

MVP 2.0 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM FY 24

Application Process and Eligibility

Do I need to submit a budget as part of the MVP 2.0 application?

No, the funding awarded will be the same across communities to complete the process. The only difference is regional projects (i.e., more than one community applying together) that will get \$50,000 per community for the seed project and a bit of extra funding for the other steps of the process as well, as there will be more coordination involved.

If I applied for an Action Grant in the FY24 round, am I also eligible to apply to pilot MVP 2.0 in FY24?

Yes, we just ask that you think critically about your ability to manage multiple grants. If you think it is feasible to do two at once, you may apply.

Do I need to submit a budget, and how will the funding be distributed?

You do not need to submit a budget as the funding awarded will be a set amount per community. Our intention is to distribute funding in two installments. The first installment will be \$45,000¹ for Steps 1-7 and 9 (i.e., all tasks but Task 8) and will be distributed after a contract is in place between EEA and the grantee. The second installment is intended to be released after Part A of the Seed Project Plan is submitted to your MVP Regional Coordinator and approved. That will be the \$50,000 per community for Step 8—Implementing the Seed Project.

Will local match be required for any part of the MVP 2.0 process?

Beyond providing enough municipal staff time to complete the process well, there is no required match, and communities will not be required to track match hours. We estimate around 90 hours for the project manager and 60 hours for each municipal staff/volunteer member of the Core Team for Steps 1-7 and 9, with additional time needed to manage Step 8: Implementing the Seed Project.

Will this MVP 2.0 process be required in future years after the pilot?

During the FY24 pilot round no communities are required to do MVP 2.0. However, our intention is for all communities to eventually complete the MVP 2.0 process to maintain eligibility for MVP Action Grants. Those with the oldest plans will be required to complete the process first. Communities that will be required to apply for MVP 2.0 in the FY25

¹ Will be a bit more for regional groups.

funding round will be notified in advance.

Designation for Prior Work

What if my community feels it has already completed the steps and goals of the MVP 2.0 process through a recent local climate planning process?

If your community has completed a robust, inclusive, and equitable community-driven climate planning process, then this grant provides funding to continue to build relationships with community partners, and to work together to develop and implement a specific project that advances community resilience priorities. If your community completed a climate planning process, but the people most affected by climate change weren't involved (or had limited involvement) in defining the goals and priorities, then this grant provides funding and a process to make sure the needs and priorities of Environmental Justice and other priority populations inform the actions taken. Without addressing inequities as a part of building climate resilience, climate plans risk reinforcing climate vulnerability. After revisiting and resetting your community resilience priorities, the grant provides funding to develop and implement a specific project that aligns with your updated priorities.

If you still feel that your community has already completed the steps of MVP 2.0, then this pilot grant is probably not for you. In future years, we intend to roll out an option to conduct a modified scope or be designated for prior work.

What if my community was designated for prior work instead of conducting the original MVP Planning Grant process (MVP 1.0)? Or what if my community conducted a more intensive climate resilience planning process after our original MVP Planning Grant?

Communities who were designated for prior work in MVP 1.0 or who conducted a more intensive climate resilience planning process after the original MVP Planning Grant can still complete the MVP 2.0 process. Under this circumstance, communities should revisit their climate resilience priorities in their most recent climate plan when they get to Step 5: Revisiting Resilience Priorities.

Process Duration

Two years seems like a long time, why is this process so long?

The reason for two years is because of the inclusion of the Seed Project. We want to give communities enough time to expand their Core Teams, participate in innovative trainings, revisit priorities in their MVP plans, and be able to design and implement a Seed Project.

Two years does not seem like enough time, what should I do if I need more time?

If you find that extra time is needed to ensure that the goals of the MVP 2.0 program are met, please set up a time to discuss with your MVP Regional Coordinator. We are dedicated to giving communities enough time to build relationships with EJ and other priority populations in this process.

Vendors

How will my community find a qualified vendor to help us complete the MVP 2.0 process?

Hiring a vendor that meets the qualifications outlined here is of crucial importance to ensuring the community will be best prepared to meet the goals of the program and complete an equitable, inclusive MVP 2.0 process and Seed Project. The list of state-trained vendors that was used with the original MVP Planning Grant process (i.e., MVP 1.0) is no longer relevant as those vendors were trained in the old process. Instead, communities are asked to use the qualifications outlined in [Attachment B](#) when hiring a vendor or vendor team. Hiring a vendor who will subcontract with another vendor may be one way to make sure that all the qualifications and skill sets required are met. For ideas on vendors that may have expertise in equity and social justice, grantees may consider referring to [The Racial Equity Capacity Builders Directory](#) from the Boston Foundation and the MA Supplier Diversity Office's [Directory of Certified Businesses](#) as potential resources.

Seed Projects

What is a Seed Project? How much guaranteed funding will my community get to implement the Seed Project?

A Seed Project is a project selected by the MVP 2.0 Core Team that jump-starts or advances the community's resilience priorities, and that can be completed in 9-10 months. As part of MVP 2.0, communities receive \$50,000 to complete a Seed Project with no local match required.

Will a regional MVP 2.0 grant get additional funding to implement the Seed Project?

Yes. One benefit to working with multiple communities is that we expect to award \$50,000 per community for the Seed Project.

Regional Process

I am interested in doing a regional MVP 2.0 process. Is there a maximum number of

communities allowed to apply together?

Climate change is a regional issue, and we strongly encourage regional partnerships where possible. In order to make sure all communities are involved and that coordination is feasible we ask that no more than six communities apply together.

Are there any other reasons to strongly consider doing MVP 2.0 as a region?

Some communities may find that applying as a region is a way to help share capacity. Communities that don't have many community-based organizations may find that they are reaching out to the same regional organizations or community leaders as neighboring communities in order to identify local community liaisons, particularly if those organizations serve a broader region. In this case, municipalities may want to collaborate and lead outreach with a group of regional liaisons.

Who manages a regional project?

Regional projects can be managed in a couple ways. One of the municipal governments in the group can apply for and administer the grant on behalf of the other communities. Alternatively, a regional planning agency that is a "political subdivision of the Commonwealth" can apply and administer the grant on behalf of a group of municipalities (with their support and commitment to undertaking the process). If you have questions about the eligibility of a specific regional entity, please reach out to anyone on the MVP staff team.

My community completed the original MVP Planning Grant (MVP 1.0) as a regional collaboration. Should we work with that same group?

You can, but you don't have to. You can choose whether to do an individual project, work with the same group, or work with a different set of communities.

When we revisit our resilience priorities as part of a regional project, will they be local priorities or regional priorities?

The updated priorities can include both regional and local priorities. It will be important to identify shared regional priorities, but also to acknowledge when a community has unique concerns or needs.