



Norwood FY22 MVP Action Grant

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



**MVP Action Grant Pre-Request for Responses
(RFR) Webinar for the FY25 Round**
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Agenda

- Overview of MVP Program
 - Details on FY25 Action Grant Round
 - Case Studies by Regional Coordinators
 - Q&A on Action Grants
- Other notes:
- Recording
 - Please use the Q&A box for questions



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

MVP Planning 1.0

99% participation

349 communities

MVP Planning 2.0

FY24 Pilot: 32 municipalities & 1 Tribe

Action Grant Projects

FY 18: 37

FY 19: 36

FY 20: 53

FY 21: 41

FY 22: 66

FY 23: 73

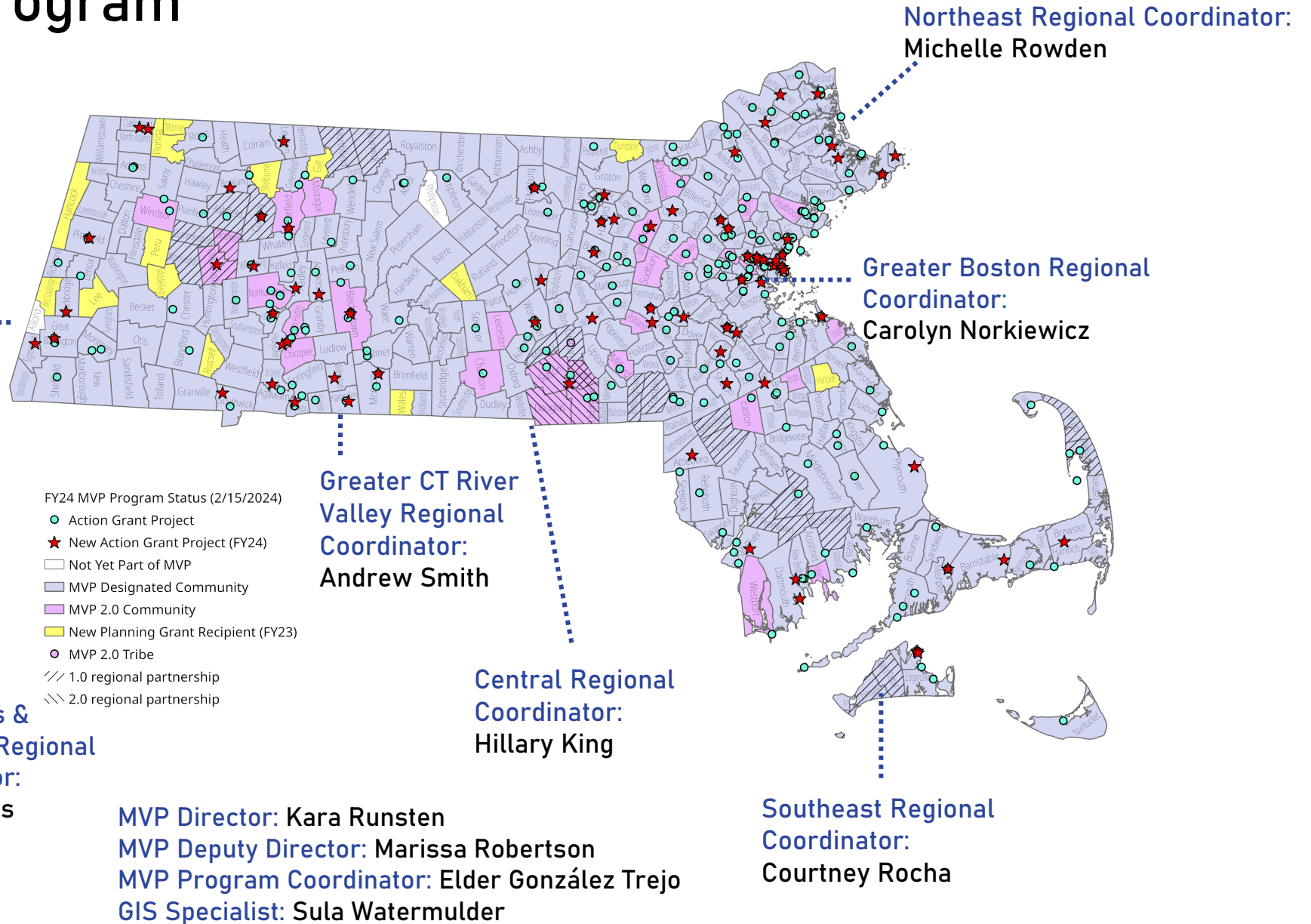
FY 24: 79 (\$28.5M)

Total Awards

Planning & Action

\$130M to date

Berkshires & Hilltowns Regional Coordinator:
Emma Sass





Climate resilience is the ability of a community to address the needs of its built, social, and natural environment to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from events and trends related to climate change hazards.

Resilient communities don't just recover—they *continuously build capacity* to reduce the impacts of future climate events.

MVP Core Principles

A community-led project that:



Furtheres a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts.



Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability.



Builds community capacity for climate resilience.



Conducts robust community engagement and supports strong partnerships with EJ and other priority populations.



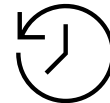
Utilizes climate change data for a proactive solution.



Employs Nature-based solutions (NBS).



Achieves broad and multiple community benefits.



Commits to monitoring project success and maintaining the project into the future.



Utilizes regional solutions for regional benefit.



Pursues innovative, transferable approaches.

Statistics From Last Round

112 applications

\$47 million requested

79 funded projects

Total funding \$28.5 million

Average grant size: ~\$360,000

FY25 Round Details and Timeline

- ~\$37 million available
 - ~\$30 million capital budget (FY25 & FY26)
 - \$7 million DEP Climate Trust for nature-based, inland-flooding resilience projects
- Max \$3M for individual; \$5M for regional projects
- NEW! 10% match required, with exceptions
- Reimbursement
- Submit applications by online form



- RFR release: Mid-March 2024
- RFR Q&A period ~2 weeks
- Applications due: Late April 2024
- Award announcement: August 2024
- Projects start: Anticipated September 2024 (please build project timeline w/ this in mind)
- Projects end: June 30, 2025 OR June 30, 2026 (make clear phases in each fiscal year)



What's NEW in this FY 25 round?

