1. Introduction

The Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) is accepting proposals for the 2020 Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem (CCRE) competitive grants program. The overall focus for this grant competition is on coordination and collaboration among organizations that provide or deliver climate adaptation and resilience services and resources.

This RFP includes important background information for applicants, including CCRE program goals, thresholds for consideration, evaluation criteria, application instructions and a timeline for the competition. This program is made possible by the generous support of our partners - the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the NOAA Climate Program Office.

The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, July 17, 2020.

2. Background

The CCRE program provides grants to qualifying organizations seeking support for collaborative projects that improve, combine, align, or scale existing climate resources and services that support climate adaptation and resilience activities and outcomes. The CCRE aims to accelerate the pace, scale up the reach, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of climate adaptation / resilience
resources and actions across the United States. The program is geared to support initiatives that address recognized goals and gaps in the “Resilience Ecosystem*.”

*We define the Resilience Ecosystem as the open and inclusive community of public and private entities that are working to sustain and evolve science-based tools, information, and expertise that can help city planners, resource managers, businesses and others build resilience to climate-related impacts and extreme events.

CRF, the NOAA Climate Program Office, and the U.S. Global Change Research Program co-sponsored the second Resilience Ecosystem Workshop (REW2), which brought together over 130 professionals from across the U.S. and Europe during a 4-day online event in April and May 2020. The workshop was designed to continue and build upon the efforts of participants in the first Resilience Ecosystem Workshop held in January 2018.

Participants in both workshops were representative of a broader community of organizations and individuals currently engaged in helping the nation understand and prepare for current and forthcoming effects of a changing climate.

REW2 attendees were asked to work together to identify opportunities to collaborate on synergistic projects that build on existing resources in the broader Resilience Ecosystem. Project ideas generated by participants during the meeting may be developed into project proposals for this grant competition. This RFP effectively extends this opportunity to organizations and individuals who were not in attendance at the REW2 event to either partner on projects that were conceived there (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hnnhYamru9Ox6xSBPWmMTeYycqagrSkal), or to propose additional ideas that meet the project criteria (outlined below).

3. Thresholds for Consideration by the CCRE

Proposals submitted for this competition must meet the following requirements:

1. Project funds will be used to support collaborations between two or more organizations.
2. The proposed project melds or leverages existing climate adaptation and resilience services, resources, and/or tools. Proposals for the creation of new tools, resources, or programs will not be considered.
3. Funding request does not exceed grant size limit of $50,000. Overall project budget may be higher with committed or confirmed matching funds from other sources.

4. Grant Competition Guidelines

The CCRE grants program aims to accelerate the pace, increase the scale, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of climate adaptation / resilience resources and actions across the United States. Grants are limited in size and evaluation criteria specifically designed to incentivize recipients to work with existing resources to build new connections, mechanisms, or arrangements that expand the operational effectiveness, interoperability, accessibility, or otherwise scale or propagate existing tools, resources, or expertise.
CCRE will support projects that address the recognized goals and gaps in the Resilience Ecosystem which were compiled at the REW2 Workshop. Information about the Workshop—including the agenda, summary report, and participants’ project ideas/concepts—is available on the REW2 webpage. **Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review the REW2 Workshop Summary/Report** (available at [https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration](https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration)) - the Theory of Change and Focus Areas sections in particular - prior to preparing and submitting applications for consideration.

**Values Lenses:** In addition to the specific criteria outlined below, CRF and our partners will ask CCRE reviewers to consider all proposals through our shared values lenses. Specifically, this means that CCRE reviewers will give priority consideration to project proposals which:

1. Meaningfully incorporate or address social justice and equity issues, prioritize diverse and/or vulnerable communities, or engage community leaders meaningfully in co-production of resources, services, or priorities for action.
2. Advance or prioritize nature-based strategies and solutions to support community resilience.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak explicitly to one or both values, as appropriate.

**Project proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria outlined below:**

- **Focus & Scope:**
  - The applicant team demonstrates awareness of existing RE resources.
  - The proposed project addresses a need, gap, or opportunity identified by participants in the RE Workshop. Please refer to the REW2 Summary Report (available at [https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration](https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration)).
  - The proposed project substantially enhances/expands the utility and/or scope of one or more existing climate adaptation resources or services.
  - The proposed project has the potential to materially improve access to and opportunity for practitioners and decision-makers to find and use **existing** climate adaptation tools and resources.

- **Collaboration:**
  - Two or more separate entities (organization, individual, public agency, or business) and/or elements (data resources, web tools, science translators, training programs, etc.) of the RE will be involved in the proposed project.

- **Feasibility:**
  - The applicant team possesses relevant experience and expertise required to complete the project.
  - The applicant team makes a convincing case that the proposed project can be completed and delivered within the estimated scope of time and cost.

