vehicle
Households w/o internet access
Educational attainment
Unemployment rate
Median household income
Poverty rate
Latinx population
Black population
Asian population
Indigenous, multi or another race
Age 65 and up living alone
Single-parent families
Linguistic isolation
Population w/o health insurance
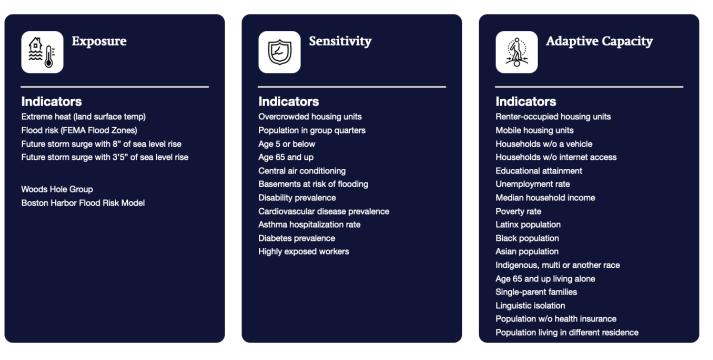Population living in different residence

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 resilience project. Please see climate-vulnerability.mapc.org for more information.

RECEIVING AWARD FUNDS AND REPORTING

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

PARTICIPATING IN MAPC RESILIENCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

As part of the grant program, MAPC will facilitate a Resilience Community of Practice (RCOP), a peer-to-peer networking platform enabling participants to draw on collective knowledge; share best practices, lessons learned, and approach challenges; and build new skill sets to operationalize and

advance resilient strategies. All ACR grantees will be required to attend a minimum of four (4) workshops/program activities during the grant period. Grantees may include expenses incurred for attending the workshops in their proposed project budgets if travel is required. Workshops and programs may be held virtually to increase access and due to pandemic considerations.

The RCOP is designed to provide 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.

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.

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.

       Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

       Work Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

       Work Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Note: Project Manager 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.**

PROJECT PARTNER(S)

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

Partner Point of Contact, Name and Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Partner Point of Contact Work Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Partner Point of Contact Work Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please list additional partners as part of your response to Question 5 below. Letters of Support can be included as attachments to this application.

CAPACITY

Please summarize the Project Manager's and project partners' capacity to participate in the proposed work, and in the Resilience Community of Practice (RCOP). Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

- *Matching funds or additional grants the Team plans to pursue, if the total project cost exceeds the grant amount requested:* Click or tap here to enter text.

MAPC Subregion (*click here for list*)**:** 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

☐ 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. Please provide: Click or tap here to enter text.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

1. Provide a brief summary of your overall project (300 words max).

   Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Describe the specific tasks and deliverables that will be completed as part of this proposed project.

   Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Describe the climate risk your project addresses, and how your project strengthens resilience in the face of the climate risk.

Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Identify which program priorities your project addresses and explain how your project relates to the identified priorities.

☐ Nature-based solutions

☐ Climate resilience policy, including regulations, zoning, and permitting

☐ Innovative financing or infrastructure investment

☐ Climate coalitions/convenings or increased municipal staff capacity

☐ Social resilience 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.

5. 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. Letters of Support from partners can also be included as attachments to this application.

Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Describe how the project advances implementation of a local or regional planning effort (e.g., Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness workshop, Climate Action/Resilience Plan, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Housing Production Plan, etc.).

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Please describe the communities who will most benefit from your project. Using the Climate Vulnerability Indicators in Figure 1 (page 5) 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.

8. 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.

9. Describe the plan for monitoring, maintenance, and/or follow-up. For technical assistance projects, that could include sharing updates on implementation during future municipal meetings. For capital projects, that could include a maintenance schedule for green infrastructure. For capacity building initiatives, that could include proposed follow-up with stakeholders.

Click or tap here to enter text.

