The MVP 2.0 PROCESS SUMMARY

For **MVP 2.0 Core Teams**

2025 - 2026

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MVP
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Use MVP 2.0 to ...

Build community resilience to climate change

Cities and towns throughout Massachusetts are identifying climate vulnerabilities and working to build community resilience. The MVP 2.0 program expands on work communities have done to date and supports communities with **new methods, tools, and resources** for building resilience.

The MVP program is run by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA). See the MVP website for more details.

What's community resilience?

Community resilience is the ability of a community to address the needs of its people, neighborhoods, ecosystems, and infrastructure in order to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from climate change hazards.

Hazards include hotter temperatures, extreme weather, sea level rise, flooding, heavier rainfall, and other impacts.

Resilient communities do not just recover — they continuously get better at reducing the impacts of future climate hazards.

In MVP 2.0, you will:

- Convene a **Core Team** to lead the MVP 2.0 process in your community
- Get **coaching** on building climate resilience, equity, and climate justice
- Revisit your community's resilience priorities with the **involvement of the wider community**
- Work together to develop and **implement a Seed Project** that builds community resilience, with guaranteed funding for implementation
- Practice a process that can be replicated for **future grant funding** (MVP Action Grants)

Who's on the Core Team?

Your Core Team will be made up of roughly ten people, including municipal staff and Community Liaisons. Community Liaisons are community members who have strong connections with Environmental Justice or other priority populations. For small communities without paid municipal staff, "municipal staff" may include community members who often play a municipal staff-type role.

What's a Seed Project?

A Seed Project is a project selected by the Core Team that will advance the community's resilience priorities, and that can be completed in 9-10 months. Communities will receive $50,000 to complete a Seed Project. (Regional projects receive $50,000 per community.)

Core Concept #1

Environmental Justice Populations

Environmental justice acknowledges that some groups of people have had access to fewer environmental benefits while being exposed to greater environmental harms, due to racial discrimination, economic disparities, or language isolation. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Environmental Justice Populations are specific geographic areas that meet one or more criteria based on race, income, or languages spoken.

Visit the Massachusetts EJ Map Viewer to see EJ neighborhoods in your community, region, or the state.

Core Concept #2

Priority Populations

Priority populations are people or communities who may be disproportionately impacted by climate change due to life circumstances that increase their exposure to climate hazards or make it harder to respond. In addition to factors that contribute to Environmental Justice status (i.e., income, race, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health, and age can indicate whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected by climate change. This is driven by underlying contributors such as racial discrimination, economic disparities, or accessibility barriers that create vulnerability.

The term priority populations acknowledges that the needs of people with these experiences and expertise must be prioritized when developing resilience solutions to reduce vulnerability to climate change. **All municipalities have priority populations even if they do not have a mapped Environmental Justice neighborhood.**

Overview of the Process

Phase 1 (5 months)

Develop a Core Team

(1) Starting to Build Your Team
(2) Identifying Lived Expertise
(3) Recruiting the Rest of Your Team

Phase 2 (6 months)

Revisit Resilience Priorities

(4) Kicking off Collaboration
(5) Uncovering Social Resilience
(6) Revisiting Community Resilience Priorities

Phase 3 (13 months)

Implement a Seed Project

(7) Selecting a Seed Project
(8) Developing an Implementation Plan
(9) Implementing a Seed Project
(10) Reflecting, Adjusting, and Next Steps

Who is involved?

Below is a breakdown of the different roles. **The roles in the orange box are who make up your Core Team.** Everyone else supports the Core Team.

Municipal Project Manager - This is the municipal staff person who helps to lead the project. They will work closely with the Planning Vendor and the Equity Partner to support the process and coordinate logistics from the municipal side.

Municipal Core Team Members - These are the municipal staff members on your Core Team. It's good to have staff who interact regularly with the community. For small municipalities, these team members may be municipal volunteers. Municipal volunteers can be compensated through grant funding.

Community Liaison Core Team Members - Community Liaisons are Core Team members who have strong connections with Environmental Justice and other priority populations in your community or region and who can help lead or facilitate outreach with these communities. Community Liaisons are compensated for their time with grant funding.

Equity Partner - Every municipality or region in the MVP 2.0 Program is paired with an Equity Partner. The Equity Partner helps provide coaching and guidance on things like inclusive engagement and how to measure the equity impacts of projects.

Planning Vendor - Every municipality or region will hire a Planning Vendor in Step 1. The Planning Vendor will be the project manager for steps 2-8 (up until Seed Project implementation). The Planning Vendor will facilitate discussions, coordinate logistics, and oversee the completion of deliverables.

Subject Matter Advisor - Core Teams can bring on a Subject Matter Advisor for Step 8 to help advise on their Seed Project Implementation Plan. There is a small portion of the grant funding earmarked to support a Subject Matter Advisor.

Implementation Vendor - The Implementation Vendor is the person or team that the municipality will hire to implement their Seed Project in Step 9.

MVP Regional Coordinator - The MVP Regional Coordinators (RCs) are State staff who can answer questions and provide support along the way.

