



2018 Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem Request for Proposals

I. Introduction

The Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) is accepting Proposals for our Spring 2018 grant competition. This RFP includes important background information for applicants, describes the focus and goals for the competition, and provides application instructions and a timeline for the competition.

II. Background

CRF and the NOAA Climate Program Office recently co-sponsored a two-day workshop in Silver Spring, MD. The Resilience Ecosystem Workshop (REW) gathered approximately 60 organizational representatives from across the U.S. These participants are representative of a broader community of organizations and individuals currently engaged in helping the nation understand and prepare for current and forthcoming effects of a changing climate. *We define the “Resilience Ecosystem” (RE) as the open and inclusive community of public and private entities that are working to sustain and evolve science-based tools, information, and expertise that can help city planners, resource managers, businesses and others build resilience to climate-related impacts and extreme events.*

RE Workshop participants were asked to work together to identify opportunities to collaborate on synergistic projects that build on existing resources in the broader Resilience Ecosystem (RE). Project ideas were generated by participants at the meeting and may be developed into project proposals for this grant competition. This RFP represents an extension of this opportunity to organizations and individuals who were not in attendance at the RE Workshop to either partner on projects that were conceived there, or to propose additional ideas that meet the project criteria (outlined below). **Information about the Workshop—including the agenda, summary report, and participants’ project ideas/concepts—is available on the [RE Workshop webpage](#).**

III. Grant Competition Focus and Goal

The overall focus for this grant competition is on **coordination of climate adaptation and resilience services**. Grants will be made available to qualifying organizations seeking support for **collaborative projects that build upon existing resources that support climate change adaptation and resilience activities and outcomes**.

The **goal for this competition is to support projects that address *recognized goals and gaps in the Resilience Ecosystem*** (please refer to the [RE Workshop webpage](#) to view the summary report to explore the goals and gaps identified).

IV. Grants and Matching Requirement

CRF will award up to six separate grants of \$25,000 each to support partnerships/collaborations that meet the criteria outlined below. Grantees will be required to demonstrate a minimum 100% match for CRF funding.

Matching funds may be made available for CRF award recipients by Harmonic International, a NOAA contractor, provided the project supports NOAA's mission of promoting climate resilience among U.S. communities and businesses. Consideration will be given to projects that produce open-source deliverables (products or services) that align well with the goals and objectives of the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#). ***CRF grant award recipients will be advised on the process for applying for matching funds upon selection by the CRF review committee.***

V. Funding Priorities and Criteria

Proposals should detail how CRF and matching funds would be used to support collaborations between two or more organizations to undertake projects that meld or leverage existing climate adaptation and resilience services, resources, and/or tools. **Proposals for the creation of new tools, resources, or programs will not be considered.**

Funding levels are limited (up to \$50K per project proposal, including matching funds) so as to necessitate that applicants work within existing resources to build new connections, mechanisms, or arrangements that expand the operational effectiveness, interoperability, accessibility, or applications for existing tools, resources, or expertise.

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- **FOCUS & SCOPE (40%):**
 - The proposed project has potential to materially improve access to and opportunity for practitioners and decision-makers to find and use *existing* climate data, science, tools and resources.
 - The proposed project addresses a need, gap, or opportunity identified by participants in the RE Workshop. (Please refer to the [REW Summary Report](#).)
 - Applicant team demonstrates awareness of existing RE resources.
 - Applicant team's proposed project demonstrates clear added value to the RE.

- **COLLABORATION: (30%):**
 - Two or more separate entities (organization, individual, public agency, or business) within the RE will contribute to the project.
 - Two or more elements (data resources, web tools, science translators, training programs, etc.) of the RE will be involved in the proposed project.

- **FEASIBILITY and COST (20%):**
 - The applicant team possesses relevant experience and expertise required to complete the project.
 - The applicant team makes a convincing case that the proposed project can be completed and delivered within the estimated scope of time and cost.

- **DELIVERABLE (10%):**
 - The proposed project will result in a defined deliverable that will benefit the broader RE, practitioner/user groups, and communities and/or resource managers.
 - The proposed project outcome/deliverable will exist in the open source domain, freely accessible to and for the benefit of all.

VI. Application Guidance

This competition will be comprised of a two-part process. An initial Concept Stage, where applicant teams have an opportunity to loft an idea for a project and receive feedback, and a Full Proposal Stage.

1. Concept Stage

Applicant teams are invited to submit a **1-page Concept** via email to info@climateresiliencefund.org using the “Ideation” form that is attached to this RFP.

The Deadline for Concepts is February 23, 2018. Submissions that do not meet baseline qualifications for the competition will be contacted directly by CRF Staff with feedback. Submissions that show promise for the grants competition will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal.