10. For Capital Improvement and/or Construction Projects:
    - Complete **Appendix B - Permitting and Regulatory Approval** for construction projects, and
    - 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, based on the tasks and deliverables described in Section 3. 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.
   - Describe the budget for each task proposed in Section 3.
   - Describe the staff and other personnel time committed to the project.
   - 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.

Appendix 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. Letters of Support can be included as attachments to this application.*

2. Indicate the level of planning readiness for the construction project:

   ☐ Conceptual Design
   ☐ 50-75% Design
   ☐ Construction Documents

3. 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:			

Appendix C: Examples of Potential Projects

Priority Areas	GRANT TYPE		
	Technical Assistance/Design	Capital	Capacity Building
Nature-Based Solutions	Design, engineering, and/or feasibility of a climate-smart park or playground.	Green Infrastructure retrofit in park.	Research and convene stakeholder group focused urban forestry with carbon trading program model
	GHG accounting of nature-based resources with carbon sequestration potential (e.g., soils, trees, wetlands)	Green Infrastructure installation in an existing park improvement project.	Equity-driven community engagement process on identifying and addressing greatest need for nature-based solutions in a community or neighborhood.
	Open Space and Recreation Plans that prioritize climate resilience.	Collective purchasing (with multiple municipalities) of street trees. Strategic planting of street trees.	Community outreach, training programs to support the development and maintenance of community green spaces (including pollinator gardens, community farms/gardens, food forests, etc.)
	Park Equity Assessment that considers climate and park accessibility.	Increased connectivity of parks, trails, and municipal assets for walking and biking.	
	Hydrologic analysis for stormwater interventions in vulnerable neighborhoods.	Salt marsh restoration project	

Priority Areas	GRANT TYPE		
	Technical Assistance/Design	**Capital**	**Capacity Building**
Municipal Climate Resilience Policy Infrastructure, Finance	Evaluation of existing zoning, bylaws, and codes to accelerate resilience measures (such as inclusion of pervious surfaces, reduced parking requirements, setback exemptions for passive house construction).	Implementation of new climate resilience regulations in new and redevelopment, streetscapes, municipal infrastructure, shared driveways, etc.	Initiate equity-driven neighborhood-level community-based resilience visioning.
	Stormwater Utility feasibility and implementation.	Raised infrastructure and/or flood proofing - roads, buildings, etc.	
	Energy resilience feasibility study for microgrid, solar + storage, thermal storage, or district energy system.	Implementing green complete streets that manage stormwater and urban heat.	
Support Climate Coalitions and Convening	Regional and/or watershed level climate change emergency preparedness and shared resources planning.		Support and/or build capacity of existing coalitions such as municipal stormwater partnerships or collaborative approaches to watersheds.
			Fund convening, symposiums, or events that advance regional climate collectives.
			Support start-up or build capacity of newly formed regional climate coalition.
Social Resilience, Climate Justice	Climate equity/social vulnerability geospatial and demographic vulnerability assessment.	Incorporating resilience measures in low-income housing development and/or retrofits.	Specialized outreach and engagement projects/programs to at-risk groups such as older adults, linguistically isolated, people with disabilities, etc.

Priority Areas	GRANT TYPE		
	Technical Assistance/Design	Capital	Capacity Building
		Heat-risk toolkits/equipment for people at risk to extreme heat.	Exploration of partnership with car sharing companies to expand use of car sharing among low-income households.
			Partnership with community-based initiatives, especially from low-income areas and communities of color, that align with climate change preparation priorities, carbon emission reduction efforts and low-carbon behavior to expand these efforts.
			Working with community liaisons to establish community resilient hubs.
Climate adaptation and mitigation and other co-benefits	Net Zero strategy development focused on resilience actions that also achieve strong mitigation, public health, equity, economic development outcomes and/or other benefits.	EV charging station deployment that utilizes vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology.	Heat preparedness outreach and engagement strategies.
		Expansion or deployment of shared micro-mobility (e.g., bikes, electric scooters) infrastructure, particularly to improve community resilience	
Agriculture Resilience	Geospatial analysis to identify potential urban agriculture parcels that consider sun, soil, and other natural, political, and physical barriers or opportunities.	Create new urban farms.	Plans to increase access to grocers and healthy food during extreme weather emergencies.

