

Chapter 7

Funding & Financing Mechanisms Inventory



Schoolhouse Road reservoir causeway crossing, near the Upper Kickemuit River Dam © RIDOT

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive inventory of funding and financing mechanisms that can support the implementation of *Resilient Rhody 2025*. Each mechanism has been mapped to specific actions and the ten solutions outlined in the Plan to guide decision-making and resource allocation.

While this inventory was developed to support this Plan, it is intended to serve as a broader repository of funding mechanisms for Rhode Island stakeholders, as well as others interested in adaptation and resilience funding strategies.

This inventory represents a point-in-time assessment of funding sources identified in the summer of 2025. It is intended as a reference tool and does not guarantee the availability, continuation, or applicability of these sources. Users should verify the current status and eligibility requirements of all funding sources before pursuing them.

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List of Funding Sources

Below provides a list of funding sources referenced included in the Funding and Financing Mechanism Inventory. These programs span federal, state, and non-traditional sources, offering a range of grants, loans, and financing mechanisms to support climate resilience, infrastructure upgrades, environmental protection, and community development in Rhode Island. However, due to ongoing changes in federal and state funding programs, this list may not capture all opportunities.

Federal, State, and Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- SOAR Fund (Opportunity to Advance Resilience)
- National Estuary Program (Narragansett Bay Estuary)
- Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG)
- Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)
- Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- Brownfields Program
- Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse (OSG)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA)
- National Dam Safety Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program/Grants
- National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)
- Rhode Island Sea Grant Program
- Environmental Literacy Program

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program
- Forest Service Forest Legacy Program
- Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grants
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Incentives
- Rural Development Energy Programs (REAP)
- Rural Development Technical Assistance & Training Programs
- Rural Development Water Programs
- Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

US Department of Defense (DOD)

- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)
- Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Programs
- Installation Readiness Program

US Department of Transportation (DOT)

- PROTECT Grant Program
- Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)
- Transportation Alternatives Set Asides
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program
- Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)

United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- Continuing Authorities Program

Other Federal Funding

- US DHHS Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HUD PRO Housing Grant Program
- HUD Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program
- US DOE State Energy Program (SEP)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grants
- CDC Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative (CRSCI)
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)
- Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program
- National Science Foundation EPSCoR (NSF)

List of Funding Sources – Continued

Below provides a list of funding sources referenced included in the Funding and Financing Mechanism Inventory. These programs span federal, state, and non-traditional sources, offering a range of grants, loans, and financing mechanisms to support climate resilience, infrastructure upgrades, environmental protection, and community development in Rhode Island. However, due to ongoing changes in federal and state funding programs, this list may not capture all opportunities.

Federal, State, and Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank Programs (RIIB)

- Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund (RRIF)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- DWSRF Set Asides (Multiple)
- Municipal Resilience Program (MRP)
- Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program (MIGP)
- Efficient Building Fund (EBF)
- Municipal Road & Bridge Revolving Loan Fund (MRBRF)
- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)
- Community Project Assistance Fund (CPAF)
- Stormwater Project Accelerator (SPA)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

- Rhode Island Climate Resilience Fund (CRF)
- Ocean State Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Fund
- State Land Conservation Program
- Local Open Spaces Grants
- Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund (WWTFRF)

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER)

- Clean Energy Programs & Power System Transformation Coordination
- Energy Resilience & Emergency Planning
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Renewable Energy Fund (REF) & Resilient Microgrids for Critical Services Program

Other Rhode Island-Based Funding Sources

- Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program & Trust Fund (RI CRMC)
- RI Green Economy and Clean Water Bonds
- RI Department of Administration RIDSP Resilience Technical Assistance Program
- RI Department of Commerce RI Rebounds Energy Efficiency Grant Program
- RI Department of Commerce Site Readiness Grant Program
- RI Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Program

Non-Traditional Funding Sources

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Special Assessment Districts
- Developer Impact Fees / Resilience Exactions
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- Catastrophe / Resilience Bonds
- Blue Bonds
- Environmental Impact Bonds
- Dedicated Utility Fees
- Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3)
- Parametric Insurance
- Insurance Premium Discounts
- Philanthropic Funding
- The Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI)
- Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (Environmental Justice for New England)

Description

This page serves as a quick-reference guide to help users navigate the funding source profiles on the following pages. It explains the consistent layout used for each profile, from the funding source header and detailed program descriptions to the icons, side panel information, and key points. By breaking down what each section means, including program, administration, funding scale, relevant hazards, asset categories, and eligible applicants, it ensures readers can quickly interpret the information and match it to their resilience priorities.

Programs – List of programs under the agency that offers resilience funding

Program Title – This section lists the specific grant, loan, or financing program under the funding agency or source.

For each program, you'll see:

- **Administration:** Who manages the program locally or nationally.
- **Scale:** Source and type of funds (federal, state, or private), allocation method, match requirements, and typical funding range for projects.
- **Program Description:** What the program funds and key eligibility criteria.
- **Funding Notes:** Insights on recent awards, timelines for funding source availability, and special considerations.

Side Panel Icons & Information

The side panel is designed to give readers a quick, at-a-glance understanding of key information for each funding source. It contains five critical components: Relevant Hazards, Relevant Categories, Asset Types, and Who can Access Funds.

- **Relevant Hazards:** Uses icons to show the types of risks a funding source addresses, helping users quickly identify programs that align with their community's specific vulnerabilities.
- **Relevant Categories:** Connects each funding source to broader resilience action areas identified throughout the Report, guiding users toward the most applicable strategic goals.
- **Asset Types:** Using the asset types identified in the report, this section outlines the infrastructure, resources, or community elements that could benefit from funding, ensuring decision-makers can see where their needs fit.
- **Who can Access Funds:** Lists the eligible applicants, saving time and helping readers focus only on programs they can pursue.

Together, these sections offer a powerful navigation and filtering tool for identifying the most relevant funding opportunities.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Drinking Water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Regional authorities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based groups representing disadvantaged communities
- Publicly-owned utilities

Legend

Hazard Icons

- Coastal Flooding
- Stormwater Flooding
- Riverine Flooding
- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Wind

Category Icons

- Critical Infrastructure and Facilities
- Community & Emergency Preparedness Structures
- Natural Systems

Federal Funding Mechanisms

Funding Source

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Description

A key set of federal funding programs that support Rhode Island's climate resilience, water quality, habitat restoration, and coastal adaptation priorities. These programs provide grants, technical assistance, and financing to municipalities, state agencies, tribal entities, utilities, and nonprofit partners working to strengthen natural systems and reduce climate-related risks. In Rhode Island, these resources help advance watershed restoration, infrastructure upgrades, stormwater management, and community resilience across both inland and coastal areas.

Programs

Southeast New England Program Opportunity to Advance Resilience (SOAR Fund)

Administered by EPA Region 1 and Southeast New England Program (SNEP)

Scale: Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA); Range: \$50K - \$300K

SOAR is a streamlined, competitive grant initiative designed to enhance climate resilience in disadvantaged communities across southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Funding Notes: The SOAR Fund has allocated approximately \$2.3 million to nine projects in eight disadvantaged communities, supporting initiatives such as urban flooding modeling, workforce training in stormwater management, and living shoreline planning. Funding is available through 2027 with expected recompetes to follow.

National Estuary Program (NEP) / Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP)

Administered by EPA; NBEP hosted by Roger Williams University in partnership with regional stakeholders

Scale: Federal funds through cooperative agreements with regional estuary programs; Range: \$25K - \$75K

The National Estuary Program (NEP) is a non-regulatory, place-based program established under the Clean Water Act to protect and restore estuaries of national significance. EPA provides annual funding and oversight to 28 locally led estuary programs across the country, each responsible for developing and implementing a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) tailored to its watershed.

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) is the NEP program serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. NBEP leads watershed-scale research, monitoring, and collaborative planning to implement the CCMP for the Narragansett Bay region. Through targeted grants, technical assistance, and stakeholder coordination, NBEP supports projects that improve water quality, restore habitat, enhance climate resilience, and advance watershed-based planning.

