

STRENGTHENING COASTAL COUNTIES RESILIENCE:

TEAM CHALLENGE APPLICATION



INTRODUCTION

As public funding is increasingly strained, counties must search for new ways to improve their communities and local economies. The Strengthening Coastal Counties Resilience Challenge **invites coastal counties from the Gulf of Mexico region with populations of less than 250,000 – and the communities within and surrounding them – to form multidisciplinary teams to apply** to receive technical assistance. The technical assistance program will help communities identify ways to strengthen existing and implement new local plans and policies to increase resilience to extreme weather and climate-related hazards across the region.

Teams that submit winning applications will receive financial support to **attend an in-person, 2 ½-day training and peer exchange workshop from October 15 – 17, 2018** in Baldwin County/Fairhope, Alabama. Guided by expert facilitators and practitioners, the training workshop will be designed to guide teams to develop plans to protect and strengthen both their natural habitats and economies. It will include panel discussions, skill-building sessions, small group exercises and team presentations.

Teams will improve their knowledge and understanding of the tools necessary to **develop policies and plans to improve their coastal counties and communities**, while at the same time creating strong regional partnerships that allow teams to better leverage available resources. Teams will leave the workshop with an implementable action plan, as well as an improved understanding of the types of resources available to help to plan for, prepare for, recover from and adapt to natural hazards.

In addition, each team will continue to receive **technical assistance and mentoring support** following the first training workshop. The post-workshop technical assistance will include a follow-up team clinic in October 2019 where teams will present on their progress, identify opportunities for further collaboration with the cohort, and receive additional trainings by experts in the field.

This program was developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) in partnership with the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) and with the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under Grant No. NA17NOS4730146.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Communities within coastal shoreline or coastal watershed counties with populations of less than 250,000 who have FEMA-approved and locally-adopted hazard mitigation plans and are looking to bolster their resilience and ability to respond to coastal hazards. Note: Communities must form teams to apply.

ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEAMS?

Teams must consist of at least one county elected official, one state or regional coastal manager and one local professional staff member with coastal management duties. Teams must have no less than four and no more than six members, and should have good cross-sector representation. A maximum of two representatives from a given organization are allowed to participate on a team.

DO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNTIES NEED TO BE A NACo MEMBER TO APPLY?

No, counties are not required to be a NACo member to apply.

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

No.

HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE EVALUATED?

Applications will be evaluated and weighted, using a scale of 0 to 10, based on:

- Cross-sector representation across the team members.
- Strength of the proposed partnership.
- Capacity of the team to follow through with their action plan and all workshop activities (I.E. are all relevant county and local agencies and officials on, or supportive of, the team?)
- Community need, including the extent of poverty, population, county employment, county expenditures, risk of flood exposure and past disaster declarations.

WHERE DO WE APPLY?

www.naco.org/coastalcounties

WHO WILL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS?

NACo, ASFPM and CSO staff will screen each application to ensure that basic eligibility criteria are met, and an external panel of national experts will evaluate team applications using the criteria listed above. The panel will assign a final score to each application and recommend for selection the most highly rated applications.

WHAT WILL TEAMS RECEIVE?

Teams will be invited to attend a training workshop on October 15-17, 2018. Following this workshop, each team will continue to receive technical support and mentoring as they implement their action plans. Teams will then be invited to participate in a follow-up workshop in Fall 2019. This is not a grant program; there is no financial award associated with participation.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

TEAM APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, June 15, 2018, 11:59 P.M. EST

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTED TEAMS:

Tuesday, August 10, 2018

WORKSHOP IN FAIRHOPE, BALDWIN COUNTY, AL:

October 15-17, 2018

FOLLOW-UP CLINIC IN MISSISSIPPI (*exact location TBD*):

October 2019

WILL SELECTED TEAMS HAVE TO PAY A REGISTRATION FEE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP?

No.

WILL THERE BE TRAVEL FUNDS FOR SELECTED TEAMS TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

Yes, NACo has secured funding to partially offset team travel costs for transportation and lodging.

WHAT COSTS SHOULD TEAMS ANTICIPATE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

Teams should expect to cover a portion of their transportation, lodging and meal costs.

WILL MEALS BE PROVIDED AT THE WORKSHOPS?

NACo will provide breakfast and lunch for each of the two full days of each workshop. Teams will be on their own for dinners.

WILL NACo, ASFPM OR CSO STAFF VISIT SELECTED COMMUNITIES TO HELP WITH PROJECTS ON THE GROUND?

No, NACo does not have the budget to allow for site visits.



HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION.