Priority Areas	GRANT TYPE		
	Technical Assistance/Design	Capital	Capacity Building
	Research on long-term agricultural practices for adaptation to climate change.	Create new mobile food markets.	
Climate Resilience district-scale pilot design	Coastal Business Improvement District as a mechanism for funding coastal resilience and public programming.	Extreme Heat Mitigation Public Space Activation project	Heat-preparedness task force
	Feasibility assessment of EcoRoof regulations (gardens, solar, etc.) on new construction (i.e., San Francisco), roof replacements, etc.		
Climate Communications, Public Outreach, Marketing, and Arts and Culture	Plan for geographically distributed socially engaged art in the public realm that addresses climate change, public awareness, and education of climate change, or resilience.	Artist hired for installations that advance climate change awareness or enhance climate resilience.	Marketing campaigns targeted to specific and pressing climate issues.
	Community organizing to galvanize support for equitable climate change regulations, policy, and program development.		Community-wide outreach and education campaigns on intersection of climate with hazard mitigation, cohesion, anti-racism, and/or public health.

You can also check out previously funded ACR grant projects here: https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/accelerating-resiliency/.

Accelerating Climate Resilience (ACR)
Municipal Grant Program FY23

Previously Documented Questions & Answers (Q&A) from FY23 Grant Round
September 23, 2022

PROCESS & LOGISTICS

Question: Are you limited to only one application, or can you apply for multiple projects?

Answer: Yes, a municipality can submit more than one application.

Question: In addition to municipalities, are nonprofits and grassroots coalitions eligible to apply, and if so, are there stipulations (for example, do they need to have a signed MOU with a city)?

Answer: At this time, only municipalities are eligible applicants. We strongly encourage municipalities to partner with community-based organizations, so please reach out to your municipality to discuss project ideas and formulate a partnership. The grant application doesn't require submission of formal MOUs/agreements; we would like to leave that up to municipalities and their community partners to make those arrangements as appropriate.

Question: In the Application question #1, please clarify your definition of "Staff Project Manager" and "Chief Executive Officer".

Answer: The Staff Project Manager should be the municipal point of contact who will manage the project and serve as the grant coordinator with MAPC. This person can hold any relevant position on staff and in most cases is the Town/City Planner, Sustainability Director, or Municipal Engineer, depending on the project. The Municipal Staff Project Manager does not need to be the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer must attach a signed authorization to the ACR grant application identifying the lead municipal Staff Project Manager. The Chief Executive Officer must also have authority to sign off on contract agreements and grant expenses/reimbursement requests. Examples of a Chief Executive Officer include a Mayor in a City, a Town Manager/Administrator in a Town, or other municipal staff with the authority described above.

Question: Do Staff Manager and Chief Executive Officer roles need to be municipal, or can one (or both) be from partnering non-profit?

Answer: Yes, identifying a municipal Staff Project Manager and Chief Executive Officer is required, as they will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. The application also includes a section to identify and describe proposed community partners, who can act as project co-leads or co-project managers.

Question: Is a town library eligible to be a lead applicant?

Answer: Yes, like other municipal departments, a municipal library and/or school is eligible to be a lead applicant.

Question: Small question, but can there be two joint points of contacts/project managers?

Answer: Yes, applicants can propose joint project managers/points of contact, especially when pursuing a multi-jurisdictional project. However, for grant contracting purposes, only one of the municipalities (and its staff) in a joint project will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent.

Question: When you recommend having other sources of funding – state or federal grants – does that mean funding sources we're considering, or funding sources that we have secured before submitting the ACR proposal?

Answer: Ideally, other funding sources should be secured if the ACR grant only contributes to a portion, or a phase, of the project's overall budget. MAPC wants to ensure that the project is sustainable beyond ACR funding. When reviewing grant applications, it is helpful to know when there are matching funds, in-kind staff time, or other resources committed to support the project; but MAPC will not penalize applicants that do not have matching funds. Matching funds are not required for the ACR grant program.