Funding Notes: NEP funding flows from EPA to NBEP, which then provides subawards to regional partners for CCMP-aligned projects. Funding is permanently authorized under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act and appropriated annually by Congress.

Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG)

Administered by EPA HQ and Region 1

Scale: National; Range: \$50K - \$500K

The Wetland Program Development Grants support state, tribal, and local governments in developing and enhancing wetland protection and management programs. Eligible activities include wetland monitoring and assessment, restoration planning, regulatory program development, and integration of wetlands into broader water quality frameworks.

Funding Notes: Requires a 25% non-federal match. Annual competitive application process.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Drinking Water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- Forests
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Regional authorities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based groups representing disadvantaged communities
- Publicly-owned utilities

Funding Source

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Description

A key set of federal funding programs that support Rhode Island's climate resilience, water quality, habitat restoration, and coastal adaptation priorities. These programs provide grants, technical assistance, and financing to municipalities, state agencies, tribal entities, utilities, and nonprofit partners working to strengthen natural systems and reduce climate-related risks. In Rhode Island, these resources help advance watershed restoration, infrastructure upgrades, stormwater management, and community resilience across both inland and coastal areas.

Programs

EPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)

Co-Administered by EPA Region 1 and Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

Scale: Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts; Range: \$100K - \$500K

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grants support collaborative, watershed-based projects that improve water quality, ecosystem health, and community resilience across coastal Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. These grants are intended to move beyond planning and directly support on-the-ground implementation, including green infrastructure, stormwater management, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience practices.

Funding Notes: The funding terms are normally one to two years depending on the project complexity. This program is guaranteed through 2026, likely to continue beyond pending future budgets.

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program

Administered by EPA Region 1 and RIDEM

Scale: Statewide; Competitive grants; Range: \$50K - \$300K

The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program provides funding to address water quality issues caused by diffuse sources of pollution, such as stormwater runoff, agricultural practices, and septic systems. Funds support watershed-based planning and implementation projects that reduce pollutants, restore water quality, and protect aquatic ecosystems.

Funding Notes: Annual allocation to Rhode Island. Requires a 40% non-federal match.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Administered by EPA, Office of Water

Scale: National; Range: \$20M - \$500M+ (loans)

The WIFIA program provides long-term, low-cost federal loans for regionally and nationally significant water infrastructure projects, including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and resilience-focused investments. The program helps communities access flexible financing for large-scale infrastructure improvements.

Funding Notes: Project minimum size is \$20M (\$5M for small communities). Borrowers repay with highly favorable terms (up to 35 years). Rolling application cycles tied to annual Notices of Funding Availability.

Brownfields Program

Administered by EPA Region 1

Scale: National; Range: \$200K - \$1M+

The EPA Brownfields Program helps communities clean up and redevelop contaminated or underutilized properties, supporting economic revitalization and environmental health. Funding is available for site assessments, cleanup, revolving loan funds, and technical assistance to municipalities, nonprofits, and tribes.

Funding Notes: Typical assessment grants are up to \$500K; cleanup grants up to \$1M per site; coalition assessment grants up to \$1M. Requires a 20% cost share for cleanup (waivers available for hardship).

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Community Health and Resilience
- Drinking Water
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- Building Design & Construction
- All Critical Infrastructure

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Research institutions
- Community-based organizations (via partnerships with NEPs)

Funding Source

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Description

A key set of federal funding programs that support Rhode Island's climate resilience, water quality, habitat restoration, and coastal adaptation priorities. These programs provide grants, technical assistance, and financing to municipalities, state agencies, tribal entities, utilities, and nonprofit partners working to strengthen natural systems and reduce climate-related risks. In Rhode Island, these resources help advance watershed restoration, infrastructure upgrades, stormwater management, and community resilience across both inland and coastal areas.

Programs

Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse (OSG)

Administered by EPA and Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB)

Scale: Federal grant; Range: \$50K - \$300K

The Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG) program provides federal funding to support municipal projects that address combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater management challenges. Funds may be used for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure that reduces pollution, improves water quality, and enhances the resilience of local wastewater and stormwater systems. Eligible projects include green infrastructure, stormwater capture and reuse, system rehabilitation, and other measures that mitigate overflow events.

Funding Notes: Funding is allocated annually by Congress and distributed to states based on need. Municipalities typically access OSG dollars through their state's clean water funding programs. Match requirements and project eligibility vary by state and funding cycle.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Resources
- Coastal Wetlands
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Regional authorities
- Public-private partnerships

Funding Source

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Description

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides critical funding to support state and local resilience efforts through a variety of grant programs focused on hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, and climate adaptation. FEMA's funding emphasizes projects that reduce long-term risk, enhance community resilience, and align with state hazard mitigation plans. States can also leverage FEMA technical assistance, pre-disaster mitigation funding, and capacity-building resources to prioritize and implement climate-resilient infrastructure, planning, and land use strategies.

Programs

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Administered by FEMA

Scale: Federal formula grant, typically 50% federal, 50% state/local match.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program provides critical funding to build and sustain a robust all-hazards emergency management system. EMPG supports personnel, planning, training, and equipment that strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities. EMPG also enables state agencies to collaborate with local governments, tribal entities, and nonprofit partners to ensure coordinated disaster readiness and resilience.

Funding Notes: EMPG supported over \$355 million in emergency preparedness activities nationwide in FY2024, with funding in Rhode Island used to enhance local emergency operations coordination, invest in interoperable communication systems, and support community-based preparedness planning. This funding is permanent and stable.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program

Administered by FEMA

Scale: Federal competitive grant; 75%-100% federal cost share. Range: \$300K - \$50M

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program provides funding to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and infrastructure insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Eligible activities include property buyouts, elevation of flood-prone structures, drainage improvements, floodproofing, and the development of local flood mitigation plans. The program prioritizes cost-effective, permanent solutions for reducing future NFIP claims and enhancing long-term community resilience to flood hazards.

Funding Notes: In FY2023, FEMA awarded over \$800 million through the FMA program nationwide. Rhode Island communities have used FMA grants to support floodplain property acquisitions, elevate homes at risk of recurrent flooding, and update local hazard mitigation plans to align with evolving flood risk projections. This program is permanent and reoccurring, with BIL enhancement funding through FY2026.

National Dam Safety Program

Administered by FEMA

Scale: Federal-state partnership; annual grants to state dam safety programs. Range: \$100K - \$170K

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) provides technical and financial assistance to enhance the safety of dams across the United States. Through annual grants, FEMA supports state efforts to inspect, monitor, and rehabilitate dams, improve emergency action planning, and increase community awareness of dam-related risks. The program promotes a coordinated approach to dam safety by integrating federal, state, and local efforts and advancing research, training, and best practices. States use NDSP funds to strengthen regulatory programs, conduct risk assessments, and build the capacity of emergency responders and dam owners.

Funding Notes: In FY2023, FEMA distributed over \$8 million through NDSP grants. Rhode Island used funding to support dam safety inspections, conduct condition assessments of high-hazard dams, and update emergency action plans, contributing to stronger community preparedness and risk mitigation. This funding is reauthorized annually and is anticipated to be supported in future budgets.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Electric Grids
- Dams
- Building Design and Construction
- Emergency Services
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- Municipal governments
- Tribal governments
- Local emergency management agencies
- State emergency management agencies

Funding Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Description

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a key federal partner in advancing climate resilience, particularly for coastal and marine environments. States can leverage NOAA funding to invest in living shorelines, habitat restoration, climate adaptation planning, sea level rise modeling, and nature-based infrastructure.

Programs

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program/Grants

Administered by NOAA Office for Coastal Management in partnership with state coastal programs

Scale: Federal-state partnership; Range: \$150K - \$5M

The Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) provides financial and technical assistance to states and territories to protect, restore, and responsibly develop coastal communities and resources. Through a cooperative agreement with each coastal state, the program funds activities such as shoreline management, climate adaptation, habitat protection, and community resilience planning. Funding supports the implementation of each state's federally approved Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Funding Notes: This program is funded by annual base grants and BIL-expanded through FY 2026.

