



Resilient Virginia Resiliency Academy Spring 2021 Series – Resiliency Funding

While many communities realize the need for resiliency planning and programs, funding is often a roadblock. In this three-part series, Resilient Virginia presents several options for communities to explore to help finance these initiatives. The first workshop will focus on funding for flood-prone communities, the second will highlight funding for resilient buildings and energy, and the final workshop will outline funding for economic recovery, jobs, and justice.



Workshop 1: Funding for Flood-Prone Communities

Date: May 6th, 2021

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm EST

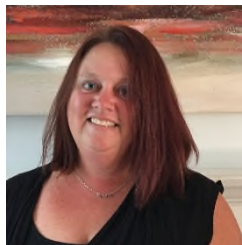
The first workshop in the 2021 series will feature two major funding programs for communities with flooding issues. Sessions will feature speaker presentations, followed by Q&A.

Russell Baxter, Deputy Director of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will outline the [Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund](#). The fund was established to provide support for regions and localities across Virginia to reduce the impacts of flooding, including flooding driven by climate change. It will prioritize projects that are in concert with local, state, and federal floodplain management standards, local resilience plans, and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. The Fund will empower communities to complete vulnerability assessments and develop and implement action-oriented approaches to bolster flood preparedness and resilience. Funded through the state's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions, \$18 million in grants from the first round of auctions is expected to be offered by mid-year. The [DRAFT 2021 Grant Manual for the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund](#) was issued on April 5th and the [30-day comment period](#) began on April 12th and ends on May 12th, 2021.

Debbie Messmer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Financial Management Bureau, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), will explain the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) and [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) grant programs. BRIC and FMA grant programs support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program to create more community-wide impact including protection for homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. The FMA funds flood mitigation projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.



Russ Baxter is Deputy Director for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He has many years of experience addressing natural resource conservation issues in high-level management and policy positions, and significant amount of experience working with members of the General Assembly on policy, programmatic, and budget matters. Russ also has special expertise on Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration initiatives, including water quality, habitat restoration, fisheries, nutrient credit trading, and related issues.



Debbie Messmer has worked for VDEM for 17 years as a Grants Administrator/Project Coordinator. She has managed over \$100 million in mitigation grants across the Commonwealth, ranging from acquisition and elevation of private residential properties to large-scale stormwater management projects to small educational opportunities. She is currently serving as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the Earthquake Program Manager for the Commonwealth. Prior to her time with VDEM, she worked for the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, managing over \$80 million in mitigation grants through Hurricane Fran and Hurricane Floyd.

Workshop 2: Funding for Resilient Buildings and Renewables + Storage

Date: May 27th, 2021

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm EST

The second workshop in the 2021 series will feature information and resources on making our buildings and energy systems more resilient to climate change and other disruptions. Session will feature speaker presentations, followed by Q&A.

Confirmed speakers:

Dan Farrell, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency, DHCD Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (*HIEE*) Program.

Abby Johnson, LEED AP O&M, Executive Director, Virginia PACE Authority

Cliona Robb. Esq, Director, ThompsonMcMullan, P.C. and Board Chairman, VA-Renewable Energy Alliance

Workshop 3: Funding for Economic Recovery, Jobs, and Justice

Date: June 17th, 2021

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm EST

The third workshop in the 2021 series will provide an overview of funding opportunities for advancing job creation, economic recovery, and social and environmental justice in the state and nationwide. Session will feature speaker presentations, followed by Q&A. Speakers to be announced.

[Click Here](#) to register for the Resiliency Funding Webinars!

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