- **Deliverable:**
  - The proposed project will produce a defined deliverable that will benefit the broader RE, practitioner/user groups, and communities.
The proposed project outcome/deliverable will exist in the public domain, openly accessible to and for the benefit of all.

**Evaluation methods:** CRF employs an objective, data-driven evaluation process. Proposals are considered by a panel of expert reviewers who assess and score each proposal using the criteria listed above. Scores are aggregated and proposals ranked accordingly. The review panel then meets to apply Value Lenses and ultimately determine final recommendations for funding. Final selections are drawn from these recommendations based on overall fit with the program’s objectives and its priorities for advancing and evolving the Resilience Ecosystem.

5. **Grant Size and Matching Requirements**

CRF will award approximately six grants of up to $50,000 each to support partnerships/collaborations that meet the criteria outlined herein. There is no minimum requirement for match funding. However, match funding, including from in-kind sources, is encouraged and may strengthen a proposal.

6. **Eligibility**

This competition is open to U.S.-based charitable institutions and universities with IRS approved 501(c)(3) status. Applicants must be in good financial and regulatory standing. CRF is unable to make grants directly to U.S. federal government agencies, state government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations. Prospective applicants from the public sector or for-profit entities may serve as partners or sub-contractors on a proposal with a nonprofit organization that serves as the lead applicant, or via a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

7. **Competition Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Submission Deadline</td>
<td>July 17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation by CRF Staff and Advisors</td>
<td>July-August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announced</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Available</td>
<td>September-October 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Application Instructions**

Proposals are due July 17, 2020 at 5 pm PDT.

Proposal and Budget forms are available for download at [https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration](https://www.climateresiliencefund.org/coordination-collaboration)

Proposals must be submitted via email to info@climateresiliencefund.org. Please pay close attention to the instructions for submission on page 3 of the Proposal Form available at the link above. Note that applicants will be required to submit supporting documentation including project and
organizational budgets, citations, collaborator bios, 501(c)(3) status, and audited financial statements or IRS 990 forms.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the duration of funding for projects? Up to 12 months, beginning in September 2020.

What is the range of funding that can be requested? Up to $50,000.

Are matching funds required? No, but a match is encouraged and may strengthen an application.

What types of organizations are eligible to apply? CRF is able to accept applications from U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and universities. Prospective applicants from the public sector or for-profit entities may serve as partners or sub-contractors on a proposal with a nonprofit organization that serves as the lead applicant, or via a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Can overhead or indirect costs be included in a grant request? Yes, but at a maximum rate of 10% as long as the total grant request does not exceed $50,000. If your organization has a federally negotiated rate for indirect costs or other special circumstances, you may include it in the budget along with written justification.

Will projects that are site-specific or geographically limited in scope be considered? While the RFP does not exclude projects with limited geographic focus, the project’s potential impact on or utility to the broader Resilience Ecosystem is a key element on which proposals are evaluated. The result is that such projects are unlikely to be competitive unless there is a clear mechanism which can be used to scale or propagate the resource or service that is produced to a wide swath of potential users across the Resilience Ecosystem.

Will concepts that fall outside the funding priorities be considered? No, proposals are restricted to those priorities outlined in this RFP. CRF is not currently accepting proposals outside of this solicitation.

How does the grant proposal process work? CRF utilizes an open call for proposals followed by an evaluation period, and finally an announcement of awards.

When will the final grants be awarded? Final decisions will be made in August 2020, with funding disbursements anticipated in September or October 2020.

Who will evaluate the proposals and make decisions on the grant awards? All proposals will be evaluated by CRF staff, volunteer Advisory Board members, and a group of external advisors.

What should I expect if I receive a grant? We anticipate issuing grant agreements and funding in September 2020. Grants will be provided for a 12-month term ending in September 2021. The agreement will specify all requirements and responsibilities of both grantee and grantor. Reporting requirements will entail a 6-month check in and a final report at the end of the grant period.
What is the origin of the word cloud graphic on the first page of the RFP? This word cloud was produced by participants in a town hall session at the 2017 National Adaptation Forum, in response to the question: “What words would you use to describe an ideal climate adaptation/resilience community of practice?”

Please address inquiries to the CRF Info line: info@climateresiliencefund.org.

About the Climate Resilience Fund

CRF is a philanthropic collaborative working to advance a positive vision of a climate resilient society and to mobilize the resources for achieving it. We are committed to supporting the development and implementation of knowledge and resources to help steer society in a new direction – one where healthy communities, ecosystems, and sustainable economies coexist and thrive in the context of a changing climate.

CRF operates with a small leadership team with long experience working at the intersection of climate change, conservation, urban sustainability, and with the federal government agencies tasked with addressing the climate crisis. CRF is guided by an advisory board comprised of partner and investor representatives and experts in the fields of climate adaptation, resilience, and philanthropy. CRF is housed at Multiplier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) that provides back-office administrative, financial management, and legal support for operations.

www.climateresiliencefund.org