1. Updated Match Requirements:

- Match for all eligible applicants has been reduced to 10%
- MVP-eligible Tribes are no longer required to provide match.
- Unique to FY25 RFR: Municipalities listed in new Attachment M will not need to provide match for inland flooding-focused nature-based resilience projects as long as they adequately fill out the Attachment. Other municipalities may request a waiver for match as outlined in Attachment M by demonstrating documented flooding impacts and financial need.
 - Communities may also request to be considered to receive a portion of grant funding up-front based on demonstrated need.

2. Updated Reimbursement Requirements:

- Grantees allowed to submit reimbursement for both completed tasks AND sub-tasks.

3. Project Length: This round, MVP will aim to fund as many 2-year projects as possible.

4. Updated Land Acquisition Project Type Language:

- Clarified language around Tribe land acquisition projects

What's NEW in this FY 25 round? (contd.)

5. Attachment Updates:

- MVP Yearly Progress Report template no longer required for submission.
- Attachment C – Permitting: now only required for Type 3 Construction & On-the-Ground Implementation projects
- Attachment E – Key Terms: Key terms list for clarity and consistency of language
- Attachment G – Project Examples: Updated to include recent project examples
- Attachment K – Tools and Resources: Updated in collaboration with Office of Climate Science
- Unique to FY25 RFR: Attachment M – Inland Flooding Documentation & Match: Temporary attachment allows applicants to submit information and documentation around inland flooding impacts experienced in 2023/2024. Also identifies communities who are eligible for no match for inland-flooding nature-based resilience projects.
- Attachment N – 10% Match – This list is retired as all municipalities are now eligible for 10% match.

What's NEW in this FY 25 round? (contd.)

6. Streamlined Application Questions: The application was updated to reduce length and align community engagement section with new MVP 2.0 process and resources

Eligible Applicants

FY25 MVP Action Grant RFR is open to:

- Municipalities who have received "MVP Community" designation from EEA by completing an MVP 1.0 plan through original MVP Planning Grant process or through designation for prior work
- Commonwealth's political subdivisions, including, but not limited to:
 - Cities
 - Towns
 - Counties and districts
 - Any authority, commission, board, or instrumentality of the foregoing
 - These entities must apply for projects aligning with an MVP plan and include a letter of support from municipalities, who must be eligible to apply for this grant.
- Federally and state recognized Tribes or any authority, commission, board of instrumentality of the foregoing
 - Should demonstrate that project aligns with a climate resilience priority of the tribe
 - Must be willing to agree to a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for purpose of enforcement of grant contract terms

Project Types



Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates



Design and Permitting



Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

Note: Demonstrate necessary permits & permissions have been secured

Action Grant – Application Components

- ✓ *Required components:*
 - ✓ Completed online form (Formstack)
 - ✓ Completed application narrative (Attachment A to RFR)
 - ✓ Completed scope/budget template (Attachment B to RFR) with clear delineation between fiscal years
 - ✓ More detailed scope/budget spreadsheet is still optional
 - ✓ Completed Inland Flooding Documentation (Attachment M)

- ✓ *Additional Attachments:*
 - ✓ Attachment C for construction projects
 - ✓ Statement of match (described in RFR)
 - ✓ Letters of support from landowner (if applicable), partners, the public (submitted with application), municipalities (if political subdivision application)
 - ✓ Required Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool Report attachment for projects that focus on a specific site and involve physical assets at any stage
 - ✓ For land acquisition projects:
 - ✓ Draft Town Meeting/City Council vote language
 - ✓ Appraisal

Project narrative: Please upload a document with your answers to all the questions in the "project narrative" section of the application of the RFR (pages 22-29). Please make sure to include the name of the lead municipality and the project title at the top of the document.*

No File Chosen

Excel version of Scope and Budget Spreadsheet (Attachment B in the RFR). Please delete the "tips" and "instructions" tabs before submitting.*

No File Chosen

Statement of match from authorized signatory of the applicant (described in Section 1.F of the RFR)*

No File Chosen

Inland Flooding Documentation (Attachment M in the RFR)*

No File Chosen

Required information for construction projects (Attachment C in the RFR) if applicable

No File Chosen

Document with all letters of support compiled

No File Chosen

Please do not have support letters sent in separately. Please compile them all into one document and attach here. Letters should include 1) those from the landowner for projects of any type (e.g., feasibility, design, permitting, or construction) on land the applicant does not own 2) those from related municipality/ies for eligible non-municipal applicants (except eligible Tribes) 3) those from other partners and the public demonstrating support and 4) those from all municipalities if regional application

Draft Town Meeting or City Council vote language for land acquisition projects (see Section 2.B.3), if applicable.

No File Chosen

Appraisal that meets EEA standards for land acquisition projects

No File Chosen

RMAT Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool report print out. Required for projects focused on a specific site and including a physical asset/s (e.g., building infrastructure, natural resources) at any project phase (e.g., planning, design, or implementation). See Attachment D in RFR for more information.

No File Chosen

This is where you can upload a print out from the online tool.

