

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 9, Winter 2022

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Welcome to the ninth quarterly issue of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Newsletter. The MVP grant program provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The Commonwealth awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP Planning Grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding and other opportunities.

Announcements

Register Now! FY23 MVP Planning and Action Grant Pre-Request For Responses Webinars

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Municipal

Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program team is anticipating the release of its next Request for Responses (RFRs) for both MVP Planning and Action Grants in mid-March 2022. To prepare for this release, the MVP team will be hosting two informational sessions to give an overview of the program, review anticipated changes to this round's applications, and answer questions.

Below are the two sessions we have planned. **In order to register, you will need to follow the link to the session you would like to attend. Please only register for one session, as the sessions will review exactly the same content.**

- Monday, March 7, 2022, 11am-12pm – [Register here](#)
- Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 2pm-3pm – [Register here](#)

If you cannot make it to either webinar or you would just like to watch on your own time, we will be posting the recording to our website resilientma.org/mvp in the "stay up-to-date" section after the events.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your [regional coordinator](#) or kara.runsten@mass.gov.

Guide the future of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Program!

Since 2017, 335 municipalities in Massachusetts have participated in the [MVP Planning program](#). As the program reaches its five-year anniversary, the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) will be updating the MVP Planning process. **MVP Planning 2.0** will build on the work communities have done to date, and will support communities with new processes, tools, and resources for inclusive and actionable climate resilience planning.

EEA is convening an MVP Review Panel to guide the development of this program. If you are interested in joining, we invite you to [nominate yourself!](#) Please respond by February 25. The MVP Review Panel will be a group of 50-75 people representing communities across Massachusetts. These individuals will be asked to provide ideas, identify challenges, review the ideas of other participants, and offer feedback on draft concepts through three questionnaires that will build on each other over the course of several months (April-June 2022).

Who should apply? Municipal staff and volunteers, staff from regional and community-based organizations, MVP service providers, and other community members who led or participated in Community Resilience Building workshops as part of an MVP Planning Grant are all encouraged to apply.

What's the time commitment? Members of the MVP Review Panel will be asked to participate in three questionnaires between April and June 2022, which can each be completed at any point over a designated two-week period. Participants will also be asked to review the draft program in November 2022. It's estimated that the total time commitment will be 6-10 hours. EEA has some designated funding to support people in participating in the process who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate because of work, childcare, or other caretaking obligations.

How will the members be determined? The goal is to have an MVP Review Panel that is representative of the diversity of municipalities in Massachusetts, and representative of the different constituents involved in the MVP Planning process. While the project team hopes to have a spot for everyone interested, the number of members will need to be capped at 75 participants, and spots will be prioritized for perspectives that are not otherwise well-represented. The questions in the nomination form will be used to ensure that we can achieve that diversity of perspectives.

Will there be other ways to be involved? Yes! Outside of the participation in the MVP Review Panel there will be additional opportunities for open community review to provide input and feedback on the updated MVP Planning process. We will promote those opportunities through the MVP newsletter listserv.

Any questions can be sent to carrieanne.petrik@mass.gov.

Registration Open for Massachusetts Climate Assessment Meetings

You are invited to join a statewide conversation on climate change impacts – such as extreme heat and flooding - affecting you, your families, and your community.

The information you share will inform the [2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment](#), which the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is undertaking to identify the most pressing current and future climate challenges and impacts. These impacts are especially seen and felt by communities facing disproportionate environmental, social, economic, and other burdens.

Ultimately, your feedback will be used to inform how the study will assess statewide climate impacts, and how the State prioritizes actions to address these challenges as part of the upcoming [State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan](#) 2023 update.

Please join us by registering for one of the four discussions (up to 90 minutes each)

- [Conversation 1: March 1 at 11:30am](#)

- [Conversation 2: March 3 at 1pm](#)
- [Conversation 3: March 8 at 11:30 am](#)
- [Conversation 4: March 9 at 6pm](#)

Registration and Accessibility. Once you sign up, you will receive an email confirming your registration. During registration, please request reasonable accommodation for a disability or interpreter services in a language other than English, so that you can participate in the conversation by February 16. We will do our best to accommodate these needs to allow community members to participate as fully as possible.

