

September 13, 2023

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for your interest in the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) and the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund (RVRF). Pursuant to the Department of Conservation and Recreation's ("the Department") commitment to transparency, both manuals were made available for public comment. The Department would like to thank everyone who submitted their comments on the manuals. Below please find a summary of changes incorporated into the final version of the manuals. Note that these do not include minor and technical corrections made between versions.

Questions may be directed to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Floodplain Management at: (804) 371-6095 or via email at [cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov).

#### Application Period

- RVRF: In acknowledgement of the fact that the RVRF is a new program, the Department will be providing a 90-day application period, compared to the 60 days previously stated. The CFPF application period remains 60 days.

#### Award Limits & Disbursal

- CFPF: Project grant award limits have been increased to \$7,500,000. Language has been added clarifying that these caps apply per applicant.
- CFPF: Language has been added clarifying that caps for project grants and long-term loans are not cumulative, and that an applicant may apply for, and receive up to \$7,500,000 in grants and \$7,500,000 in long term loans.
- CFPF: The limit for short-term loans has been increased to 20% of the grant award. The amount available for this category has been similarly increased to \$10,000,000.
- CFPF: All applicants may now request and receive 10% of awards to cover pre-award and start-up costs. Low-income localities may request and receive an additional 5% (15% total).

#### Definitions

- CFPF: The definition of "community scale" has been modified. Community Scale projects must now provide flood protection benefits to at least 25% of a census block.
- CFPF: The definition of "local government" has been amended to remove language not in the statutory definition contained in § 10.1-603.24. After legal review, the Department has determined that it does not have the authority to directly award CFPF funds to entities that are not contained in this statutory definition. Accordingly, tribes not otherwise encompassed within this definition are not eligible. The definition of "eligible applicants" has been similarly updated.

- CFPF & RVRF: The definition of Certified Floodplain Manager has been amended. Contractors are now allowed to fulfill this requirement.
- CFPF & RVRF: The undefined term “disadvantaged community” has been removed from the definition of “underserved community.”
- CFPF & RVRF: The definition of “recurrent and repetitive flooding” has been clarified with regards to record-keeping requirements.

#### Eligible Costs

- CFPF: A portion of awards may now be used for maintenance costs.
- CFPF: Language regarding projects on private property has been clarified.
- CFPF & RVRF: Certain pre-award costs are now eligible.

#### Local Flood Resilience Funding Program Capacity Building Grants

- RVRF: The Department has amended the requirements for the Establishment of Local Flood Resilience Funding Programs category. Localities are no longer required to establish the Local Program prior to making application, or being awarded, funds for Establishment of Local Flood Resilience Funding Programs; however, no funds will be paid until the program is established. This establishment must happen within 12 months of the date of the grant agreement.

#### Match Requirements

- CFPF: Match requirements for low-income geographic areas have been lowered.
- CFPF: The Department will consider match waivers up to \$1,000,000 for projects in low-income geographic areas.
- CFPF & RVRF: In-kind match will now be allowed, including supplementing existing staff salaries. Supplanting will remain unallowable.

#### Payback Requirements

- CFPF & RVRF: Language regarding payback requirements in the event of project failure has been amended to clarify that project failures due to conditions that exceed normal operating conditions may not trigger this requirement.

#### Review Committee

- CFPF & RVRP: Language regarding the Review Committee has been added to clarify that the Committee will contain individuals from outside of the Department.

### Scoring

- CFPF: Points will now be awarded for Community Scale projects on a sliding scale, based on the percentage of a census block that a project benefits.
- CFPF: Language has been added clarifying that Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) is only required for applications requesting \$2,000,000 and above in funding. In lieu of a BCA, an applicant may submit a narrative that details costs benefits and values.
- CFPF: Social Vulnerability Index scoring will now be based on census, rather than census tracts. SVI Index layer is now available at the block level on the Virginia Flood Risk Information System ([VFRIS](#)).