[Save and Resume Later](#)

Attachment B & Budgeting Resources

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Attachment B: [Insert name of municipality/project title] FY25 [/FY26] MVP Action Grant Scope & Budget										
Review the list of instructions on the "Instructions" tab to understand how to use this spreadsheet.										
Project Task	Description of Task/Scope	Deliverables	Approximate Start Date	Approximate End Date	Total Grant	In-Kind Match	Cash Match	Total Match	Total Project Cost	Grant Funds to EJ and/or Priority Populations (this is a subset of "total grant" in column F, not add'l funding)
Tasks to be Completed by June 30, 2025										
Task 1: Project Kick-off, Management, and Reporting										
Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant		Meeting notes, sign-in sheet						\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY25 (template provided)		Monthly progress reports submitted by the 30th of each month of the grant period to your MVP Regional Coordinator						\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Sub-task 1.3 Project Case Study (required at end of project; template provided)		Final Case Study Report, PowerPoint slide, project photos						\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Sub-task 1.4 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Sub-task 1.5 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
t. Insert additional rows above if needed										
Total Task 1 Cost					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Task 2: Community Engagement in FY25										
Sub-task 2.1 [Description]		(copy tasks from your Engagement Activities (Question 6 in the application) here)						\$ -	\$0.00	
Sub-task 2.2 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	
Sub-task 2.3 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	
Sub-task 2.4 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	
Sub-task 2.5 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00	
t. Insert additional rows above if needed										
Total Task 2 Cost					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -

- Project Task: Task and sub-task name and #
- ***New*** Description of Task/Scope: Brief, clear explanation of work that will be performed
- Deliverable: The item that will be submitted to MVP to indicate task completion
- Approximate Start and End Date: Anticipated start and end date of each task and/or sub-task
- Grant and Match: Identify the amount of grant funding and/or match required for each project ask
- ***New*** Grant Funds to EJ and/or Priority Populations: Identify the amount of grant funding that is going to EJ and/or priority populations for each task. This is not additional grant funding and can range from \$0 to total grant amount for that sub-task.

Attachment B & Budgeting Resources

	Match	0.00%
% of Project Funds to EJ or Priority Populations		0.00%

Amounts from Column K - "Grant Funds to EJ and/or Priority Populations" calculated as total percentage at bottom of Attachment B. Higher percentages result in more points awarded.

Reference "Tips" and "Instructions" tabs when completing Attachment B.

Review the list of instructions below to understand how to use this spreadsheet.

General Instructions

1

For important notes embedded in Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, hover over cells with red triangle in top right of cell.

2

For both Scope_Budget tab and Optional Budget Data tab (if using), add your municipality and project title to the top.

3

In Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, **yellow cells** are for user input. **Green, blue, purple, and orange cells contain formulas and should not be altered.**

Tasks to be Completed

Task 1: Project Kick-off, Management

Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EJ

Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY21

Review the list of instructions on the "Instructions" tab

Project Task Description

Total Task 1 Cost

Total Grant	In-Kind Match	Cash Match

Navigation: TIPS | INSTRUCTIONS | SCOPE_BUDGET | OPTIONAL BUDGET DATA

Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool

Includes elements like:

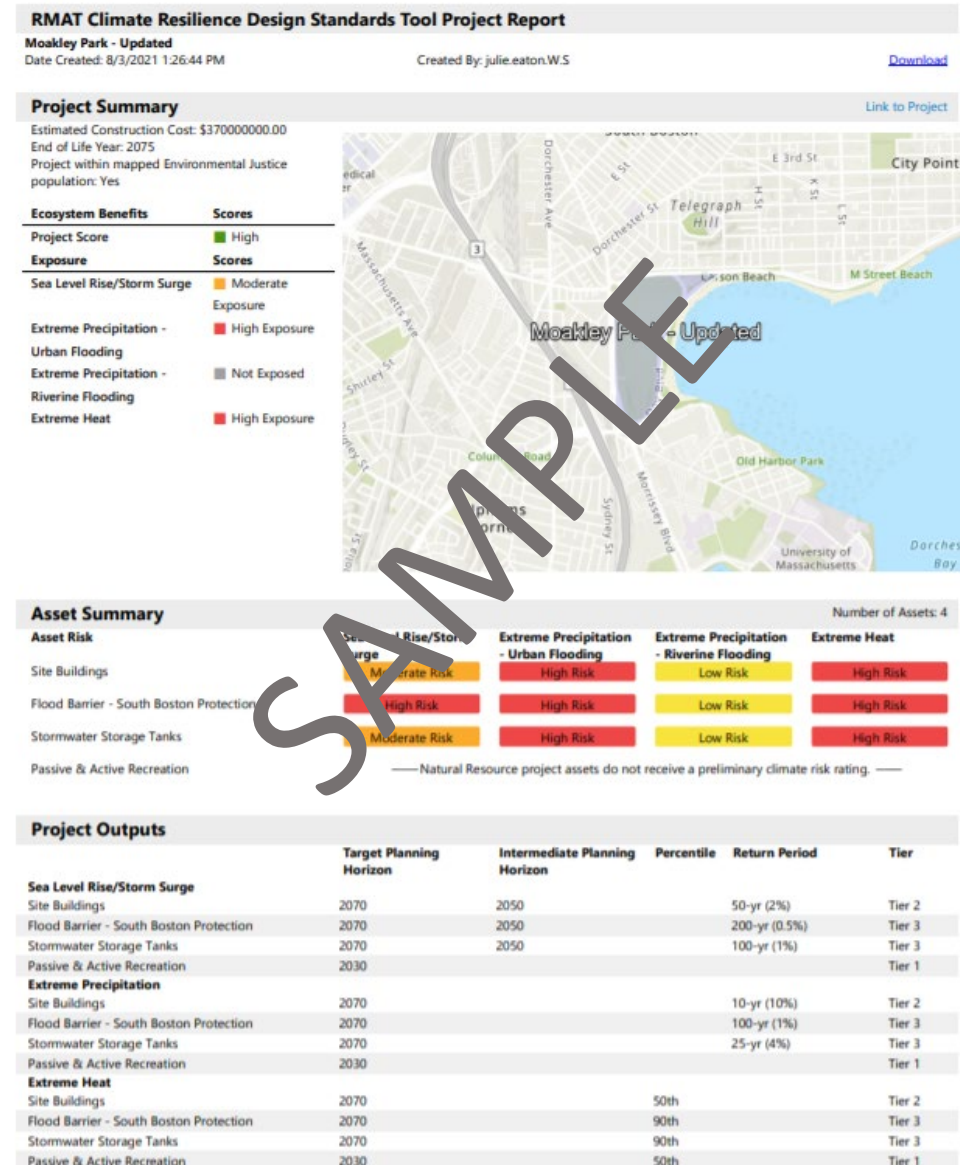
- Location on a map
- Series of questions about the project, location, and climate hazards
- GIS based data from ResilientMass