National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)

Co-Administered by the NOAA and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

Scale: Competitive federal grants; public-private partnership; Range: \$100K - \$10M

The National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) supports projects that strengthen coastal communities by restoring natural ecosystems and reducing flood and storm risks. Projects must deliver dual benefits—enhancing community resilience and improving ecological health—and demonstrate community engagement and scientific justification.

Funding Notes: This funding is long-term and recurring, providing annual awards. The request for proposals (RFP) is typically released in late winter and due in mid-spring.

Rhode Island Sea Grant Program

Administered by NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and the University of RI

Scale: Federally funded; cost share varies by program; competitive and capacity-based; Range: \$5K - \$300K

The Rhode Island Sea Grant (RISG) Program supports applied research, education, and outreach to address coastal and marine challenges facing the state. RISG also serves as a trusted convener of researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers, helping to translate science into actionable strategies. The RISG biennial research competition funds 2-year research projects that advance Sea Grant's priorities in resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and healthy coastal ecosystems. Program development funds support small research, workforce development, outreach, and/or extension activities that are responsive to the needs of individuals and groups affected by Rhode Island coastal and ocean issues.

Funding Notes: This program is expected to continue pending congressional appropriations.

Environmental Literacy Program

Administered by NOAA, Office for Education

Scale: Competitive federal grants; Range: \$250K - \$600K

The NOAA Environmental Literacy Program (ELP) provides funding to advance environmental and climate literacy through formal and informal education. Funded initiatives often focus on place-based learning, community-driven resilience planning, and K-12 curriculum development that empowers youth and residents to make informed environmental decisions.

Funding Notes: This funding has been active for 15+ years and is expected to continue based on congressional appropriations.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Coastal Wetlands
- Community Health and Resilience
- Emergency Services
- Wastewater
- Fuel Supply
- All Critical Infrastructure

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State coastal management agencies
- Municipal governments
- Academic institutions
- Regional planning agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments

Funding Source

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Description

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a vital funding source for advancing state and local climate resilience, particularly in rural and natural resource-dependent communities. Key programs such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Urban and Community Forestry Grants help states reduce environmental vulnerabilities, promote nature-based solutions, and strengthen community capacity to adapt to climate impacts. USDA's funding is often targeted toward underserved or economically disadvantaged areas, making it a cornerstone for equitable and sustainable resilience planning.

Programs

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Administered by USDA Forest Service

Scale: Competitive federal grants; Range: \$2K - \$10K

The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program provides funding to support the planning, planting, and management of trees and green space in developed areas. Projects promote equitable access to nature, reduce urban heat, improve air and water quality, and enhance climate resilience. Grants prioritize disadvantaged communities and projects with measurable social and environmental benefits.

Funding Notes: Under the Inflation Reduction Act, over \$1 billion was made available through this program nationwide. This program is annually funded and received expanded funding by the IRA through FY 2026.

Rural Development Energy Programs (REAP)

Administered by USDA Rural Development

Scale: Grants and loans; funding amounts vary by program; Range: \$50K - \$2M

USDA's energy programs promote energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment in rural areas. Key programs include the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which offers grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small businesses, and other initiatives supporting community-scale clean energy development, grid improvements, and energy audits.

Funding Notes: This program is expected to have long-term continuity with expanded funding through BIL and IRA through FY2027.

Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grants

Administered by USDA Forest Service

Scale: Competitive grant program; Range: \$85K - \$200K

The Urban and Community Forestry Grants fund innovative, high-impact projects that improve urban forestry management and advance environmental justice. Grants support research, workforce development, regional tree canopy assessments, and community engagement in forest planning. Projects must demonstrate replicability and address climate adaptation, public health, or equity goals.

Funding Notes: Projects in Rhode Island may be eligible if aligned with statewide urban forestry goals or local climate action plans. This program is IRA-supported through 2026.

Rural Development Water Programs

Administered by USDA Rural Development

Scale: Loans, grants, and technical assistance; Range: \$30K - \$1M

USDA Rural Development offers multiple programs to support drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure in rural areas. These programs include the Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program, Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants, and Technical Assistance and Training Grants, all of which aim to improve public health and environmental outcomes in underserved communities.

Funding Notes: This program is a long-standing program and supported by annual appropriations.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Community Health and Resilience
- Electric Grids
- Wastewater
- Forests
- Drinking Water
- Water Resources

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Rural municipalities
- Tribal governments
- Water districts and nonprofit utilities
- Community-based organizations
- Cooperatives and nonprofit organizations
- Regional planning commissions

Funding Source

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Description

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a vital funding source for advancing state and local climate resilience, particularly in rural and natural resource-dependent communities. Key programs such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Urban and Community Forestry Grants help states reduce environmental vulnerabilities, promote nature-based solutions, and strengthen community capacity to adapt to climate impacts. USDA's funding is often targeted toward underserved or economically disadvantaged areas, making it a cornerstone for equitable and sustainable resilience planning.

Programs

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Administered by USDA Rural Development

Scale: Federal direct loans, grants, or a combination; Grant Range: \$40K - \$50K

The Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program provides affordable financing for the development and improvement of essential community infrastructure in rural areas. Eligible projects include construction or upgrades to public safety buildings, healthcare centers, municipal buildings, schools, and community facilities that support climate resilience, public health, and economic development. The program can fund energy efficiency upgrades, emergency preparedness facilities, and other projects that enhance long-term resilience.

Funding Notes: Funding decisions are based on community income and population size. This program is a permanent USDA program with funding updated annually through USDA budget.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Incentives

Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Scale: Federal cost-share and technical assistance; Range: \$20K – \$1M

NRCS offers a suite of voluntary conservation incentive programs that provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and landowners to implement sustainable land and water management practices. These programs support climate resilience by improving soil health, reducing runoff, restoring wetlands, and enhancing drought and flood tolerance. Key programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), both of which reward adoption of conservation practices that deliver environmental benefits.

Funding Notes: This program is authorized and reauthorized through the US Farm Bill, which is due for renewal in 2024/2025. Additional funding through the IRA through FY2026.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Scale: Federal cost-share and technical assistance; Range: \$20K – \$1M

The EWP Program provides technical and financial assistance to communities to help them recover from sudden watershed impairments caused by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and windstorms. EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance. The NRCS can declare a local watershed emergency and initiate EWP program assistance.

Funding Notes: This program is funded through congressional appropriations. Federal funds typically cover up to 75% of project costs, while local sponsor (municipality, conservation district, etc.) covers the remainder.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Special-purpose districts
- Rural communities
- Landowners

Funding Source

US Department of Defense (DOD)

Description

The Department of Defense houses several funding streams that can be used to complement Rhode Island's climate resilience initiatives in areas near military installations. Key programs and offices offer available funding for resiliency including the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program and the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). These programs can be leveraged by Rhode Island to co-fund projects that both protect military readiness and advance statewide resilience priorities.

Programs

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI)

Administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense

Scale: Federal-funded competitive grant; federal and non-federal cost share Range: \$1M–\$15M

The REPI Program funds projects that buffer military installations from encroachment while advancing conservation and resilience. REPI supports land protection, habitat restoration, and nature-based solutions that reduce flooding, storm surge, and other climate risks. Projects are developed in partnership with local stakeholders and must directly support military readiness.

Funding Notes: Funding is congressionally allocated and ongoing. Annual Request for Proposal (RFP) typically released in the spring with awards announced around December.

Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)

Administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense

Scale: Competitive federal grants; cost-sharing requirements vary by program

OLDCC provides funding and technical assistance to strengthen the resilience of defense communities and installations. The office oversees multiple programs that may provide assistance, given the location of a particular action item. For example, the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) supports off-base infrastructure improvements. Projects must demonstrate direct benefit to defense missions and surrounding communities.