Core Concept #3

Centering Equity

The MVP 2.0 process centers equity in building community resilience. Centering equity means paying specific, even greater, attention to the needs of people who will be most impacted by climate change and making sure that the outcomes directly benefit those communities. In order to center equity, decisions related to what's needed to build resilience must be shaped by, informed by, or led by people who will be most affected by climate change impacts. See page 4 to consider who may be most affected by climate change in your community.

When we design solutions for "all community members" without thinking about how the solution will benefit or reduce harm for people who are most affected by climate impacts, we often end up reinforcing inequities and vulnerability in our communities. Centering equity is essential for creating stronger and more resilient communities.

Core Concept #4

Lived Expertise

Lived expertise refers to direct, first-hand experience that you do not get through a class or a textbook. It includes knowledge and expertise on problems, needs, and potential strategies for specific challenges obtained through daily life experience — whether that's with housing insecurity, food insecurity, limited access to healthcare, language barriers, transportation barriers, or experience with forms of inequity or inaccessibility, for example. Lived expertise includes historical knowledge, on-the-ground experience, and relevant perspectives that are critical for informing community resilience solutions.

Phase 1

Develop a Core Team

In this phase, you will form a team that will work together to strengthen community resilience in your town, city, or region.

This phase takes about 5 months (months 1-5 of the process).

Step 1 Starting to Build Your Team

Timeframe: 1-2 months

In Step 1, your Municipal Project Manager recruits municipal staff to join the Core Team. If your community is very small, these might include municipal volunteers (who can be paid to participate in this project). Your Municipal Project Manager also hires a Planning Vendor (a consultant) to support the process.

If you are a municipal Core Team member, this is when you will join the process!

Step 2 Identifying Lived Expertise

Timeframe: 1 month

In Step 2, the municipal Core Team members dig into community data to better understand who lives and works in their community, and who will be most impacted by climate change. As part of this process, they identify whose perspectives will be important to include on the Core Team as Community Liaisons.

Step 3 Recruiting the Rest of Your Team

Timeframe: 2 months

The municipal Core Team members will identify and recruit Community Liaisons for the Core Team. Some approaches might include posting a job description, reaching out to local community-based organizations, and talking to people in public spaces where people in your community gather. Your team's Equity Partner will help onboard the team, and make sure everyone has the support they need to participate in the process. Before moving on, take a moment to do a Meet & Greet as a full team!

If you are a Community Liaison Core Team member, this is when you will join the process!

Phase 2

Revisit Resilience Priorities

In this phase, you will investigate factors that contribute to vulnerability or resilience for people in your community. You will then use your findings to update your community's resilience priorities.

This phase takes about 6 months (months 6-11 of the process).

Step 4 Kicking off Collaboration

Timeframe: 1 month

In Step 4, the Core Team does a couple of team-building activities. The goal is to learn more about the MVP 2.0 process, learn about each other, and to build a foundation for working together as a team. These activities will be facilitated by your Planning Vendor and Equity Partner.

Step 5 Uncovering Social Resilience

Timeframe: 3 months

As a team, you then begin investigating factors that contribute to vulnerability or resilience for people in your community. You will use the "Social Resilience Roadmap," which asks guiding questions on topics such as housing, transportation, and food and water. You'll start by filling in information using community and climate data and team knowledge. You'll then plan and implement community outreach and engagement activities to gather more information from the community. Your Equity Partner will provide coaching on how to think about climate equity in your community and inclusive engagement.

Step 6 Revisiting Resilience Priorities

Timeframe: 2 months

Your town or city identified community resilience priorities during the MVP 1.0 planning process (likely 5 years ago). Your goal for Step 6 is to revisit those priorities, and update them based on the new information you have gathered about what will be needed to build resilience in your community. You will then reach out to the community to gather feedback on the updated priorities and adjust them if necessary.

Phase 3

Implement a Seed Project

In this phase, you will identify, develop, and implement a Seed Project that will advance your community's resilience priorities.

This phase takes about 13 months (months 12-24 of the process).

Step 7 Selecting a Seed Project

Timeframe: 1 month

In Step 7, the Core Team identifies one to three potential Seed Project ideas that can support their resilience priorities. Check out the **Municipal Climate Resilience Playbook** and the Actions to Consider and Case Studies in the GEAR for ideas. You will then reach out to the community to gather feedback on the potential Seed Project ideas and select one to move forward with.

Step 8 Developing an Implementation Plan

Timeframe: 1 month

As a team, you will then develop an implementation plan for your Seed Project. Your Equity Partner will provide coaching on how to measure the equity impacts of projects. There's a small portion of funding to bring on a Subject Matter Advisor to help advise on the development of your project. Before starting Step 9, your Municipal Project Manager will lead the process of hiring an Implementation Vendor to implement the Seed Project.

Step 9 Implementing a Seed Project

Timeframe: 10 months

In Step 9, you will implement your Seed Project! The Core Team will work with the Implementation Vendor to implement the project over roughly 9-10 months.

Step 10 Reflecting, Adjusting, Next Steps

Timeframe: 1 month

Lastly, you will reflect on what went well and what you would do differently for future resilience projects! Celebrate all that you've accomplished, and consider what other projects you might pursue through MVP Action Grant funding.

MVP 2.0

resilient.mass.gov/mvp