2. Full Proposal Stage

Full proposals will be due March 23, 2018. Proposals must be uploaded via the [CRF-Windward Fund Grantseeker Portal](#). Users must create an account before submitting a proposal. Once an account is created, the user will be taken to a home screen. Follow the “Click to access publicly available grant applications” link and select the “Climate Resilience Fund: Resilience Ecosystem Grants” application.

Full Proposal Template:

All information noted within this template must be included in all submitted proposals. Failure to follow these guidelines will disqualify your application.

- **Header (≤1 page):**
 - Applicant Organization Name; Leadership; Contact Information.
 - Applicant Organization Profile: State mission and briefly describe areas of expertise and focus.
 - Partners/Collaborators: List organizations, representatives, and contact information for each. Briefly describe the material contribution that each partner/collaborator will bring to the proposed project.
- **Introduction and Context (≤1pp)**

Include problem statement and brief overview of the proposed solution.
- **Proposal narrative (≤4pp)**

Please address the following questions in your narrative:

 - What problem or gap in the RE does the project seek to address and how?
 - How does the project build on existing resources and capacities of partners or others in the RE?
 - What are the respective capacities and roles of partners in the project; how do they complement one another?
 - How will the project be developed and implemented?
- **Value Added (≤1pp)**

Please conclude your proposal with some reflection on how the proposed project will benefit others, whether they be individuals or organizations working in the field, practitioners or decision-makers wrestling with climate-related challenges, or communities and/or natural systems or some combination of these.

Please attach an Appendix to your proposal. The Appendix should include:

- A. Publications Cited in your Proposal (if applicable);
- B. Draft Budget and Narrative. Please detail a total project budget of \$50K (inclusive of the required match). Briefly explain how those funds will be expended (total 1pp).
- C. Brief Bios of project partners/collaborators;
- D. Letters of support from partners and/or stakeholders (optional)

VII. Eligibility

This competition is open to U.S.-based charitable institutions with IRS approved 501(c)(3) status. Applicants must be in good financial and regulatory standing. CRF is unable to accept applications from U.S. federal government agencies, state government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations.

VIII. Application Process and Timeline

Concept Submission Deadline	February 23, 2018
Reviews by CRF Staff and Advisors	Feb 26-30
Full Proposals Due	March 30
Full Proposal Review by Committee and CRF Advisors	Week of April 10
Awards Announced	Week of April 16

IX. About CRF

The Climate Resilience Fund is a philanthropic collaborative working to advance a positive vision of a climate resilient society and to mobilize the resources for achieving it. We are committed to supporting the development and implementation of knowledge and resources to help steer society in a new direction – one where healthy communities, ecosystems, and sustainable economies coexist and thrive in the context of a changing climate.

CRF operates with a small leadership team with long experience working at the intersection of climate change, conservation, urban sustainability, and with the federal government agencies tasked with addressing the climate crisis. CRF is guided by an advisory board comprised of partner and investor representatives and experts in the fields of climate adaptation, resilience, and philanthropy. CRF is housed at [The Windward Fund](#), a 501(c)(3) that provides back-office administrative, financial management, and legal support for operations.

X. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the duration of funding for projects? Up to 12 months, beginning in May 2018.

What is the range of funding that can be requested? \$25,000

Are matching funds required? Yes. A 100% match is required.

When will the final grants be awarded? Final decisions will be made during the second week of April 2018.

Who will evaluate the proposals and make decisions on the grant awards? All proposals will be evaluated by CRF staff and advisors and a small group of external advisors.

Will concepts that fall outside the funding priorities be considered? No, proposals are restricted to those priorities outlined in this RFP.

How does the grant proposal process work? CRF utilizes a two-step evaluation process: 1) an open call for concepts, and 2) a full proposal invited from a select number of applicants.

Please address additional inquiries to the CRF Info line: info@climateresiliencefund.org.

Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem

Ideation Form - Due date: February 23, 2018

Email form as an attachment to info@climateresiliencefund.org

- 1. Summarize the proposed project and desired outcome(s) in 2-3 sentences.**
- 2. What need, gap, or opportunity identified by RE Workshop participants does the project address?**
- 3. To which existing platform(s), tool(s), resource(s), and expertise will this project leverage and/or add value?**
- 4. How will the outcome(s) / deliverable(s) of the proposed project benefit others in the Resilience Ecosystem?**
- 5. List the names & affiliations of collaborators on the proposed project and briefly state their anticipated contributions.**
- 6. What is the estimated time & cost to complete the project?**
- 7. Match declaration: Please indicate whether your team will be seeking matching funds through the Harmonic International contract opportunity or whether other funds will be available to meet the match requirement for your project, or both.**