Funding Note: Competitive notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs) are released annually. Funding is congressionally allocated and ongoing

Installation Readiness Program

Administered by the DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)

Scale: Federally funded grant program, with 10% cost non-federal cost share requirement; Range: \$50K – \$500K

The Installation Readiness Program helps communities and military installations identify vulnerabilities to climate hazards and develop coordinated strategies to address them. These initiatives typically assess flooding, coastal storms, and energy security risks while aligning installation resilience needs with local and state climate priorities. Outcomes guide future resilience investments and strengthen long-term defense-community partnerships.

Funding Notes: Funding is congressionally allocated and ongoing.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Coastal Wetlands
- Water Resources
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Municipal governments
- Regional planning agencies

Funding Source

US Department of Transportation (DOT)

Description

The Department of Transportation administers several funding streams that can support Rhode Island's climate resilience and infrastructure priorities. Key programs and offices offer available funding for resiliency including the Federal Highway Administration, Marine Administration, and local MPOs. These programs can be leveraged by Rhode Island communities to advance initiatives such as green infrastructure, flood-resilient roadways, and sustainable transportation systems that both improve connectivity and strengthen resilience to future hazards.

Programs

Promoting Resilience Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

Administered by USDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Scale: Formula and competitive grants; federal cost share; Range: \$500K - \$876M

The PROTECT Grant Program supports the planning and implementation of climate-resilient transportation infrastructure. Funding can be used for resilience improvements to highways, bridges, transit systems, ports, and evacuation routes.

Funding Notes: This program was created under the IIJA and funded through FY2026. Reauthorization is necessary past FY2026.

Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)

Administered by USDOT; Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Scale: Formula and competitive grants; federal cost share; Range: \$1M - \$112M

The PIDP provides funding to improve the safety, efficiency, and climate resilience of ports and their related infrastructure. Eligible projects include pier and wharf upgrades, freight and intermodal connections, environmental remediation, and infrastructure adaptations for sea level rise and extreme weather. The program prioritizes projects that improve port resilience while supporting economic competitiveness and emissions reduction.

Funding Notes: This program is funded through FY2026 per IIJA. Required legislation renewal beyond that.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Asides

Administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through State DOTs and MPOs

Scale: Federally funded grant program, National; Range: \$250K - \$2M

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds community-based transportation projects that expand travel choices and improve quality of life. Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safe routes to school, trails, and projects that improve environmental sustainability and community resilience.

Funding Notes: Funding is congressionally allocated. Competitive at the state and regional level. Federal share is generally 80%, with a required 20% local match.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- All Critical Infrastructure
- Ports
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Public Transportation

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Municipal governments
- Regional planning agencies

Funding Source

US Department of Transportation (DOT)

Description

The Department of Transportation administers several funding streams that can support Rhode Island's climate resilience and infrastructure priorities. Key programs and offices offer available funding for resiliency including the Federal Highway Administration, Marine Administration, and local MPOs. These programs can be leveraged by Rhode Island communities to advance initiatives such as green infrastructure, flood-resilient roadways, and sustainable transportation systems that both improve connectivity and strengthen resilience to future hazards.

Programs

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

Administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in partnership with State DOTs and MPOs

Scale: National; Range: \$500K – \$5M

The CMAQ program funds transportation projects and programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality, especially in areas that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Eligible projects include traffic flow improvements, alternative fuel vehicles, active transportation, and transit enhancements.

Funding Notes: Funds apportioned to states by formula. Federal share is generally 80%, with 20% local match required.

Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)

Administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Scale: Competitive grants; federal cost share up to 100% for certain safety projects; Range: \$300K-\$24M

The WCPP funds projects that reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. Eligible projects include construction (e.g., overpasses, underpasses, engineering, ROW acquisition) and non-construction activities (e.g., planning, research, education, hotspot analyses). Eligible applicants include state DOTs, MPOs, local governments, tribal governments, and federal land agencies.

Funding Notes: \$350 million authorized under IJJA/BIL; funding available through FY2026

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Public Transportation
- Forests
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Municipal governments
- Regional planning agencies
- Tribal governments

Funding Source

United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Description

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plays a critical role in supporting state and local climate resilience through planning, technical assistance, and targeted infrastructure funding. USACE offers cost-shared support for flood risk reduction, coastal protection, and ecosystem restoration projects that strengthen community resilience to sea level rise, erosion, storm surge, and inland flooding. USACE also provides engineering expertise, feasibility studies, and benefit-cost analyses to help states prioritize and implement resilient infrastructure solutions.

Programs

Continuing Authorities Program

Administered by the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District

Scale: Federally authorized and cost-shared; Typically, 65% federal / 35% non-federal. Range: \$1M-\$10M per project

The USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) provides a streamlined way for USACE to plan, design, and construct small-scale projects without the need for separate Congressional authorization. CAP supports a wide range of local resilience, navigation, and ecosystem restoration priorities that directly benefit communities and natural systems in Rhode Island. Projects must include a non-federal sponsor and are subject to federal feasibility and environmental review.

Funding Notes: The process to obtain these funds requires substantial state involvement and is time-sensitive. This may not be advantageous for most projects.

Key Sections:

• **Section 14 – Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection:** Protects public facilities (roads, bridges, utilities) threatened by erosion.

• **Section 103 – Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (Beach Erosion):** Reduces coastal storm damage through beach nourishment and related measures.

• **Section 107 – Navigation Improvements:** Improves navigation channels, anchorages, and harbors.

• **Section 111 – Mitigation of Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works:** Addresses shoreline erosion caused by federal navigation projects.

• **Section 204 – Beneficial Use of Dredged Material:** Reuses dredged material for ecosystem restoration, beach nourishment, or other beneficial purposes.

• **Section 205 – Flood Damage Reduction:** Reduces flood risks through levees, channels, or floodwalls.

• **Section 206 – Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration:** Restores degraded aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands, rivers, and riparian zones.

Funding Notes: Each section has its own federal funding limit (generally \$5M-\$10M per project). Projects require a non-federal sponsor (state, tribe, or municipality) to cost-share (typically 35% non-federal). Applications are accepted year-round through the New England District office.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches and Barriers
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Water Resources

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Public agencies (non-federal sponsors)

Funding Source

Other Federal Sources

Description

Below are four federal funding sources for resilience. The HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HUD PRO Housing Grant Program, the HUD Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and DOE State Energy Program (SEP) are key federal funding sources that support state climate resilience efforts across sectors. Together, these programs offer vital resources for integrating resilience into community development, energy systems, and transportation networks.

Programs

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Administered by HUD; State and Local Governments

Scale: Formula-based federal grants; Range: \$10K - \$500K

The CDBG Program provides flexible funding to support community development and infrastructure projects that benefit low- and moderate-income populations. While traditionally used for housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and economic development, CDBG funds can also support resiliency initiatives such as stormwater infrastructure, floodplain restoration, and community planning to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards. States and municipalities have broad discretion to integrate resilience into CDBG-funded priorities.

Funding Notes: This program is a core HUD program that is funded annually through the federal budget.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – PRO Housing Grant Program

Administered by HUD

Scale: Competitive federal grant program; (i.e., Inflation Reduction Act); Range: \$1M - \$7M

The PRO Housing Grant Program (Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing) provides funding to help local, state, and tribal governments identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.

Funding Notes: This program was created under IRA and funded via FY 2022 appropriations. Currently, no reoccurring funding.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Administered by HUD

Scale: National, Loan guarantee program for CDBG recipients; Range: \$1M - \$50M+

The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program allows local governments to access federally guaranteed loans for large-scale community development projects. Funds can be used for infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, economic development, and resilience investments that benefit low- and moderate-income communities.

Funding Notes: Loans are guaranteed by HUD but repaid with future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Flexible terms allow projects to leverage significant private investment.

US Department of Energy (DOE) – State Energy Program (SEP)

Administered by DOE; State energy offices

Scale: Formula and competitive grants; requires cost share; Range: \$10K - \$100K

The State Energy Program (SEP) provides funding and technical assistance to state energy offices to advance clean energy, energy security, and climate resilience. States use SEP funds to improve energy efficiency in public facilities, develop energy assurance plans, and support resilient infrastructure investments. SEP also supports workforce training and innovation aligned with state energy and climate goals.

