NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

RESILIENT VIRGINIA REVOLVING FUND

July 2026

Overview

This Notice of Funding Opportunity ("Notice") supersedes prior draft guidance and incorporates stakeholder feedback, and implementation procedures developed since the opening of the funding round.

In accordance with §10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (the "Department") and the Virginia Resources Authority (the "Authority") is providing this Notice for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund (Fund) to provide guidance regarding the policies, criteria, conditions, and procedures for determining project eligibility and awarding grants from the Fund in a grant round with the exclusive purpose of providing funds for the resilient rebuilding of communities that have been impacted by Disaster Events, as those are defined below. . The Department anticipates that it will provide additional and/or revised guidance at the opening of subsequent funding rounds.

The Fund was established in 2022 by the General Assembly of Virginia: §§62.1-199 and 62.1-203 of the Code of Virginia were amended and reenacted and Chapter 6 of Title §§10.1-603.28 through 10.1-603.40 of the Code of Virginia was amended.

Per the Code of Virginia, the Fund is authorized to provide grants and loans to local governments for the following flood resilience activities:

(i) home upgrades for resilience purposes, home buyouts and demolition necessary for the construction of mitigation or resilience projects, relocations, and buyout assistance for homes, all including multifamily units;

(ii) gap funding related to buyouts in order to move residents out of floodplain hazard areas and restore or enhance the natural flood mitigation capacity of functioning floodplains;

(iii) assistance to low-income and moderate-income homeowners to help lower flood risk through structural and nonstructural mitigation projects, or other means;

(iv) hazard mitigation and infrastructure improvement projects for resilience purposes;

(v) projects identified in the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan or the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan; and

(vi) to a local government that has developed a funding program to provide low-interest loans or grants to any persons of the Commonwealth eligible for projects for resilience purposes.

Definitions

"Activity" means one stage of a project, plan, or study. Each activity consists of one or more actions that, upon completion, will lead to the next project stage. Taken together as a series, the activities will result in the final deliverable. Each activity has a defined start and end, as well as a deadline or period in which it must be completed.

"Code" means the Code of Virginia.

"Cost," as applied to any activity financed under the provisions of this article, means the total of all costs incurred by the local government in carrying out all works and undertakings necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of any proposed activity.

"Critical facilities (and critical infrastructure)" means assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or cyber, which are so vital to the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or its local jurisdictions that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on physical security, economic vitality, public health or safety, or any combination of thereof at a national, state, or local level.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"**Disaster Event**" means one or both of the following:

i. Tropical Storm Helene, a disaster occurring on or after September 25, 2024, but before October 3, 2024, and subject to a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4831-DR) on October 1, 2024, and

The storms occurring during the State of Emergency declared on February 10, 2025, including, without limitation, the heavy rains occurring on or around February 15 and 16, 2025.

"Eligible applicants" for this funding round include local governments, Planning District Commissions (PDCs), and Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs) serving one or more eligible localities identified in this Notice. Other local governments must apply through a designated PDC or IDA, as applicable.

"Fund" means the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund created pursuant to §10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia**.**

"Local government" means any county, city, town, municipal corporation, authority, district, commission, or political subdivision created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia or laws of the Commonwealth.

"Locality" means the area under the jurisdiction of a local government.

"National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)" means the program as established by the United States Congress through the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended.

"Project" means any activity or group of activities with a common goal to reduce coastal, riverine or inland flooding. Design and specification development is considered a project.

"Pre-Award Costs" means costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowed if incurred after the date of the award and only with the written approval of the Department. If charged to the award, these costs must be identified in the budget narrative.

"Resilient Purpose" means an activity conducted with the specific goal of improving the ability to withstand, recover, or adapt to a flood event.

Eligible Project Locations

Pursuant to §10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia, the Department is required to give "additional weight to those projects that are located in a locality designated as having a very low community resilience rating under a standard adopted by the Department." For the purposes of this funding round, the Department considers any locality that lies within the boundaries identified in the respective declarations for one or both Disaster Events, as defined in this Notice, to be a locality with very low community resilience. A list of these eligible localities is available at https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/rvrf.

Only eligible applicants may apply for and receive awards directly from the Fund.

Funding

Pursuant to §§10.1-603.28 through 10.1-603.40 and §§62.1-199 and 62.1-203 of the Code of Virginia, the Department has allocated $30,000,000 under this Notice to provide grant funding for the resilient rebuilding of privately owned property.