Provides:

- Preliminary Climate Exposure & Risk Rating
- Recommended Design Criteria
 - Planning Horizon
 - Return Period
 - Design Standards

Important Notes:

- Required for all MVP projects in any phase that include a physical asset (i.e., buildings, infrastructure, natural resources)
- Additional guidance, text, and user interface updates
- Updated Data (Cornell, MC-FRM)
- Submit the project when finished
- RMAT@Mass.gov for any questions



Attachment M: Inland Flooding Documentation & Match

MVP has received additional FY25 funding to award to communities impacted by 2023/2024 flooding events who are applying for inland flooding-focused nature-based resilience projects.

- Communities listed in Attachment M are eligible for no match if applying for an inland flooding-focused nature-based resilience project.
- All applicants are required to submit Attachment M. Indicate whether Attachment M applies to you through Question 1 on the Attachment:
 - ☐ Community is on the list and applying for flood project (fill out questions 2-7)
 - ☐ Community not on list but experienced impacts, applying for inland flooding project, and has significant financial need (fill out question 2-7)
 - ☐ Community does not fit either of above two categories (do not proceed with rest of attachment)
- Questions address:
 - Dates and description of impacts
 - How project mitigates and/or adapts to future flooding events
 - Remaining anticipated steps and funding
 - Community financial need
- Communities who are not listed in Attachment M may request consideration for no match if all other criteria met
- Communities may request to be considered for upfront funding if needed

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Project Goals & Impacts
 - Description of project goals and objectives
 - Why the project was chosen, how it increases climate resilience and provides broad community benefits
 - Project relationship to priorities in MA Climate Change Assessment impacts
 - Environmental Justice and/or priority population demographic information
 - Previously "Project Description, Rationale, & Climate Data"
- Climate Science & Data
 - Incorporates up-to-date climate science and data on future conditions
 - Project includes use of Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, if applicable
 - Now its own section more clearly describes the hierarchy of climate data available and in what scenarios to reference which type of data tool.

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Scope, Budget, & Timeline (including 10% match of total project cost, 0% if eligible Tribe or community meeting requirements in Attachment M)
 - Detail the tasks, description, and deliverable all in Attachment B
 - Project budget (delineated by fiscal year with a clear phases in each fiscal year if applying for FY26 funding)
 - Clear project timeline identified through Attachment B start/end dates with capability to be completed in the contract period (timelines should start around September 2024)
 - Identification of funding going directly to EJ and/or priority populations in Attachment B
 - Identification of regulatory components (including attachment for construction projects)

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Nature-Based Solutions
 - How ecological systems are incorporated into the overall vision of project
 - Identification and description of environmental co-benefits of project
 - Hard infrastructure can get partial points
- Environmental Justice & Priority Populations
 - Demonstrated support from residents or community groups representing these populations through letters of support
 - Engagement process demonstrating community need for project
 - Portion of budget goes to EJ and/or priority populations and is clearly noted in Attachment B
 - Includes funding going directly to EJ and/or other priority population community liaisons, CBOs or non-profit partners, and to construction and implementation of project within a mapped EJ area

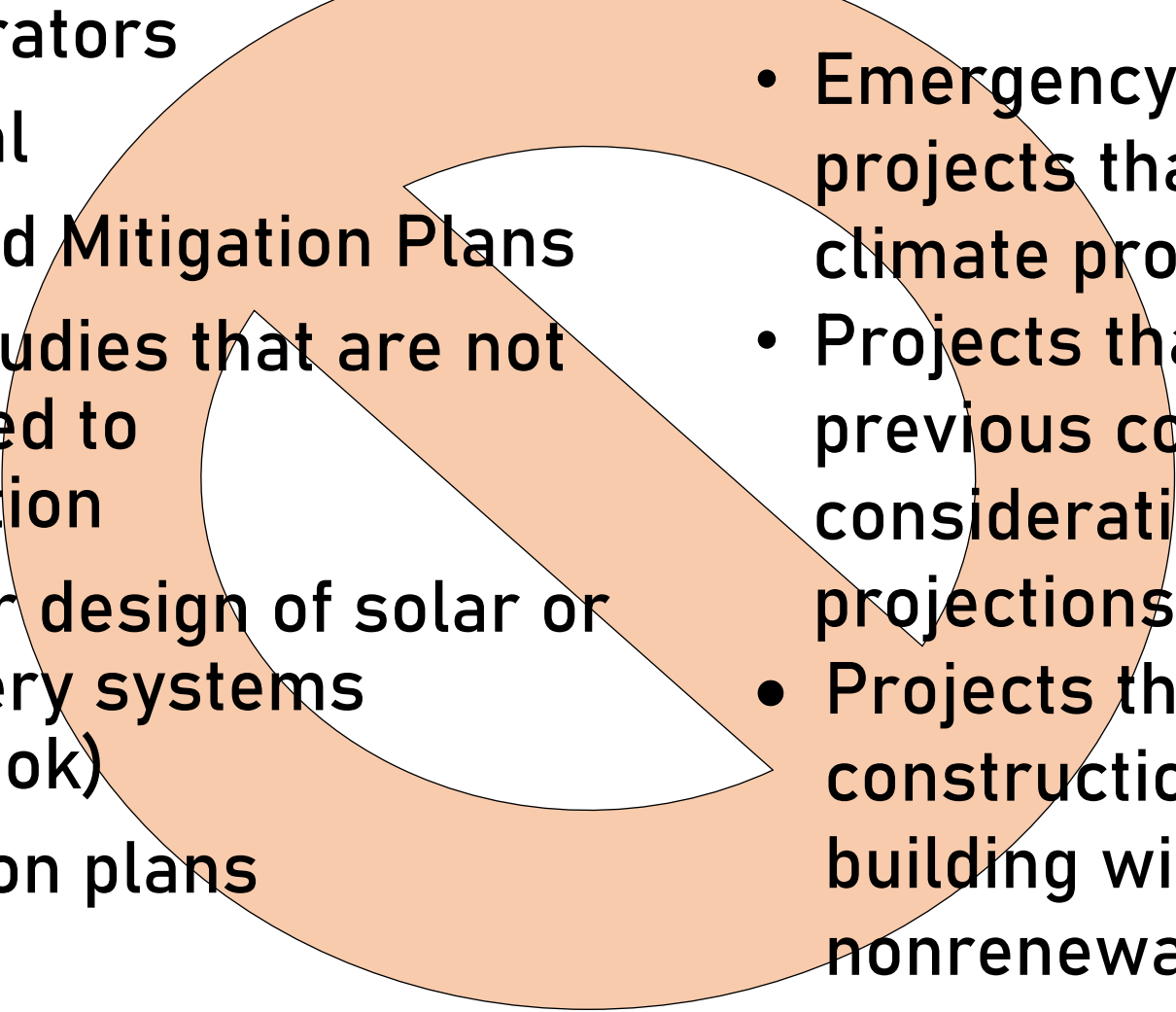
Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Public Involvement and Community Capacity
 - Identification of project partners and their roles, also reflected in Attachment B
 - Identification of proposed outreach, engagement, and/or education activities to support project goals, also reflected in Attachment B
 - Aligned with MVP 2.0 engagement guidelines
 - Activities identified build community capacity for ongoing climate resilience beyond the grant
- Transferability, Measurement of Success, and Maintenance
 - Serve as demonstration project and are transferable to other communities
 - Identification of 2 quantifiable metrics of how project success will be realistically measured
 - Mechanisms in place to maintain project beyond life of grant