Funding Notes: SEP is authorized through FY2026.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Community Health and Resilience
- Fuel Supply
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Evacuation Routes and Emergency Shelters
- Public Transportation
- Building Design and Construction
- Electric Grids

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Entitlement Communities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Planning organizations

Funding Source

Other Federal Sources

Description

Below are four federal programs that support climate resilience. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grants, the CDC's Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative (CRSCI), the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), and Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program provide targeted resources that help states and communities reduce vulnerabilities, protect critical assets, and strengthen long-term adaptive capacity.

Programs

US Fish and Wildlife Service Grants

Administered by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Scale: Competitive and formula-based grants; federal and non-federal cost share varies by program; Range: \$20K - \$5M

USFWS offers a suite of grant programs that support habitat restoration, coastal resilience, species protection, and ecosystem conservation. Programs such as the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance and the State Wildlife Grant Program help state agencies, nonprofits, and landowners implement nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and buffer communities against climate impacts.

Funding Notes: This program operates under continuous congressional appropriations.

Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative (CRSCI)

Administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); National Center for Environmental Health

Scale: Competitive federal funding; multi-year cooperative agreements by state

The CRSCI helps state and local health departments prepare for and respond to the public health impacts of climate change. Funding supports the implementation of CDC's BRACE framework (Building Resilience Against Climate Effects). CRSCI projects focus on heat illness, vector-borne disease, extreme weather, and community vulnerability—ensuring that climate resilience is integrated into public health planning and infrastructure.

Funding Notes: This program is expected to continue.

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)

Administered by National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

Scale: Formula and competitive matching grants; Range: \$2K - \$200K

The HPF provides matching grants to preserve historically significant sites and support cultural resource management. In Rhode Island, HPF funds could be leveraged to integrate climate resilience into preservation efforts, such as elevating or floodproofing historic waterfront structures and incorporating hazard mitigation into preservation planning.

Funding Notes: Annual funding is provided from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues, and congressional appropriations.

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

Administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (nonprofit), in partnership with EPA, USFS, NOAA, and others.

Scale: National, Competitive grants; Range: \$20K - \$50K

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program supports community-based projects that restore and protect water quality, habitat, and ecological function in urban and rural watersheds. Projects emphasize partnerships, environmental education, and measurable ecological and community outcomes.

Funding Notes: Annual competitive program. Requires match at least equal to federal request, achieved through cash, in-kind, or volunteer time.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Community Health and Resilience
- Ports
- Water Resources
- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Building Design and Construction

Who Can Access Funds

- State coastal management agencies
- State and local governments
- Academic institutions
- Regional planning agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments

State Funding Mechanisms

Funding Source

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

Description

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank manages a suite of funding programs that support municipal resilience, energy efficiency, stormwater management, and climate adaptation. RIIB provides low-cost loans, grants, and technical assistance to municipalities, quasi-public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit partners to support projects that improve water and wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience. By leveraging public and private capital, RIIB helps communities modernize critical infrastructure, reduce long-term costs, and advance statewide environmental and resilience goals.

Programs

Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund (RRIF)

Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) in coordination with EC4 agencies

Scale: State revolving loan fund; Range: financing terms vary by project type

The Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund (RRIF) is a dedicated state revolving fund established to provide low-cost financing for infrastructure projects that reduce Rhode Island's vulnerability to climate impacts. The fund supports investments aligned with the state's *Resilient Rhody* climate resilience strategy, including upgrades that address flooding, stormwater management, coastal hazards, and other climate-driven risks to public infrastructure and community assets.

Funding Notes: RRIF was capitalized through state appropriations dedicated to implementing *Resilient Rhody*. As a revolving fund, its long-term viability depends on continued loan repayment and periodic state deposits.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Co-Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management

Scale: Federal funds, Congressionally allocated; 20% state match; Range: \$500K - \$5M

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a federal-state partnership program that provides low-interest loans and other financial assistance for water quality protection and infrastructure improvements. The CWSRF is one of the nation's primary tools for financing wastewater treatment plants, stormwater management systems, nonpoint source pollution control, water reuse, and green infrastructure projects. Funding can also support estuary restoration, septic system replacements, and energy or water efficiency upgrades at water facilities.

Funding Notes: Delivered over \$75 million in low-cost financing in 2024 alone, supporting critical wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, advancing climate resilience, and improving water quality.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Co-Administered by RIIB and Rhode Island Dept. of Health (RIDOH)

Scale: Federal funds, Congressionally allocated; 20% state match; Range: \$1M - \$5M

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal-state partnership that provides low- or no-interest loans to public water systems to finance projects that improve drinking water infrastructure and protect public health. Eligible applicants include community water systems—both publicly and privately owned—as well as nonprofit non-community water systems such as schools and churches.

Funding Notes: In FY 2024, seven new loans totaling \$73.2 million were provided for low-interest financing of critical infrastructure improvements.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Drinking Water
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Resources
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- School districts

Funding Source

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

Description

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank manages a suite of funding programs that support municipal resilience, energy efficiency, stormwater management, and climate adaptation. RIIB provides low-cost loans, grants, and technical assistance to municipalities, quasi-public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit partners to support projects that improve water and wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience. By leveraging public and private capital, RIIB helps communities modernize critical infrastructure, reduce long-term costs, and advance statewide environmental and resilience goals.

Programs

DWSRF Set-Asides

Administered and determined by RIIB

Scale: Federal funds, State allocated into set-aside categories; Range: \$100K - \$1.5M

The DWSRF has four main set-asides, including Administration and Technical Assistance, Small System Technical Assistance, State Program Management, Local Assistance, and Other State Programs.

Funding Notes: These set-asides allow states to build system capacity, enhance long-term sustainability, and address public health needs in a more proactive and preventive way. They are especially valuable for supporting underserved and small community water systems that may lack the resources or expertise to maintain safe drinking water.

Municipal Resilience Program (MRP)

Administered by RIIB in partnership with The Nature Conservancy

Scale: State grant program; Range: \$100K - \$750K

The Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) helps Rhode Island cities and towns identify, prioritize, and implement climate resilience projects. Through a structured community workshop process, municipalities develop Resilience Plans that guide future investments. Upon completion of the planning phase, municipalities become eligible for state grant funding to implement priority adaptation and risk-reduction projects.

Funding Notes: This program is ongoing and funded by state bond funds, the CRF, and RIIB capital. Long-term program that depends on state appropriations, dedicated bonds, and federal match.

Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF)

Administered by RIIB, in coordination with the Office of Energy Resources (OER)

Scale: State-funded, low-interest loan program; revenue from bond issuance and utility bill savings; Range: \$1M - \$13M

The Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF) provides financing to municipalities and public schools for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in public buildings. Eligible projects include HVAC upgrades, lighting retrofits, solar installations, energy storage, and resilience measures that reduce utility costs and improve building performance.

Funding Notes: This program is funded through tax-exempt infrastructure bonds. It is a permanent financing program.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- Drinking Water
- Water Resources
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction
- Electric Grids

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- School districts

Funding Source

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

Description

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank manages a suite of funding programs that support municipal resilience, energy efficiency, stormwater management, and climate adaptation. RIIB provides low-cost loans, grants, and technical assistance to municipalities, quasi-public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit partners to support projects that improve water and wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience. By leveraging public and private capital, RIIB helps communities modernize critical infrastructure, reduce long-term costs, and advance statewide environmental and resilience goals.

Programs

Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program (MIGP)

Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB)

Scale: Grants; Range: \$300K - \$500K

The MIGP provides grants to municipalities for critical infrastructure projects that support long-term community and environmental resilience, economic development, and public health and safety. The program complements RIIB's loan programs by helping communities with limited borrowing capacity access capital for infrastructure improvements.