Question: Is there a preference for 1-year projects versus 2-year projects? Are they weighted differently in your scoring rubric when evaluating proposals?

Answer: There is no preference for one-year versus two-year projects. MAPC does prefer for capital/construction projects to be two years. All proposals will be reviewed using the same evaluation criteria.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Questions:

Are community or school composting programs eligible for this grant?

Could two towns collaborate to provide financial assistance to low income and EJ residents for curbside compost pick up? Along with the financial assistance we would have informational sessions for the residents about the impact of food waste, the importance of composting, gardening, and utilizing fertilizer.

Would a town-wide climate fair, like a science fair, be applicable for funding?

Answer: Please refer to the nine priorities of the ACR program. A project is eligible for the grant if we can clearly understand the connection between the project's outcomes and the community's overall climate resilience efforts (i.e., how will this project prepare for, or strengthen the community's/residents' readiness to, the impacts of climate change).

Question: Can these Grants be used to assist a Town for consultancy in developing a Climate Action Plan?

Answer: The Accelerating Climate Resiliency grant program aims to support projects that implement existing plans or planning efforts or build new capacity or networks during a planning process. Priority recommendations from the community's climate action planning processes may be good candidates for the ACR grant program.

Question: For an example like the municipal resilience zoning, would the money be used to hire a staff person to focus on these issues? Or would the funding have to be used for a consultant? Temporary staff time is a lot more cost effective.

Answer: Yes, the grant can be used to hire a staff person and/or consulting service to support your project.

Question: Is the policy of a one-year grant for staff capacity to address zoning policy and regulation a hard rule? We believe that with the extensive climate & comprehensive plans recently developed…, we would benefit from someone working with the staff and City Council for two years to work out new zoning policy and regulations. Is it possible that MAPC might choose to only partially fund a request? For example, funding one year instead of two, or part of a salary instead of a full salary?

Answer: It is not a hard rule to fund only one year for staff capacity. In this case, if it involves getting approval/adoption from City Council, the program can consider the proposal for two-year timeframe. We recommend being very clear of your requests and justification for why you need one or two years; that includes laying out an anticipated timeline for the proposed project. The more information you can provide to clarify and justify why you're asking for the proposed

project budget and timeline, the better prepared our Technical Review Team will be to evaluate proposals and make final decisions.

Question: If a Town is interested in more green space, do you pay for staff positions (or stipends for interns and students) and materials? Do you pay for trees and plants and compost?

Answer: Yes, the grant can be used for staff positions, stipends for interns/students and community volunteers to participate in the project, as well as materials.

Question: Is there a link available to the entirety of the Cool it With Art project and/or Arlington Projects?

Answer: Yes, more information about these two projects is available at the links below:

- Cool it with Art Project: https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/cool-with-art/
- Arlington Project: http://artsarlington.org/remembrance-of-climate-futures/

NEXT STEPS & MORE INFORMATION

Question: Will this slide deck be available after the webinar?

Answer: Yes, the slide deck will be available on MAPC's ACR webpage, along with a recording of the webinar. A follow-up email will also be sent to those who registered for the webinar, with a link to the ACR webpage (http://www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency).

Question: Where can I view the full RFP?

Answer: The full Invitation for Proposals, and related resources, are available on MAPC's ACR webpage: http://www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency.

Question: Do you anticipate similar rounds of grant funding for 2023 and 2024?

Answer: Yes, there will be another round of ACR Grant funding released next year for FY24. However, the ACR grant funding available during the FY24 round will be for 1-year projects only. For applicants considering a 2-year project idea, it is recommended to submit a proposal during the current FY23 round of grant funding.

Question: Is there a grants manager at MAPC that we can call with specific questions?

Answer: Yes, please contact Senior Environmental Planner Van Du at vdu@mapc.org.