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

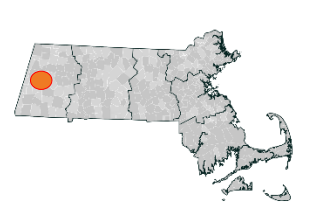
- Project Support and Evaluation
 - Project has strong regional benefits
 - Letters of support
 - 3+ letters of support from diverse groups scored highest
 - Support from private landowner, if applicable
 - *Letters of support from Environmental Justice and Priority Populations section will be counted towards the 3+ letters for this section*
 - To be completed by EEA/MVP:
 - Equalized valuation per capita
 - Good standing in MVP program
 - Overall project quality

Action projects that are NOT MVP-competitive:

- 
- Diesel generators
 - Tree removal
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - Academic studies that are not directly linked to implementation
 - Feasibility or design of solar or solar + battery systems (installation ok)
 - Climate action plans
 - Emergency preparedness projects that don't incorporate climate projections/planning
 - Projects that repair to previous conditions without consideration of climate projections
 - Projects that include building construction where the building will rely on nonrenewable sources of energy

Action Grant Examples

The Housatonic Stream Restoration for Regional Flood Resilience Project



Regional Project: Pittsfield, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, Lenox FY22

[Town-wide Culvert Assessments for Regional Flood Resilience \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

AWARD

\$295,190

MATCH \$99,720

PROJECT TYPE

Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED

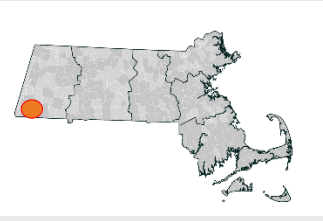
Conducting robust community engagement; Increasing equitable outcomes for EJ and other priority populations; Utilizing regional solutions toward regional benefit

DESCRIPTION

- Update of each municipality's culvert inventory by conducting over 400 culvert assessments
- Robust community engagement:
 - Involvement with multiple EJ/community-based organizations across municipalities
 - Paid youth crew trained in culvert assessment protocol to assist with regional assessment
 - Watershed, water quality protection, and climate change studies incorporated into middle and high school curricula
 - Youth Climate Leadership Program, field trips to project sites



Rural Dirt Road Resilience: Assessment, Pilot Study, and Recommendations Report



Regional Project: Sheffield, New Marlborough, & Sandisfield FY20

[MVP Dirt Roads \(wordpress.com\)](https://mvp-dirtroads.wordpress.com)

[Assessment & Recommendations Report](#)

AWARD

\$123,973

MATCH \$41,520

PROJECT TYPE

Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED

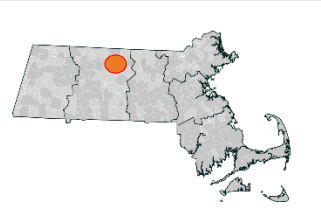
Conducting robust community engagement;
Utilizing regional solutions toward regional benefit

DESCRIPTION

- Sought to better understand how and under what conditions rural dirt roads are vulnerable to the effects of climate change
- Developed a robust dirt road scoring methodology using community feedback, field and desktop data collection, and stakeholder engagement
- Produced a rural dirt road vulnerability assessment report and provided recommendations