Funding Notes: These grants can fill gaps for small-scale, or early-phase resilience infrastructure needs, and can be combined with RIIB loan programs or federal funding for multi-layered project finance. This program is subject to annual or periodic state budget appropriations.

Municipal Road & Bridge Revolving Loan Fund (MRBRF)

Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB), in partnership with RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT)

Scale: Low-interest loans; Range: \$2.5M - \$20M

The MRBRF provides low-interest loans to Rhode Island cities and towns for the design, construction, reconstruction, and improvement of local roads and bridges, including projects that enhance transportation resilience and public safety.

Funding Notes: This program is financed through RIIB-issued bonds with a revolving structure that replenishes funds as loans are repaid. It is legislatively authorized and available annually.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB)

Scale: Fee-based charge to fund quality projects; Range: \$200K - \$1M+

C-PACE enables commercial, non-profit, and industrial property owners to finance clean energy, water conservation, and efficiency upgrades. Loan repayment is attached to the property tax bill over terms up to 25 years. Open capital platform with statewide administration.

Funding Notes: C-PACE finances private-sector energy and water conservation upgrades to commercial properties. This program is financed via private capital secured through property tax assessments and is subject to market participation and regulatory support.

Stormwater Project Accelerator (SPA)

Administered by Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB)

Scale: State technical assistance and financing support; Range: \$50K - \$150K

The Stormwater Project Accelerator (SPA) helps municipalities advance stormwater retrofit and green infrastructure projects from concept to implementation. The program provides targeted technical assistance to identify high-impact stormwater improvements, develop conceptual designs, estimate costs, and prepare projects for financing through RIIB's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or other funding sources. By supplying early-phase planning and engineering support, SPA reduces barriers that often prevent communities from pursuing complex stormwater upgrades.

Funding Notes: SPA is not a grant program; it is supported through RIIB resources to provide technical assistance and project development services.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Public Transportation
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- Building Design & Construction
- Electric Grids
- Financing Climate Resilience Projects

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- School districts

Funding Source

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

Description

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) administers a variety of funding programs that support water quality improvement, habitat restoration, climate resilience, and natural resource protection across the state. These programs provide grants, technical assistance, and capital funding for stormwater management, wastewater infrastructure, open space preservation, watershed restoration, and coastal and inland resilience projects. RIDEM's investments help municipalities, state agencies, land trusts, and conservation partners safeguard ecosystems, reduce pollution, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts.

Programs

Rhode Island Climate Resilience Fund (CRF)

Administered by RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

Scale: State-funded; Range: up to \$350K

The Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) provides direct state funding to support on-the-ground projects that reduce vulnerability to climate change and build long-term community resilience. Eligible projects include flood mitigation, stormwater management, shoreline protection, and green infrastructure. The CRF prioritizes projects that address high-risk areas, protect critical infrastructure, and deliver co-benefits such as public health or environmental improvement.

Funding Notes: In its first round, the CRF awarded \$4.5 million in grants to 20 projects focused on flood prevention, nature-based solutions, and climate adaptation in vulnerable areas. This program is ongoing but dependent on state budget allocations.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – Rhode Island

Administered by OER and RIDEM

Scale: Funded through quarterly CO2 allowance auctions; Range: \$10K - \$25K

RGGI generates revenue through cap-and-trade auctions on power sector emissions, which Rhode Island reinvests in energy efficiency measures and renewable energy projects and provide direct rate relief to low-income customers. RGGI funds support several state programs to help spur solar PV, heat pump, and energy efficiency adoption with an emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing system reliability. The allowable use of auction proceeds in Rhode Island is governed by RI gen. laws §23-82-6.

Funding Notes: This program is a multi-state cap-and-invest program with a long-term regulatory foundation. The stable annual funding is tied to carbon auction revenues.

Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Fund

Administered by RIDEM and Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC)

Scale: State-established; funded by fees from coastal development permits; Range: \$100K - \$275K

The OSCAR Fund supports climate adaptation and resilience projects in Rhode Island's coastal communities. Funded by fees collected through coastal permitting, OSCAR is designed to finance small- to mid-scale projects that address sea level rise, erosion, and other coastal hazards. The fund complements federal and state resilience efforts and provides local governments with flexible, implementation-ready support.

Funding Notes: OSCAR funding is typically used for local shoreline restoration, nature-based adaptation strategies, and resilience planning aligned with CRMC's coastal policies and the state's Beach SAMP. This program is funded through state appropriations and/or environmental bond measures and is subject to renewal.

State Land Conservation Program

Administered by RIDEM and EC4 agencies

Scale: Bond funded and leveraged with other sources; Range: \$1M-10M+

Guided by the DEM Land Acquisition Committee, the State Land Conservation Fund identifies, assesses, and acquires lands of State-wide interest and significance. Preserved lands are available to the public for uses including boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, hunting, biking and nature observation.

Funding Notes: The program is funded by State voter approved bond funds leveraged with grants from various Federal programs, and non-profit or local organizations.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Forests
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Stormwater
- Water Resources
- Public Transportation
- Building Design & Construction

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- School districts

Funding Source

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

Description

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) administers a variety of funding programs that support water quality improvement, habitat restoration, climate resilience, and natural resource protection across the state. These programs provide grants, technical assistance, and capital funding for stormwater management, wastewater infrastructure, open space preservation, watershed restoration, and coastal and inland resilience projects. RIDEM's investments help municipalities, state agencies, land trusts, and conservation partners safeguard ecosystems, reduce pollution, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts.

Programs

Local Open Spaces Grants

Administered by RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

Scale: State funded grant program; Range: up to \$400K

This grant program provides up to 50% matching funds to municipalities, land trusts and non-profit conservation land organizations to preserve valuable open space throughout the state. A maximum of 50% of the approved appraised value, up to a per-project cap of \$400,000, has been awarded. Awardees are also eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of appraisal, title, and survey costs associated with the project.

Funding Notes: Program is capitalized through periodic voter-approved Open Space and Green Economy Bonds. Funding availability depends on bond authorizations, and rounds are offered when bond capacity exists. All awards require a 50% local match.

Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund

Administered by RIDEM

Scale: State bonds; Range: \$10K - \$25K

The Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund supports projects that improve water quality, restore habitats, and reduce pollution across the Narragansett Bay watershed. The program funds practical, on-the-ground solutions such as stormwater retrofits, nonpoint source pollution controls, and ecological restoration efforts that advance state water quality and watershed management goals.

Funding Notes: Capitalized through state appropriations and periodic environmental bonds. Funding availability varies by budget cycle and is released when resources are allocated.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund (WWTRF)

Administered by RIDEM and Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB)

Scale: Matching grants, 50% match required; Range: \$250K - \$625K

The Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund supports upgrades that strengthen the resilience of Rhode Island's wastewater treatment facilities to flooding, sea level rise, extreme storms, and climate-related operational risks. The program helps facilities assess vulnerabilities, incorporate climate projections into capital planning, and invest in infrastructure improvements that ensure continuity of service and protection of water quality during hazard events.

Funding Notes: Funded through state appropriations dedicated to climate resilience planning and implementation. Often paired with Clean Water SRF financing for construction. Availability depends on annual budget allocations and RIIB program capacity.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Beaches & Barriers
- Coastal Wetlands
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Forests
- Water Resources
- Wastewater

Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit conservation organizations
- Land Trusts

Funding Source

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER)

Description

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) administers a range of funding and technical assistance programs that support clean energy deployment, grid modernization, and community energy resilience. These programs provide grants, planning support, and targeted incentives for renewable energy, storage, microgrids, and critical facility resilience upgrades. OER's initiatives help municipalities, state agencies, businesses, and nonprofits advance energy projects that reduce emissions, strengthen grid reliability, and prepare critical services for climate-related disruptions.

Programs

Clean Energy Programs & Power System Transformation Coordination

Administered by RI Office of Energy Resources (OER)

Scale: State-led program; funding from SEP, RGGI, and utility system benefit charges; Range: \$50K - \$500K

OER leads and coordinates Rhode Island's efforts to accelerate clean energy deployment and modernize the power system to meet emissions and resilience goals. Programs include support for solar, offshore wind, energy storage, microgrids, and energy efficiency upgrades in public and critical facilities. OER also oversees Power Sector Transformation planning, aligning grid modernization with climate mitigation and resilience priorities.

