Phase II Qualification Meeting

Chris Thompson
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
May 18, 2015

National Disaster Resiliency Competition

- To provide resources to help communities plan and implement disaster recovery that makes them more resilient to future threats while improving quality of life and making communities more resilient to economic stresses or other shocks.
- To fully engage stakeholders about the impacts of climate change and to develop pathways to resilience based on sound science.
- To leverage investments from the philanthropic community to help communities define problems, set goals, explore options, and craft solutions.

Eligibility

- 67 governmental applicants are eligible to apply for $817M general pool.
- 3 applicants for $181M Sandy pool.
- HUD reserves the ability to ensure geographic diversity.
- Must be able to **show unmet need** attributable to at least one of five qualifying disasters between 2011 and 2013 [Louisa earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, 2012 derecho and Hurricane Sandy.
- 120 Virginia localities affected by one of more of the qualifying disasters.
- Virginia **DOES NOT** have any communities meeting the HUD standard and must identify and use locally available data to meet the qualification thresholds.

Thresholds

- **<u>Most Impacted</u>** – Must be able to identify an area, not the entire locality, which meets this threshold, to include one of the following:
  - *Housing*. A <u>concentration</u> of housing damage in a <u>sub-county area</u> due to the eligible disaster causing damage to either a minimum of 100 homes or serious damage to a minimum of 20 homes.
  - *Infrastructure*. Damage to <u>permanent infrastructure</u> in <u>a sub-county area</u> estimated at $2 million or greater.
  - *Economic Revitalization*. A disaster in a sub-county area causing significant employment loss and extended harm to the local economy.
  - *Environmental Degradation* that threatens long-term recovery of critical natural resources and places housing, infrastructure, and/or economic revitalization at risk.

Thresholds

- **Distressed Characteristics**
  - *Disaster impacted low- and moderate-income households*. More than 50 percent of the people in the target area are at less than 80 percent of median income.
  - *Loss/shortage of affordable rental housing*. There is a severe shortage of affordable rental housing (there are a minimum of 100 renters with income less than 50 percent of median in a target area AND 60 percent or more of these have a severe housing problem.
  - Disaster impacted a *federal target area or economically fragile area*. The affected area is a tribal area, contains a Promise Zone, is in a Strong Cities, Strong Communities site, and/or has an unemployment rate more than 125 percent of the national average unemployment rate.
  - Disaster impacted an area with prior documented *environmental distress*.

Community Engagement

- Priority for broad stakeholder participation.
  - State
  - Federal
  - Local
    - Nonprofits
    - Community groups
    - Faith-based organizations
    - Private businesses (utilities, telcos, more)
- Leverage investments.
- Align strategies.
- State workgroup being formed.

Target Area

- Hampton Roads area, to include the Eastern Shore of Virginia.
- Presented best opportunity in terms of available data to demonstrate unmet need.
- Numerous prior studies on climate change and sea level rise.
- Critical military, economic, and environmental assets.
- Norfolk already participating in Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities program.
- Ongoing meetings and engagement with localities and potential partners.

Phase I Qualification

- Cities of Chesapeake and Norfolk included in Phase I.
- Based on residential damage.
- Most repairs made but not *resiliently.*
- Only need one community to qualify, can pivot to others for Phase II.
- Same qualification thresholds must be met.
- ODU led data analysis in partnership with localities.
- High visibility with Administration.

Our Purpose

Virginia will surface, test and refine the best strategies for building resilient communities across a range of environments by developing the model seaport region that derives its economic vitality from the water.

Project Goals

Unite the Region	Align the region's cities in a common effort, focused on their shared seaport, and on their common interest in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with rising water.
Build Water Management Solutions	Imagine and build new technology, methods, and approaches to adapt seacoast communities to the challenges and opportunities of rising waters, turning the region into a coastal resilience laboratory where water related research and innovation flourish.
Create Resilience	Leverage shovel ready water management projects, to create cross-disciplinary, quantifiably measurable, improvements in the region's physical, social, and economic ability to adapt to, withstand, and recover from rising water related disruptions.
Strengthen Vulnerable Neighbor-hoods	Use water management projects, in conjunction with Livability Principles, to address known rising water related vulnerabilities in neighborhoods where our most vulnerable citizens live and work.
Improve Economic Vitality	Leverage the grant's water management projects to jumpstart a Hampton Roads regional business cluster, where innovation and entrepreneurship flourish, a place focused on seaport operations, and on new water management solutions for seacoast land use and livability.

Innovation

- Emphasis on innovative design and community involvement.
- **The Rockefeller Foundation** convened resilience workshops around the country and continue to provide technical assistance.
- Opportunity to address broad range of activities:
  - Acquisition
  - Relocation
  - Elevation
  - Infrastructure hardening
  - Pilot projects
    - Water management systems
    - Community communication systems
  - Research and Development
  - Economic Development / Business Accelerator
- "Pitch" project to other Federal agencies and philanthropic groups.
- Replicate.

Timeline

- Submitted a pre-qualification letter on November 3. Favorable with deficiencies in data.
- **Phase 1** – Planning effort framing the unmet recovery needs, community vulnerabilities and community development objectives.
- **March 10, 2015.** Public Hearing.
- **March 27, 2015.** Proposal due.
- **Highest scoring** in Phase 1 invited to **compete in Phase 2.** HUD announcement for Phase 2 approximately 60 days after receipt.
- **Phase 2**, Implementation of disaster recover or revitalization program or projects addressing issues identified in Phase 1; 120 days from notice to submit. Likely due in Fall 2015.
- All funds must be under contract with HUD by 9/30/2017. Two years to fully expend.

Challenges

- Availability of data for tie-back component.
- Will operate under Community Development Block Grant framework
  - Federal requirements for labor standards, procurement, fair housing, environmental review.
  - At least 51 percent of the benefit must be for low- to moderate-income persons.
- Significant stakeholder engagement required within a short-time frame.
- Leveraging (financial commitments) is critical.
- Coordination among numerous localities, state and federal agencies, and local organizations.
- Incentive for communities and private sector entities to participate.
- Effectively need shovel-ready projects.

Post Submission

- Continue to qualify communities - Data
  - Damage assessments and reports
  - Document repairs not made to a “resilient” standard
  - Housing, infrastructure, environment
- Meet with localities
  - Collect and assess data
  - Map and determine potential to qualify
- Identify and engage partners (Universities and Colleges later today)
- Project identification and development

More Information

Chris Thompson
Chris.Thompson@dhcd.virginia.gov
804-371-7031