

The RAFT

Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool

PRESENTED BY:
Tanya Denckla Cobb, IEN at UVA

The RAFT & Supporting Resilient Communities

Virginia Flood Preparedness Coordination Meeting June 28, 2023



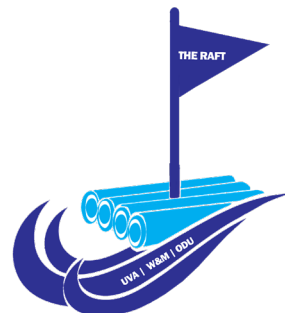
**INSTITUTE for
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION**
Shaping Our World Together



**INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL
ADAPTATION & RESILIENCESM**



**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**

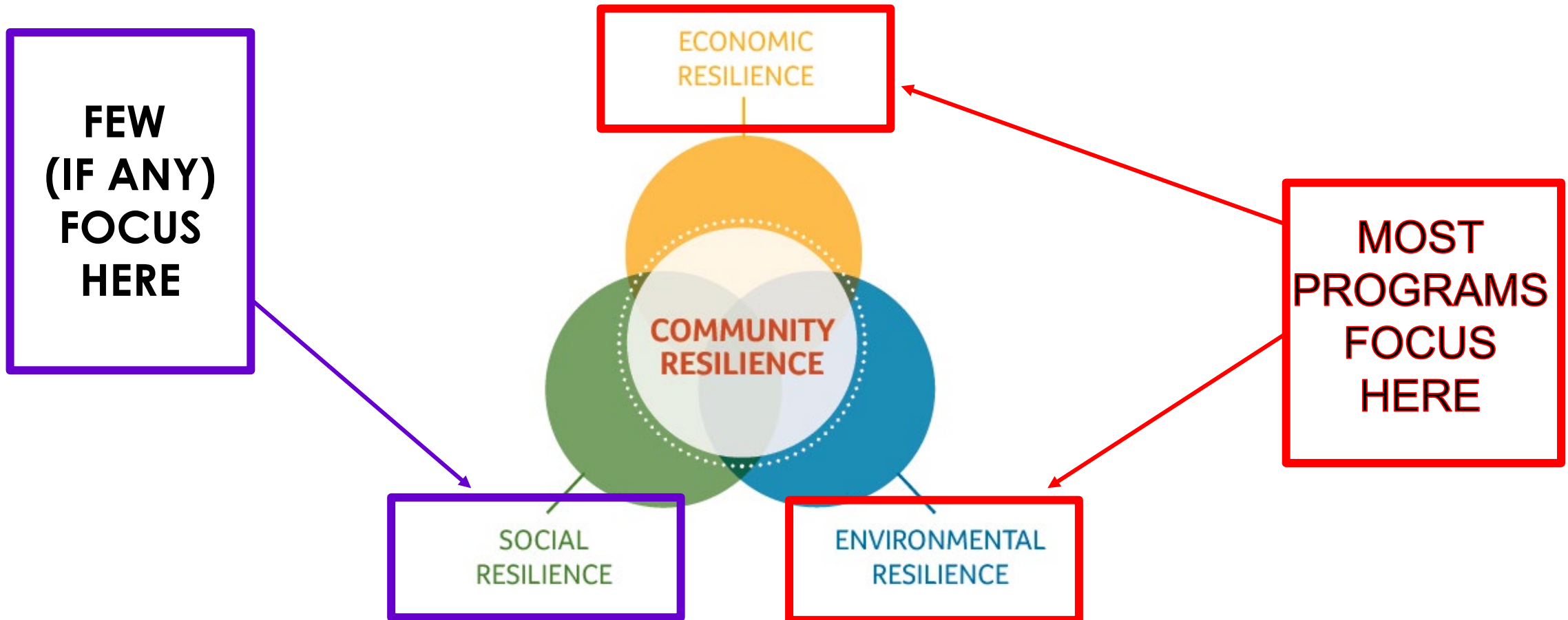


THE RAFT GOAL

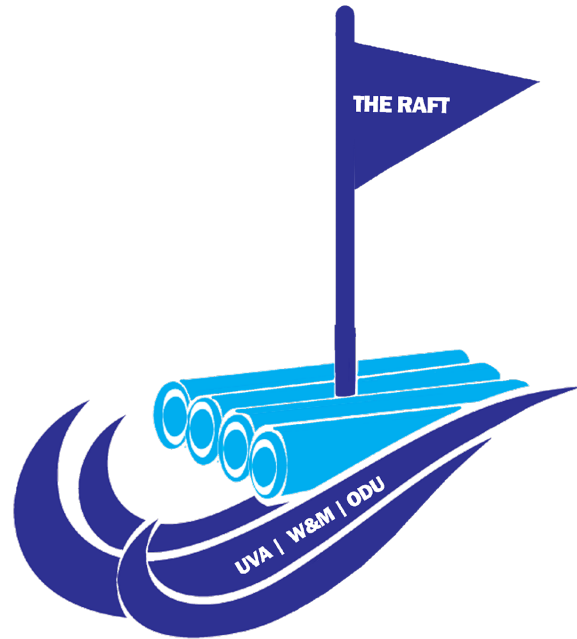
To help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while striving to thrive both economically and socially.



RESILIENCE: WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?



INCREASING RESILIENCE WITH “WHOLE COMMUNITY” APPROACH



- **The RAFT: Resilience Feasibility Adaptation Tool**
- **2015 – present**
- **Community in the driver’s seat**
- **Community-driven strategies**
- **Adapt support to each locality’s needs**
- **No cost to locality (funded by grants)**

THE RAFT PROCESS

3 Step Process

1. QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- RAFT Resilience Scorecard
- Interviews & Focus Groups with Community Service Providers

2. SETTING PRIORITIES

- Resilience Action Workshop
- 1-Yr Resilience Action Checklists
- Locality Implementation Teams

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- One Year Ongoing Support & Assistance



THE RAFT FUNDING

Jessie Ball duPont Fund

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Virginia Department of
Environmental Quality (DEQ) Coastal
Zone Management Program (CZM)

General staff funding:

- Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency
- Virginia Sea Grant

Virginia
Environmental
Endowment



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

JESSIE BALL
DU PONT
FUND

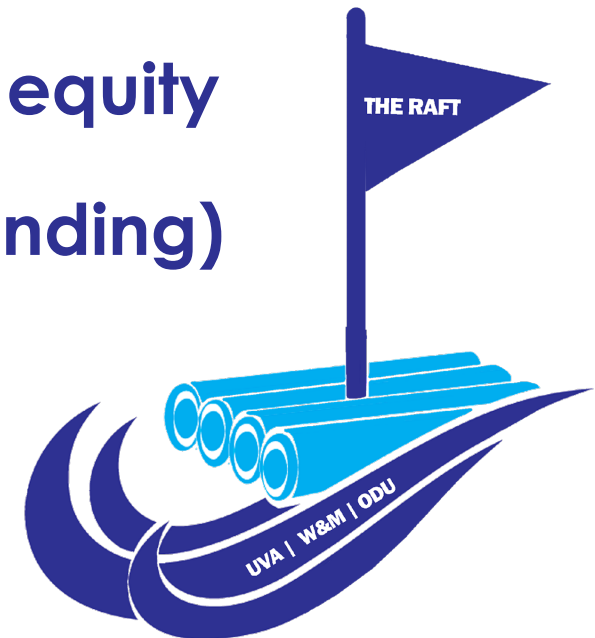
THE RAFT – PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

- ✓ 2015-16 Research, development of The RAFT
- ✓ 2017-18 3 Pilot Localities (Town, City, County)
- ✓ 2018-19 Eastern Shore of Virginia – 7 localities
- ✓ 2019-21 Northern Neck – 8 localities
- ✓ 2022 Middle Peninsula – 6 localities
- 2023-2024 Crater – Hopewell and Petersburg
- Beyond: GWRC, Inland Riverine Communities, Virginia Tribes