Questions. Please contact Carolyn Meklenburg (carolyn.meklenburg@mass.gov) or Hannah Stroud (hannah.stroud@erg.com) with any questions about the agenda or logistics.

New MVP Resources

MVP Winter Webinar Series Recordings Posted Online

If you missed our winter webinar series, you can now access the recordings online!

- Local and Regional Climate Adaptation Tools - [View now](#)
- Building Trust and Community Partnerships - [View now](#)



MVP Transferable Tools Webpage



This [new webpage](#) features deliverables from MVP Action Grant projects that can be useful tools, templates, and examples for municipalities to use and adapt. The tools are organized by themes:

- Project identification tools
- Regulatory guidelines
- Green infrastructure best practices
- Public outreach resources
- Education resources

All of the tools shown at the recent MVP webinar on Local and Regional Climate Adaptation Tools are included, along with many more.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming MVP newsletters? Submit to kara.runsten@mass.gov

Webinars and Events

- **February 23, 12pm - American Society of Adaptation Professionals Principles of Adaptation Training:** Learn more and register [here](#).
- **February 25, 1pm - Dream, Play, Build: Hands-On Community Engagement for Enduring Spaces and Places:** Learn more and register [here](#).
- **March 4, 10am - EBC & UMass Boston Climate Adaptation Forum: Unprecedented Funding for Unprecedented Times: Demystifying Federal Funds for Climate Resilience:** Learn more and register [here](#).

Grant Opportunities

- **EEA's Division of Ecological Restoration DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant:** DER seeks proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value. The purpose of this funding is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. Interested communities should view the full announcement, including funding, eligibility and evaluation criteria that can be found on [Commbuys](#) and DER's website: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program>. **The application deadline for this grant opportunity is 5PM, MARCH 14, 2022.**
- **EEA's Office of Coastal Zone Management Upcoming Grant Opportunities:** CZM anticipates the release of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Request for Responses (RFR) for the [Coastal Resilience Grant Program](#) in the spring. Coastal Resilience Grants provide funding and technical assistance to coastal communities and eligible nonprofit organizations to reduce risks associated with coastal storms, flooding, erosion, and sea level rise through innovative and transferable local projects. The

following CZM support is available for this grant program:

- **Direct Support** - Up until the RFR is released, CZM can discuss project ideas and eligibility for the grants with potential applicants. See the contact information at the bottom of the [Coastal Resilience Grant page](#) to connect with CZM.
- **Coastal Resilience Grant Program Webinar** - On March 3 from 1:00-2:30 p.m., CZM will host an informational webinar on the next Coastal Resilience Grant opportunity. The webinar will highlight a variety of successful projects supported by CZM, along with grant program goals, requirements, expected funding levels, timeline, and tips for developing competitive proposals. There will be time for questions and discussion of potential project ideas. Please email patricia.bowie@mass.gov to register and receive the Zoom meeting details. A recording of the presentation will be linked from the [Coastal Resilience Grant Program website](#) following the webinar.

Job Opportunities

- **EEA Seeking Study Manager Contractor for Boston Harbor Resilience Study:** The Commonwealth of MA received an authorization through the 2020 Water Resources Development Act that allows for a funding agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct a planning study to address climate resiliency at a watershed scale. The study includes a scoping process, regional assessment, identification of recommended regional adaptation strategies and implementation framework, and stakeholder engagement for the Boston Harbor region, that will be completed by the USACE and potential subcontractors. EEA is seeking a Study Manager to coordinate and manage the engagement of stakeholders and state agency staff for the study and its deliverables, as well as serve as the main study point of contact. **The contract duration for this position is anticipated to run from hire through 12/31/2024. For more information and to apply:** <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2200000E>

MVP Program Resources

Below is list of resources to assist communities on their current MVP grants and in thinking about future projects.

Planning Grant:

- [MVP Planning Grant Municipal Training Grant Webinar Recording January 2020](#)
- [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) program Planning Reports](#)
- [resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)

Action Grant:

- [Learn More About Action Grant Projects](#)
- [Explore MVP Core Principles](#)
- [resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)
- [Discover other grants to support your project](#)

Have a question? Reach out to our MVP Regional Coordinators.

Not sure which region you are in? Click [here](#).

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