Funding Notes: This program is funded through a mix of state energy efficiency charges, regional transmission system coordination, and federal DOE funding.

Energy Resilience and Emergency Planning

Administered RI Office of Energy Resources (OER)

Scale: State technical assistance and planning support; Range: funding varies by initiative

The Energy Resilience & Emergency Planning program supports state agencies, municipalities, and critical facility operators in assessing energy vulnerabilities and improving resilience to grid disruptions. OER provides planning tools, technical assistance, and targeted funding to evaluate backup power needs, integrate clean and resilient energy solutions (such as solar-plus-storage), and strengthen continuity-of-operations planning for emergency events. The program helps communities identify priority facilities, conduct feasibility analyses, and align projects with federal funding opportunities.

Funding Notes: Supported through periodic state allocations and federal pass-through funds (such as DOE resilience initiatives). Funding availability and eligible activities vary by program cycle, with many projects leveraging FEMA, DOE, or utility incentives for implementation.

Renewable Energy Fund (REF) & Resilient Microgrids for Critical Services Program

Administered by OER and RI Department of Commerce

Scale: State grant program; Range: amounts vary by project type and funding round

RI Commerce's Renewable Energy Fund provides programs and grants to support renewable energy projects across the state. Leveraging multiple funding sources and RGGI, the fund offers programs to individuals, businesses, municipalities and organizations for solar, wind, battery storage, and other eligible technologies. Additionally, the Resilient Microgrids for Critical Services Program, a joint program between the Office of Energy Resources and the Renewable Energy Fund, offers grant support for microgrid construction through Phase 2 of the program. Phase 1 is currently on hold, with Phase 2 pending Phase 1 completion.

Funding Notes: REF is capitalized through multiple funding sources, including but not limited to the system benefit charge, alternative compliance payments and RGGI.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Electric Grids
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Financing Climate Resilience Projects
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Building Design & Construction

Who Can Access Funds

- Municipalities
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments

Funding Source

Other Rhode Island-Based Funding Sources

Description

Rhode Island offers several state funding programs that advance resilient infrastructure and community preparedness. Green Economy and Clean Water Bonds support environmental restoration and water infrastructure upgrades; the Site Readiness Program funds planning and improvements that prepare sites for resilient development; and RIDOT's Capital Improvement Program invests in transportation projects that address stormwater, coastal risks, and long-term infrastructure resilience.

Programs

RI Green Economy and Clean Water Bonds

Administered by the State of Rhode Island

Scale: State Bonds ; Range: project allocations vary by bond issue

Rhode Island's Green Economy and Clean Water Bonds provide capital funding for environmental, resilience, recreation, and clean water infrastructure projects across the state. Authorized by voters through periodic statewide bond referenda, these bonds finance programs such as open space protection, stormwater and flood mitigation, wastewater and drinking water system upgrades, park and trail improvements, and coastal and habitat restoration. Bond allocations are distributed to implementing agencies, including RIDEM, CRMC, RIIB, and others, to support eligible projects identified in each bond question.

Funding Notes: Bond funding is subject to voter approval and legislative authorization. Amounts and eligible uses vary with each bond cycle, and programs supported by these bonds (e.g., Open Space Grants, WWTFRF, recreation grants) are only available when new bond proceeds are appropriated.

Site Readiness Grant Program

Administered by RI Department of Commerce

Scale: State grant program; Range: up to \$125K

The Site Readiness Program offers funding to public or private entities for site-specific technical assistance, planning, and/or improvements. Activities including property surveys, master planning, engineering surveys, environmental studies, infrastructure improvements, land assembly activities, site clearing or demolition, and building improvements are supported. Assistance with writing zoning ordinances, updating comprehensive plans, strategic planning support, development coordination, and/or marketing support is also supported.

Funding Notes: Program availability and award levels depend on annual state budget appropriations. Funds may support both planning and physical improvements but are not continuously available each year.

RI Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Administered by RI Department of Transportation

Scale: State and federal transportation capital funding; Range: \$50K - \$500K

The RIDOT Capital Improvement Program (CIP) directs state and federal transportation funds toward major infrastructure projects across Rhode Island, including roads, bridges, transit facilities, active transportation networks, stormwater systems, and coastal transportation assets. The CIP identifies priority projects for investment, integrates federal formula and discretionary funding (e.g., FHWA, FTA), and outlines a multi-year schedule for project delivery. Increasingly, the CIP incorporates climate resilience and flood mitigation upgrades into transportation infrastructure design.

Funding Notes: Funded through a combination of federal transportation allocations, state match, and bond proceeds. Funding levels and project eligibility are determined through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process, and project timing is tied to the multi-year CIP planning cycle.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Electric Grids
- All Critical Infrastructure
- Financing Climate Resilience Projects
- Roads, Bridges, and Culverts
- Coastal Wetlands
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Drinking Water
- Water Resources
- Public Transportation

Who Can Access Funds

- Municipalities
- State agencies
- Regional and conservation organizations
- Tribal governments

Non-Traditional Funding Mechanisms

Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Land Value Capture Strategies

Description

Below are land value capture strategies that are increasingly being considered as innovative tools to finance infrastructure and resilience investments. These strategies aim to recover some or all of the increase in land value that results from public investment or regulatory changes, such as flood protection, green infrastructure, or transit-oriented development, and redirect that value toward funding further resilience or climate adaptation actions.

Sources

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Initiated: Legislative action needed by municipalities around defined project area

Scale: ~20-25-year term; special district designation; District – Municipal

Tax increment financing captures the increase in property tax revenue from higher property values after resilience improvements and uses it to fund those improvements. TIF can work for resilience projects because these investments often create measurable increases in property values, providing a sustainable revenue source to repay bonds or fund ongoing maintenance.

Call to Action: Identify potential TIF districts in climate-vulnerable or redevelopment areas and assess revenue potential; coordinate with municipal planning and finance departments to amend enabling legislation for TIF policies to include resilience projects.

Special Assessment Districts

Initiated: Legislative action needed by local government

Scale: Locally established; targeted to properties directly benefiting

Special assessment districts are locally created financing mechanisms in which property owners pay assessments based on the specific benefits they receive from resilience improvements. These districts are particularly well-suited for climate resilience and disaster preparedness projects because these improvements often provide concentrated benefits to specific geographic areas.

Call to Action: Engage stakeholders in high-risk areas and review legal authority to establish special districts for resilience investments.

Developer Impact Fees / Resilience Exactions

Initiated: Developer in the development review and permitting process

Scale: Neighborhood - Municipality

Developer impact fees are one-time charges imposed on new development to help fund public infrastructure or services needed to accommodate growth. Resilience exactions are a variation focused on climate adaptation needs—such as elevated roads, green infrastructure, energy microgrids, or coastal protections. These tools ensure that private development contributes fairly to the cost of mitigating the environmental and social risks it may amplify.

Call to Action: Review enabling statutes and draft a model ordinance linking development fees to local climate resilience

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Initiated: Local or regional land use policy

Scale: Parcel - Neighborhood – Municipal – Regional (Urban-Rural Interface)

TDR is a market-based tool that allows landowners in hazard-prone or conservation-priority areas to sell the rights to develop their land to developers in designated receiving areas. This shifts development away from areas at high risk of climate impacts (e.g., flooding, erosion) and helps fund land preservation, managed retreat, or resilience infrastructure. The financial value captured through development rights sales can support conservation easements or relocation.

Call to Action: Map out sending and receiving areas with support from regional planning agencies. Convene a working group of local planners, developers, and legal experts to design a TDR framework that incorporates flood-prone or conservation-priority parcels and evaluate necessary zoning changes.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Asset Types

- Building Design & Construction
- Community Health and Resilience

Who Can Access Funds

- Designated project areas
- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Public agencies (non-federal sponsors)

Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Bonds

Description

Below are non-traditional funding sources for resiliency. Non-traditional funding sources are emerging to support climate resilience, infrastructure adaptation, and risk mitigation. These tools often leverage market-based mechanisms, public-private partnerships, or innovative financing models that go beyond conventional capital or grant funding.