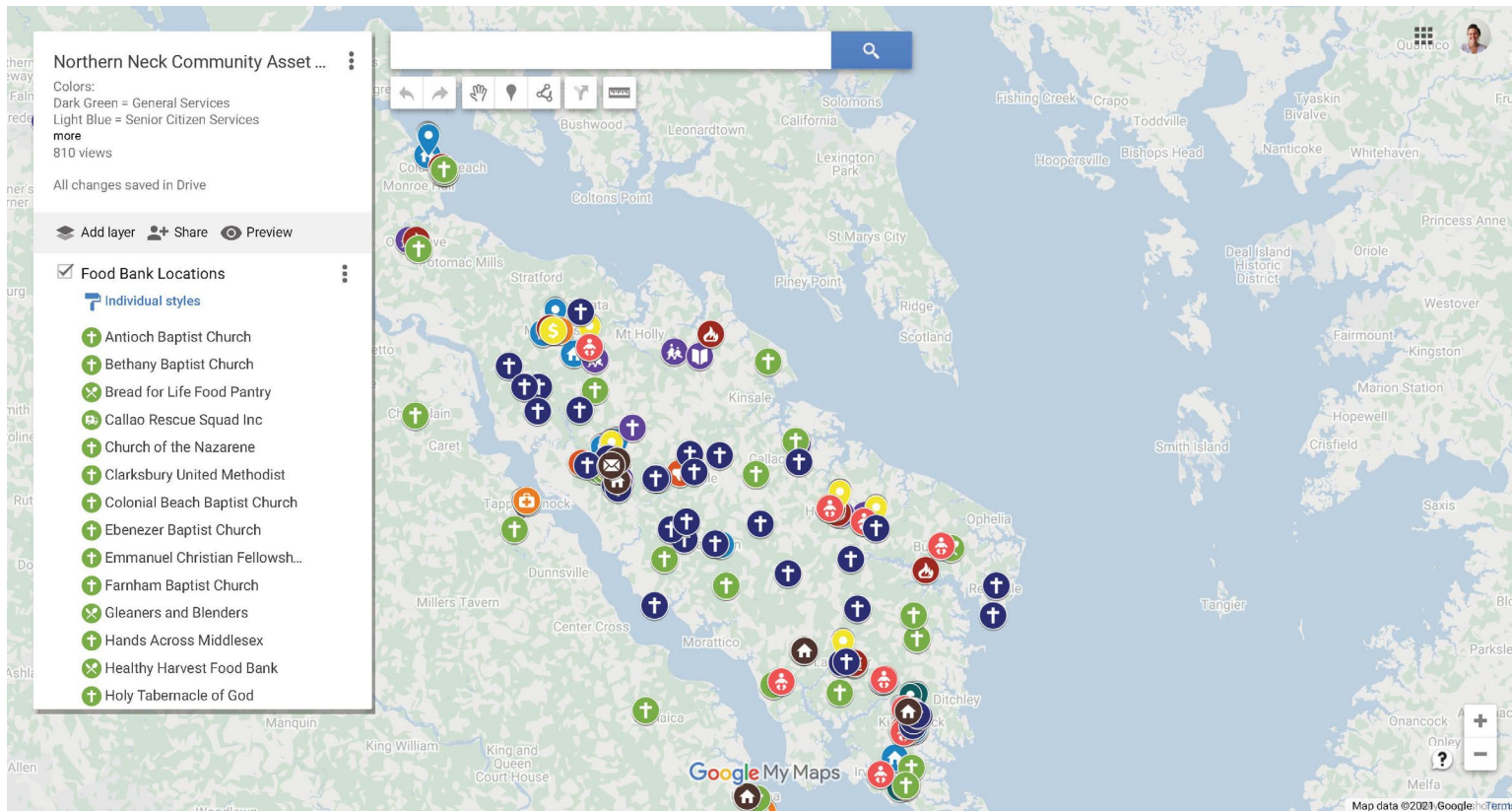
ADAPTATIONS FOR WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

- Including qualitative assessment with community listening sessions
- Greater participation and diversity at RAFT Workshop
- Resilience Action Checklists with items focused on equity
- RAFT mini and micro grant program (Foundation funding)
- Regional Resilience Equity Workgroup



NORTHERN NECK ASSET MAP AND ASSESSMENT OF COVID'S IMPACTS ON CRITICAL SERVICES

4 Focus groups & 18 interviews
68 individuals from 40+ organizations



The Impacts of COVID-19 on Service Delivery in the Northern Neck: Barriers, Lessons, & Opportunities for Increased Resilience

August 2021



LESSONS FROM THE RAFT: COVID HIGHLIGHTED RESILIENCE VULNERABILITIES

STUDY OF IMPACTS IN NNECK REVEALED:

- **Networking across community service organizations and sector silos is key for successful responses**
- **Climate resilience not on the radar for many service organizations**
- **Historical inequities exacerbate impacts**



ADAPTING THE RAFT: LISTENING SESSIONS & QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

GOAL: To understand how community leaders view challenges and opportunities for building resilience

- ✓ 2021-2022 Middle Peninsula
- ✓ 2022-2023 Crater: Hopewell & Petersburg

METHODS AND PROCESS:

- Participant identification and outreach
- Focus groups, interviews, and survey
- Summary findings report of challenges, strengths, assets
- Opportunity list to inform RAFT community workshop

**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE
MIDDLE PENINSULA: COMMUNITY
PERSPECTIVES ON CHALLENGES
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