Greening Lord Pond Plaza, Phase 2



Town of Athol, MA FY22-23

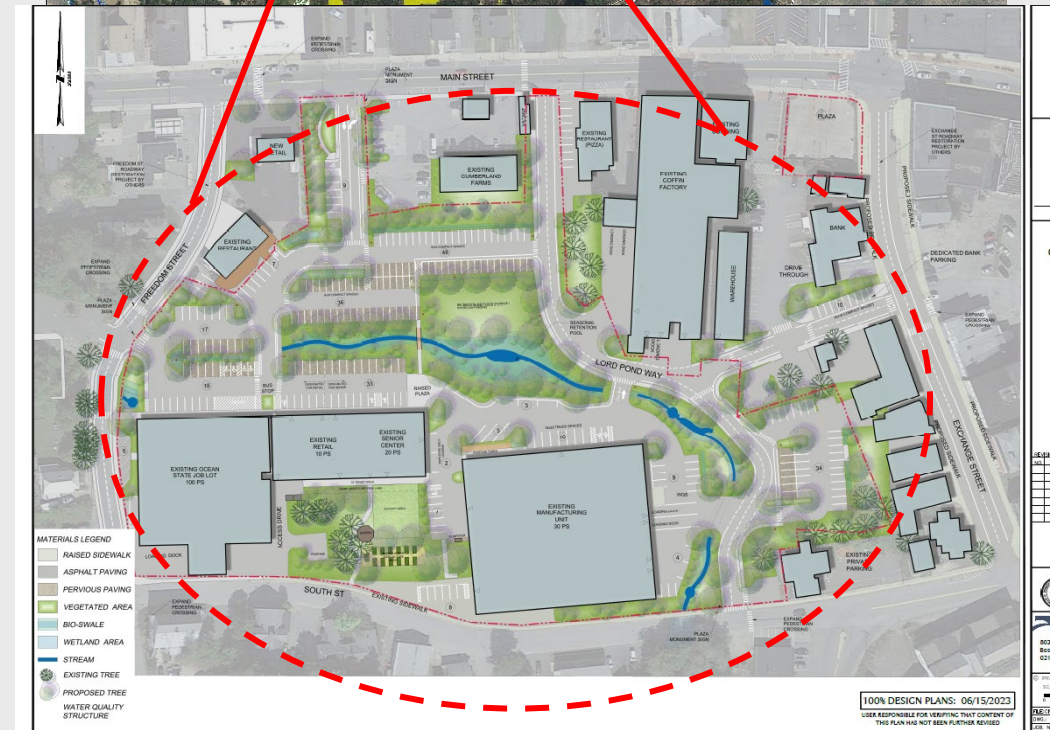
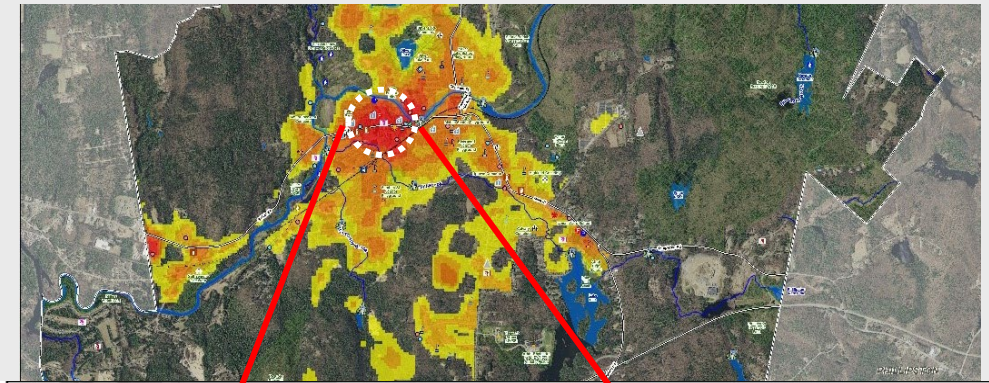
[Greening Lord Pond Plaza Project Website](#)

AWARD \$189,030

PROJECT TYPE Type 2: Design and Permitting

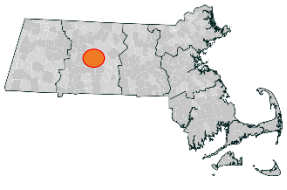
**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED** Employing Nature-Based Solutions; Achieving broad and multiple community benefits; and Furthering a community identified priority action.

DESCRIPTION Applies nature-based solutions to daylight a culverted brook, create wetlands, add greenspace, and increase flood storage in downtown Athol.



Climate Resilient Downtown Affordable Housing

Northampton FY23 (ongoing)



AWARD

\$921,300

MATCH

\$344,000

PROJECT TYPE

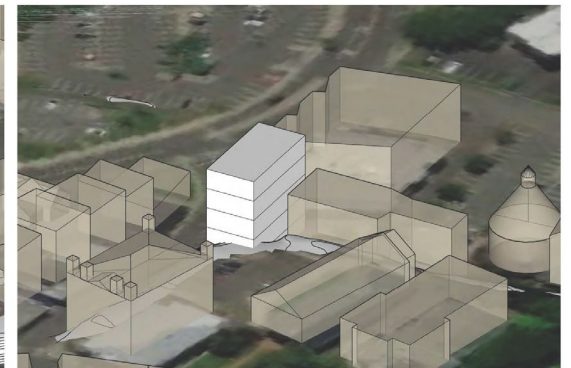
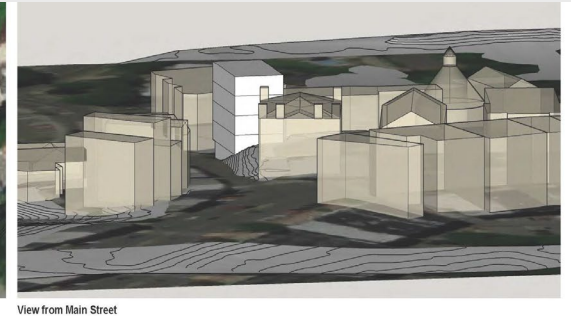
Type 2: Design and Permitting

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED**

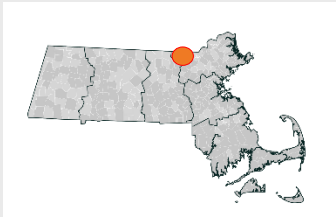
Pursuing innovative, transferable approaches;
Achieving broad and multiple community benefits