Sources

Catastrophe / Resilience Bonds

Initiated: Public Issuer structures insurance-linked securities

Scale: Municipal-Regional-Statewide; large capital market tool

Catastrophe and resilience bonds are insurance-linked securities that provide upfront capital for resilience projects in exchange for transferring disaster risk to capital markets. These innovative financial instruments allow governments to access large amounts of capital for proactive risk reduction while simultaneously securing insurance coverage for disaster recovery.

Call to Action: Initiate an asset-specific risk assessment of Rhode Island's most vulnerable public infrastructure assets and quantify potential avoided losses from climate shocks (e.g., storms, flooding). Coordinate with the State Treasury, Division of Insurance, and Emergency Management Agency to explore legal authority and investor appetite for catastrophe bond issuance. If needed, propose enabling legislation that authorizes resilience bonds as a new financing instrument, with clear performance triggers and payout conditions.

Blue Bonds

Initiated: Government or qualified issuer structures bonds dedicated to 'blue economy' projects

Scale: Regional-Statewide

Blue bonds are debt instruments specifically designed to finance ocean and coastal conservation projects, including coastal resilience and marine ecosystem protection. Blue bonds are particularly valuable for coastal communities because they can fund projects that provide both environmental benefits and resilience value.

Call to Action: Identify priority coastal and marine ecosystem restoration or conservation projects that generate measurable environmental benefits and long-term cost savings. Collaborate with a public finance advisor to structure a bond tied to blue infrastructure outcomes. Pursue technical assistance from NOAA or environmental finance institutions to model returns and verify environmental impact metrics.

Environmental Impact Bonds

Initiated: A public entity sets measurable outcomes and contracts with private investors who fund the project upfront; payments depend on verified performance.

Scale: Flexible; can finance a single pilot project in one watershed or be scaled up to multi-city infrastructure programs

This pay-for-success model aligns investor returns with actual environmental performance, creating incentives for effective project design and implementation. The approach transfers performance risk from government to private investors while ensuring public funds are only spent on successful outcomes. This financing tool allows municipalities to implement resilience projects without upfront capital costs while ensuring that payments are tied to actual performance rather than just project completion.

Call to Action: Select a climate resilience project with clear performance and gather baseline data. Engage social impact investors, foundations, or municipal finance partners to co-design a pay-for-success bond framework. Coordinate with the Department of Administration and Office of Management and Budget to outline repayment terms tied to performance thresholds and determine if legislation is needed to enable outcome-based contracting.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Who Can Access Funds

- Designated project areas
- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Public agencies (non-federal sponsors)
- Multilateral Development Banks
- Public-Private partnerships
- Utility authorities

Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Other Sources

Description

Below are non-traditional funding sources for resiliency. Non-traditional funding sources are emerging to support climate resilience, infrastructure adaptation, and risk mitigation. These tools often leverage market-based mechanisms, public-private partnerships, or innovative financing models that go beyond conventional capital or grant funding.

Sources

Dedicated Utility Fees

Initiated: Municipality; property-based fees

Scale: Municipal-Regional

Property-based fees are generated from ongoing service fees tied directly to infrastructure systems such as water, sewer, stormwater, energy, etc.. Utility fees are dedicated charges levied on property owners to fund management and resilience projects. Funds are earmarked for reinvestment into the utility system and upgrades.

Call to Action: Work with utility commissions and municipal councils to assess legal authority and public appetite for establishing a climate resilience fee on water, stormwater, or sewer bills.

Parametric Insurance

Initiated: Jurisdictions buy policy with predefined hazard triggers

Scale: Determined by geographic footprint covered by hazard trigger

Parametric insurance provides payouts based on predefined parameters such as wind speed, storm surge height, or rainfall levels rather than actual damage assessment. This approach enables faster payouts for recovery and resilience activities since payments are triggered automatically when specified conditions are met.

Call to Action: Collaborate with state insurance regulators and brokers to identify eligible hazards (e.g., rainfall, surge) and model a pilot parametric policy for a critical public asset or utility.

Insurance Premium Discounts

Initiated: Communities or property owners implement resilience measures; Insurers or FEMA's CRS provide reduced premiums

Scale: Parcel-Neighborhood-Municipal

Insurance premium discounts provide reduced insurance costs for properties or communities that invest in resilience measures, creating financial incentives for proactive risk reduction. This market-based approach leverages the insurance industry's risk assessment capabilities. An example of this is the FORTIFIED home and roof program, developed by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), that sets construction and re-roofing standards designed to better withstand high winds, heavy rain, and hurricanes. Some insurance carriers provide premium discounts for homeowners who obtain a FORTIFIED Roof designation.

Call to Action: Coordinate with insurers and building code officials to define qualifying resilience measures and launch a pilot program offering premium reductions for verified upgrades.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Regional or special-purpose districts
- Utility authorities
- Regional planning authorities
- Private sector partners
- Property owners

Non-Traditional Funding Sources

Other Sources

Description

Below are non-traditional funding sources for resiliency. Non-traditional funding sources are emerging to support climate resilience, infrastructure adaptation, and risk mitigation. These tools often leverage market-based mechanisms, public-private partnerships, or innovative financing models that go beyond conventional capital or grant funding.

Sources

Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3)

Initiated: Government or qualified issuer structures bonds

Scale: Regional-Statewide

Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships represent a collaborative financing model that brings together government entities, private sector organizations, and local communities to address shared resilience challenges. This approach differs from traditional public-private partnerships by structuring risk-sharing agreements in which community stakeholders are active partners rather than just beneficiaries. These are risk-sharing arrangements between public and private partners, with repayment mechanisms such as user fees or government payments.

Call to Action: Identify a portfolio of green infrastructure or stormwater projects and engage legal and financial advisors to evaluate the feasibility of bundling them under a long-term CBP3 model.

The Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI)

Administered by a public-private consortium (Climate Resilience Fund, EcoAdapt, NRDC, etc.) in collaboration with NOAA and philanthropic partners

Scale: National, competitive grants for 12-month projects; Range: \$50K - \$130K

The Climate Smart Communities Initiative provides competitive grants and technical support to community-government partnerships aiming to design, advance, or pilot climate resilience plans and projects. Eligible uses include risk & vulnerability assessments, project prioritization, community engagement, adaptation planning, and implementation of smaller scale resilience actions.

Call to Action: Rhode Island municipalities, community-based organizations, and adaptation professionals can position themselves for CSCI funding by forming eligible teams and identifying resilience priorities that align with program goals. Potential applicants should assess local vulnerabilities, engage community partners early, and prepare to leverage CSCI resources for capacity building, planning, and small-scale implementation projects.

Philanthropic Funding for Climate Resilience

Initiated: Foundations, corporate philanthropy, or community-based funders provide grants and technical assistance

Scale: Local to statewide, with opportunities for regional collaboration

Philanthropic funding represents a flexible, non-traditional financing pathway that can supplement government programs and accelerate climate resilience efforts. Unlike traditional federal or state grants, philanthropic dollars can be deployed more quickly. These funds often help underserved or smaller communities build capacity, demonstrate innovative solutions, and leverage additional public investment. Notable examples include the Bezos Earth Fund, the Kresge Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and regional partners such as the Rhode Island Foundation and the Barr Foundation (Boston), both of which have supported climate, environment, and community resilience initiatives in New England.

Call to Action: Identify philanthropic foundations and regional funder collaboratives that align with Rhode Island's resilience priorities, and develop proposals that highlight equity, innovation, and scalability to attract private grantmaking support.

Relevant Hazards



Relevant Categories



Who Can Access Funds

- State and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Regional or special-purpose districts
- Utility authorities
- Regional planning authorities
- Private sector partners
- Property owners