May 2022

LESSONS FROM THE RAFT: RESILIENCE RELIES ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Emergency aid,
- Shelters + crisis centers
- Elderly service providers
- Transportation services
- Local government
- Emergency Managers
- Departments of Social Services
- State agencies (VDH, VDOF)
- Environmental organizations
- Libraries
- Community colleges
- Faith-based organizations
- Public and private schools
- Youth organizations (YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs)
- Food banks
- Tribal governments



LESSONS FROM THE RAFT: CONDITIONS THAT WORSEN VULNERABILITY

1. Experience of historic traumas → low trust of government messages
2. Income below federal poverty level
3. Limited English language skills
4. Mental illness and substance abuse disorders
5. Chronic illness
6. Disabilities
7. Homelessness
8. Temporary residency (migrant workers)
9. No health insurance
10. Limited mobility
11. Limited agency (e.g., elders) Lack of reliable internet or phone or reliable transportation
12. Limited use of modern amenities (e.g. Amish)
13. Connection to historic and cultural resources at risk (e.g. Tribal Nations)



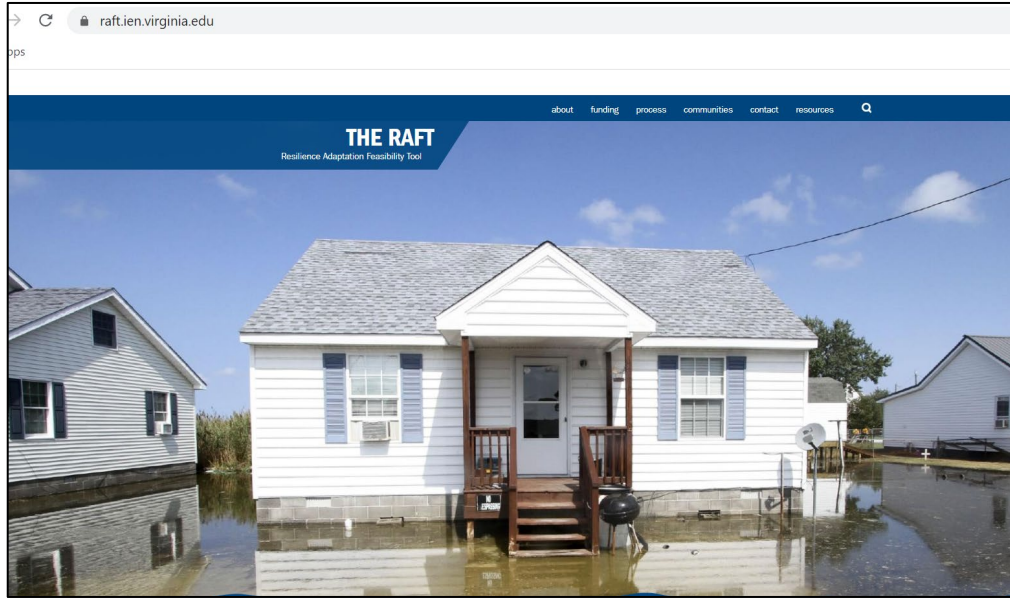
LESSONS FROM THE RAFT: WHOLE COMMUNITY ESSENTIAL FOR CLIMATE EQUITY

- Resilience should be a community-wide discussion, with decisions made with the fullest input and participation possible.
- It takes a concerted effort, time, and resources to build relationships, build trust, and obtain broad community input and participation.
- To foster and advance climate *equity*, core socio-economic needs are essential to address in climate adaptation.

QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS



VISIT THE RAFT WEBSITE: <https://raft.ien.virginia.edu/>



The RAFT is a collaborative, community-driven process and full-service tool developed to help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while remaining economically and socially viable.

The RAFT Communities

2017-2018 Pilot Project 2018-2019 Eastern Shore 2019-2020 Northern Neck

"After reading the RAFT Scorecard for our community, the Saxis team immediately knew where it could improve to prepare for Florence – getting a count of who was staying, who was evacuating, providing transport to shelters, creating a master communication list, etc.!"
-The Saxis Resilience Implementation Team

The RAFT Resilience Resources

The RAFT Resilience Research & Policy Products	The RAFT Resilience Communication Products
The RAFT Scorecard Assessments & Checklists	The RAFT Resilience Maps
State & National Resilience Resources	

THANK YOU!



INSTITUTE for
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together



INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL
ADAPTATION & RESILIENCESM



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