Final awards are subject to availability of funds, demonstrated demand, and approval by the Department and the Authority, as applicable.

Technical Assistance

Eligible applicants who have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department are eligible for up to $150,000 in technical assistance funding to support the implementation of flood resilience projects.

FLOOD RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY FUNDING CATEGORIES

General Provisions Applicable to all Categories

Available Funds: $30,000,000

The funds awarded in this round are authorized pursuant to §10.1-603.29 and §10.1-603.30 of the Code and shall be limited to projects that serve a "Resilient Purpose," as defined in §10.1-603.28.

Eligible activities include the following:

A. Floodproofing, elevation, slope stabilization, or mitigation reconstruction of location-dependent access structures within the floodplains—including bridges, culverts, retaining walls, and other water control structures—**in a manner that increases flood resilience.**

B. Buyouts and demolition of structures in order to move residents out of floodplain and flood hazard areas and to restore or enhance the natural flood mitigation capacity of functioning floodplains;

Relocation assistance for occupants following the buyout or destruction of primary residences, including multifamily units;

Costs related to projects that provide flood hazard mitigation benefits or lower flood risk to buildings, including costs related to home or business upgrades for flood resilience purposes, mitigation reconstruction, accessory structure resilience measures, increased costs of compliance with regulatory requirements, or increased costs associated with the reconstruction of damaged structures in a more flood resilient manner;

Funds may be used in conjunction with federal funding opportunities and Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) benefits available through National Flood Insurance Program policies, provided no duplication of benefits occurs.

Eligible acquisition costs may include title searches, title clearance activities, legal services necessary to establish marketable title, recording fees, appraisals, surveys, and closing costs.

C. Targeted flood resilience actions including post-flood debris removal, disposal, and management measures; and

Other projects and activities consistent with the statutory scope of the Fund.

Limitations

Funds provided should not supplant federal funds and shall not result in duplication of benefits. All awards are subject to availability of funds and final approval by the Department and the Authority.

Memorandum of Agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department, the Authority, and other parties as may be appropriate. This MOA will include the amount of funding to be provided, the anticipated funded activities, the duration of the period of performance, and other relevant agreements, requirements, and restrictions.

The Department and the Authority reserve the right to provide funding at a level less than requested by the applicant, or to refuse to fund an applicant's request.

The Department reserves the right to release additional funding for any of the subcategories in this Notice based on need and demand.

Application Period and Distribution of Funds

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and must be submitted no later than December 1, 2026. New applications will not be accepted after this date. The Department reserves the right to request and accept supplemental information after the application deadline when necessary to evaluate, administer, or finalize funding decisions for applications submitted on time.

The Department will evaluate applications through the ***survey of needs form***, and in a manner prescribed by statute and other relevant criteria. In evaluating eligible projects, the Department will consider the applicable provisions of the Code of Virginia § 10.1-603.25, regarding the location of projects in low-income geographic areas and the incorporation of nature-based solutions, as required by law.

Funds will be provided to applicants on a **reimbursement** basis according to a schedule established by the Department.

Pre-Award Costs

The Department may authorize reimbursement of eligible project costs incurred up to ninety (90) calendar days prior to execution of a funding agreement when such costs are necessary for the efficient and timely implementation of the approved project and would otherwise be allowable under the funding agreement. Eligible pre-award costs may include engineering, surveying, environmental review, permitting, procurement, project management startup activities, and other activities necessary to advance the approved project. All pre-award expenditures are incurred at the applicant's risk and shall not create an obligation on the part of the Department to provide reimbursement unless and until a funding agreement is fully executed and the costs are determined to be eligible. Costs associated with grant application preparation, speculative project development, future project phases, or activities unrelated to the approved scope of work are not eligible for reimbursement.

Distribution of Funds

All disbursements shall be made through the Authority. Recipients must provide contracts, invoices, proof of payment, and other documentation as required by the Department or the Authority prior to drawdown.

Design Standards

Design and construction must be permitted by the local government and designed to maintain structural integrity during a 500-year flood, *where feasible*. In the event a 500-year flood design cannot be attained, then the applicant must implement increased flood resilience measures (see Appendix B). For purposes of this Notice, "feasible" means technically achievable after consideration of site constraints, public safety requirements, applicable regulatory requirements, and reasonable cost considerations.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize the most current edition of ASCE 24-24 Flood Resistant Design and Construction standards when designing resilience improvements.