- a. Lead applicant name.
- b. County name (if lead applicant is not a county government).
- c. County population (based on latest census). Must be a coastal shoreline or watershed county with a population of less than 250,000.
- d. State.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

A statement of intent must be submitted answering the following questions:

- a. Why is your team interested in attending the workshop? List specific issues your team plans to address in the workshop. Articulate how participation in the workshop will benefit the community and what types of information or support the team hopes to gain from participating. (Note that in Question D of this section, you will be asked to discuss in more detail specific anticipated outcomes.) (1500 character limit)
- b. Describe your community's population, diversity, economy, risk of natural hazards (e.g. flood or hurricane, etc.), local challenges, etc. (1500 character limit)
- c. Does your region have existing resilience plans, policies or measures? If so, describe these efforts, your community's efforts to implement them, how members of your team have worked together on them and how participation in the workshop will build on them. (2500 character limit)
- d. Describe specific results or outcomes that you plan to achieve as a result of attending the workshop. For example, outcomes could include new approaches to implementing natural and nature-based infrastructure, improving the community's National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System class, local policy changes, funding sources and regional partnerships to pursue, specific projects to implement, or other activities. (2000 character limit)
- e. A critical goal of the Team Challenge is to ensure that communities are able to implement projects and ideas that arise in the workshops. Please describe existing institutional capacity and any potential programs or funding sources that the team may be able to leverage to implement projects post-workshop. (1000 character limit)
- f. Another key goal of the Team Challenge is to facilitate sharing of best practices and solutions among workshop participants and the field at large through an online suite of resources. What would your team like to gain from fellow workshop participants and what are three things your team would contribute to the suite of resources? (1000 character limit)

Teams must be coastal shoreline or coastal watershed counties in the Gulf of Mexico region with populations of less than 250,000.

MAIN POINT OF CONTACT.

The Point of Contact is the team member—from the lead applicant organization—responsible for engaging with the project team on pre- and post-workshop conference calls and assembling any additional information upon request.

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|------------------------|--|
| a. Name. | e. Phone number. |
| b. Professional Title. | f. Sector of employment (i.e. county government, regional organization, non-profit, academia, philanthropy, private sector, city, town, etc.). |
| c. Organization name. | g. Short biography highlighting their role in the partnership. |
| d. Email address. | |

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS.

Teams must consist of at least one county elected official, one state or regional coastal manager and one local professional staff member with coastal management duties. Teams must have no less than four and no more than six members, including the main point of contact. Strong applications will include staff or elected officials representing the county or local municipalities, community development organizations, area businesses and Chambers of Commerce, philanthropic organizations, hospitals, educational institutions, and/or other critical stakeholders in your community. A maximum of two representatives from a given organization are allowed to participate on a team.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| a. Name. | e. Phone number. |
| b. Professional Title. | f. Sector of employment (i.e. county government, regional organization, non-profit, academia, philanthropy, private sector, city, town, etc.). |
| c. Organization name. | g. Short biography highlighting their role in the partnership. |
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WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are a great way to show examples of plans, policies and projects you and your partners have completed in the past and/or are working on now.

- a. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Applicants must submit a pdf of the county's fema-approved and locally-adopted hazard mitigation plan (lhmp). If you do not upload your lhmp, your application will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed.
- b. Other Work Samples.** Applications have the option of submitting additional work samples, such as other local resilience-related plans or images or videos of the community.
- **Images:** Images should be submitted in a single PDF. A maximum of 20 images will be reviewed. Each file has a size limit of 5 MB.
 - **Videos:** Videos should be submitted in a PDF with a URL that links to the video. Please include any necessary information on required passwords, plug-ins or navigation paths. A maximum of two videos will be reviewed for a maximum of two minutes. If you would like a specific portion of a video reviewed, please indicate the appropriate time stamps.

LETTER OF COMMITMENT.

Applicant must demonstrate intent and capacity to conduct follow-up activities, including implementation of ideas generated at the workshop. Please attach a letter from the Main Point of Contact committing to the following:

- a. Main Point of Contact.** Please have the Main Point of Contact commit to participating in two pre-workshop conference calls with NACo, ASFPM or CSO staff, the October 2018 workshop, a post-event evaluation, six post-workshop conference calls, the October 2019 follow up clinic and assembling any additional information as requested ahead of the workshop and at the conclusion of the team's year-long mentoring.
- b. Other Team Members.** Please have all team members commit to participating in the October 2018 workshop, at least two of the six mandatory post-workshop conference calls and the October 2019 follow up clinic.

Note: We recomend that you create an Outlook calendar appointment for October 15-17, 2018, so that those dates are blocked out on all team members' calendars.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

APPLICATION FORM

Fill out and submit the Strengthening Coastal Counties Resilience Challenge Application Form online at www.naco.org/coastalcounties. When applying, do not forget to hit the "Submit" button, or else your application will not be received. *The application deadline is Friday, June 15, 2018, at 11:59pm EST.*

QUESTIONS?

If you are unable to apply online or have any questions, please contact Jenna Moran at 202-942-4224 or jmoran@naco.org

www.naco.org/coastalcounties



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