DESCRIPTION

- Design and permitting for passive house standard ~20+ unit multifamily dwelling
- Will serve priority populations, with a specific focus on those who currently are or are at risk of becoming houseless (highest risks – flooding and extreme heat)
- Strategically located:
 - Near essential services and transportation
 - Elevated out of floodplain
 - Highly visible
 - Epicenter of climate vulnerable populations



Sucker Brook Continuity Restoration



Pepperell FY22 (ongoing)

[Sucker Brook Continuity Restoration Project - Building Community Resiliency | Pepperell, MA - Official Website](#)

AWARD

\$840,142

MATCH \$206,238

PROJECT TYPE

Type 3: Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED**

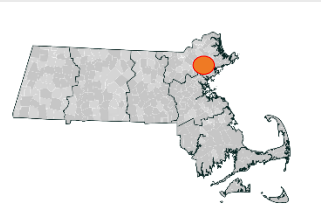
Employing Nature-Based Solution (NBS); Utilizing climate change data for a proactive solution

DESCRIPTION

- On-the-ground construction phase to remove a dam and replace 2 undersized, failing culverts on Sucker Brook, a cold-water fishery of high ecological value
- Will improve ecological conditions and water quality/quantity, remove public safety hazards, eliminate flooding risks, enhance climate resiliency
- Aiming to restore stream continuity & mimic the natural stream processes with larger culverts and restore free-flowing conditions



Richardson Green Conservation Acquisition



Lynnfield FY22

<https://ecga.org/RichardsonGreen>

[Conservation Commission | Lynnfield MA](#)

AWARD

\$1,638,750

MATCH

\$758,950

PROJECT TYPE

Richardson Green Conservation Acquisition –
Action Grant

CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED

Employing Nature-Based Solutions; Utilizing
Regional Solutions Toward Regional Benefits

DESCRIPTION

- **Protection of 21 acres of undeveloped forest in Ipswich River watershed:** Habitat protection/restoration, reduction of development in climate vulnerable areas, protection of water quality & groundwater recharge, improved air quality, carbon sequestration, mitigation of inland flooding risks
- One phase of larger project known as "A Vision for Willis Woods"
- **Significant project success from public-private collaboration of 7 partners:** Greenbelt/Essex County's Land Trust, Ipswich River Watershed Association, Lynnfield Center Water District, towns of Lynnfield, Middleton, North Reading, and City of Peabody
- **Future plans:** development of extensive recreational trails network with connections to partner communities



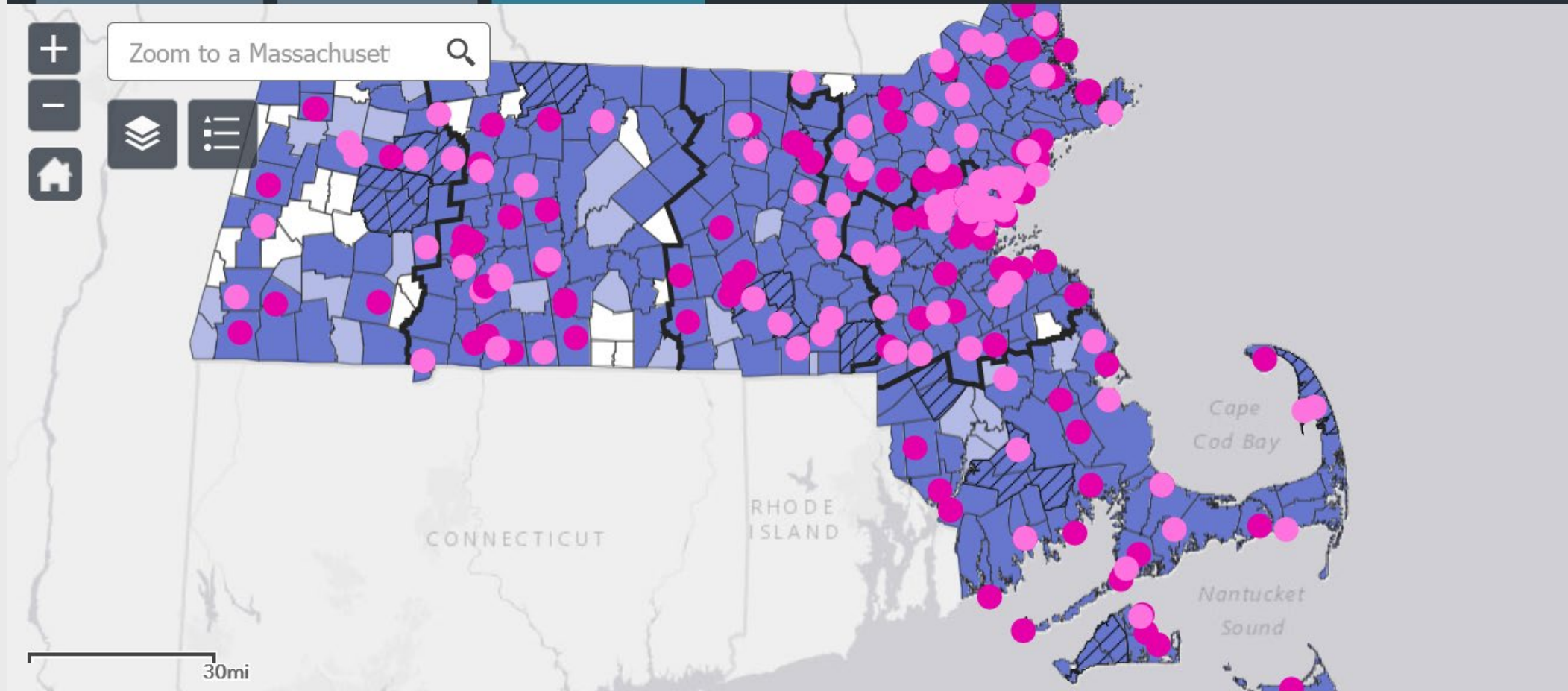
View the MVP grants in the tabs below:

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Planning Grants

Action Grants

All MVP Grants



To view more examples of MVP Action Grant Projects:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-program-action-grant-projects>
or check out our interactive grant viewer at <https://resilient.mass.gov/mvp/>

Office of Climate Science – Data Assistance Office Hours



- The MVP team, in collaboration with the newly established [Office of Climate Science](#) (OCS), offering climate change data and tool assistance through OCS Office Hours.
- For potential applicants who need additional support and guidance utilizing climate change data and resources to support their project proposals.
- OCS Office Hours are virtual and on a first come, first serve basis - registration is not required. Upcoming hours:
 - Thursday, 3/7 at 1-2 pm: <https://zoom.us/j/98584193243>
 - Monday, 3/11 at 10-11 am: <https://zoom.us/j/91994210394>
- For any questions, contact climatescience@mass.gov

MVP 2.0 Pilot Updates



- FY24 MVP 2.0 Pilot Round:

- Ongoing with 32 participating communities & 1 Tribe
- Upcoming Next Step: Climate Resilience & Equity Trainings
- Pilot communities providing a lot of valuable feedback and lessons learned

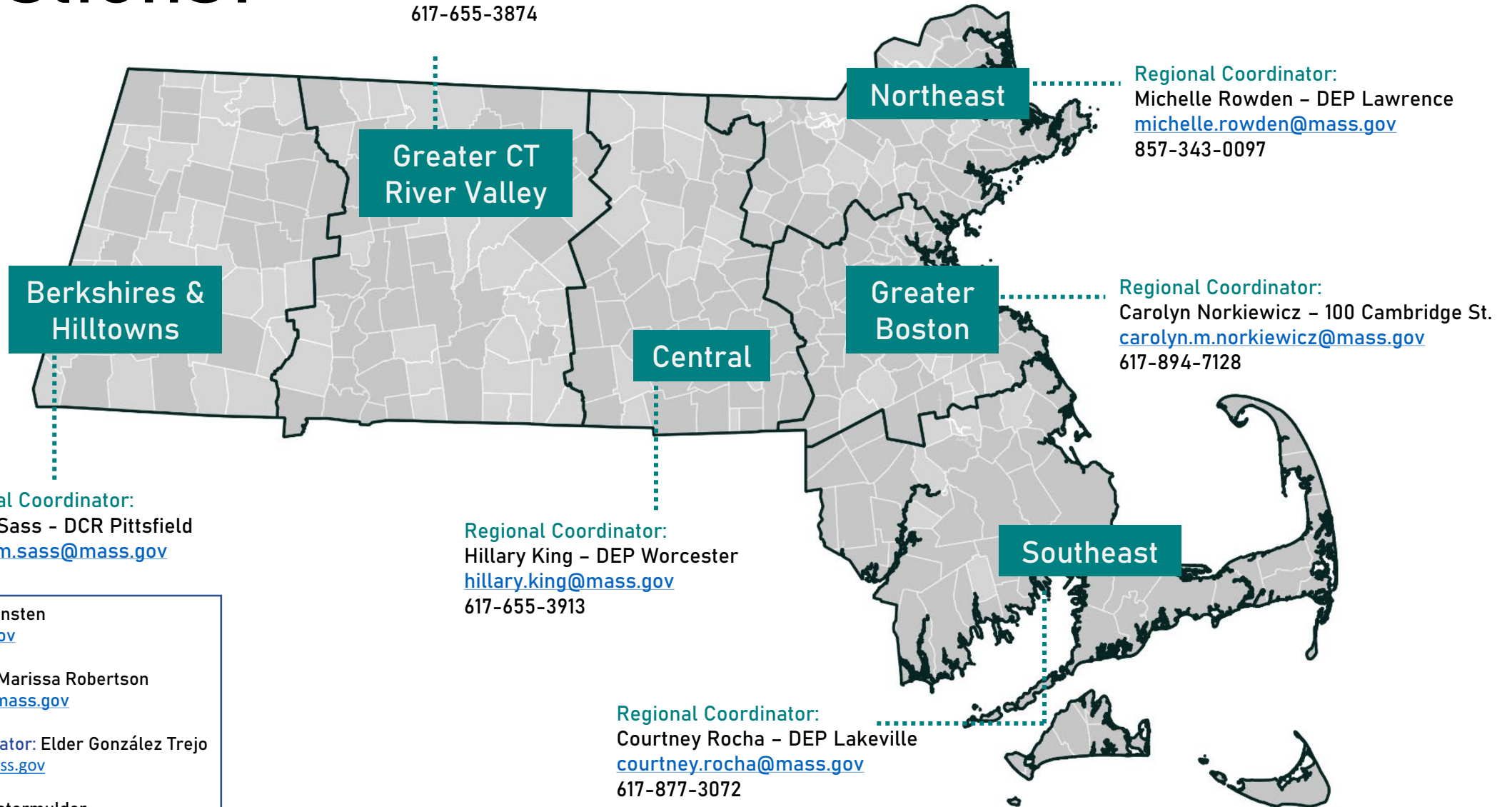
- FY25 MVP 2.0 Updates:

- FY25 MVP 2.0 RFR will be released late 2024 – therefore all MVP 1.0 designated communities are eligible for FY25 Action Grants
- Likely reducing number of required communities for FY25 MVP 2.0 application round to those with plans approved by May 2018– more information forthcoming



Questions?

Regional Coordinator:
Andrew Smith – DEP Springfield
andrew.b.smith@mass.gov
617-655-3874



MVP Director: Kara Runsten
kara.runsten@mass.gov

MVP Deputy Director: Marissa Robertson
Marissa.robertson2@mass.gov

MVP Program Coordinator: Elder González Trejo
elder.gonzaleztrejo@mass.gov

GIS Specialist: Sula Watermulder
sula.watermulder2@mass.gov

Find your region by municipality: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/contact-mvp-regional-coordinator>