Any applicant claiming the 500-year standard is not feasible must submit:

- A signed certification from a Professional Engineer or Certified Floodplain Manager;
- Supporting engineering analysis;
- Proposed alternative resilience measures; and
- Documentation demonstrating why the standard cannot reasonably be achieved.

Category A. Bridges, Culverts, Slope Stabilization

Award Maximums

Unless otherwise approved by the Department:

- Bridge and culvert projects are capped at $175,000 per project;
- Slope stabilization projects are capped at $75,000 per project;

Access bridges, culverts and slope stabilization are critical components of a property's flood resilience. DCR has prioritized funds for the design and construction of resilient access bridges to minimize flood damage, ensure access, and facilitate efficient emergency response and long-term recovery.

The Department will provide funding for the reconstruction of privately owned bridges and culverts that serve as the only legal access to primary residential properties damaged or made unsafe by disaster events. Funding will also support slope stabilization related to these events. Bridges do not have to be damaged to qualify, but priority will be given to those destroyed or deemed unsafe due to the disaster.

Slope stabilization helps to protect properties from erosion and damage during flood events. The Department supports funding for slope stabilization projects designed to maintain structural integrity and minimize flood impacts.

Eligible Expenses:

- Engineering assessments for bridges, culverts, slope stabilization, and retaining walls
- Design and construction of bridges, culverts, slope stabilization, and retaining walls
- Reinforcement materials (geotextiles, riprap, flood-resistant infrastructure)
- Labor costs for bridges, culverts, slope stabilization, and retaining walls
- Permits

Category B. Residential and Commercial Building Mitigation

Award Maximums

Unless otherwise approved by the Department:

- Buyout awards shall be determined based on fair market value and eligible costs, subject to funding availability and program guidelines.

Mitigation reconstruction and strategic property acquisition are foundational components of long-term flood resilience. Following a disaster event, communities are faced with a critical decision: whether to rebuild as before, or to rebuild stronger and safer. The Department has prioritized funding under this Category to ensure that damaged structures are either permanently removed from harm's way or reconstructed in a manner that materially reduces future flood risk.

This Category supports both voluntary buyouts and mitigation reconstruction of eligible structures, with an emphasis on reducing repetitive losses, protecting life and safety, and minimizing future disaster recovery expenditures.

Eligible Expenses:

- Demolition of substantially damaged residential structures;
- Construction or reconstruction of primary residences, including multifamily units, to meet or exceed current floodplain management and building code standards;
- Elevation of reconstructed structures above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), including incorporation of freeboard where feasible;
- Foundation modifications necessary to support compliant elevation;
- Use of flood-resistant materials below the design flood elevation;
- Elevation or relocation of utilities, including HVAC systems, electrical panels, and fuel tanks;
- Increased costs of compliance required by local floodplain ordinances or the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code;
- Site work necessary to ensure long-term structural stability and flood resilience.

- Voluntary acquisition of primary residential structures located within Special Flood Hazard Areas or other high-risk flood areas; and administrative costs necessary to complete acquisition.

All acquisitions must be voluntary. No property shall be acquired through the use of eminent domain under this Category.

Properties acquired using Fund resources must be deed-restricted in perpetuity to ensure compatibility with open space or other flood-compatible uses consistent with applicable floodplain management regulations.

For both mitigation reconstruction and voluntary acquisition projects, reasonable relocation assistance may be provided to displaced occupants of primary residences, including moving expenses and temporary housing support, where consistent with applicable state and federal law.

Category C. Targeted Flood Resilience Actions

Award Maximums

Unless otherwise approved by the Department:

- Targeted flood resilience action awards are subject to funding availability and program guidelines.

Category C supports targeted structural and nonstructural mitigation measures that reduce flood risk and are not explicitly outlined in categories A and B.

These activities are intended to strengthen structures that remain viable and safely located, and to reduce future disaster damage through cost-effective improvements.

Eligible Expenses:

- Debris removal, disposal, and management measures;
- Accessory structure resilience improvements;
- Drainage improvements or site modifications that reduce localized flood risk;
- Stabilization measures not otherwise covered under Category A;

All projects must comply with applicable building codes and local floodplain ordinances and must demonstrate measurable flood risk reduction.

***General Application Inquiries*:** For any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Floodplain Management at: (804) 371-6095 or via email at cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov