



Rhode Island Resilience

Chief Resilience Officer



Executive Order 23-07 – Rhode Island Resilience 2023

The Department of Environmental Management shall recruit and hire an individual to serve as the Rhode Island Chief Resilience Officer.

- Coordinate resilience efforts across state agencies, municipalities, businesses, and other organizations and to advise the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (RIEC4), established pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 42-6.2-1, on the status and effectiveness of those efforts;
- Draft state policies on resilience and implement such policies under the direction of the RIEC4;
- Serve as the primary voice and advocate for state actions on resilience;
- Build upon the planning assistance provided to municipalities by MRP workshops, in coordination with partner agencies;
- Work closely with RIIB on the MRP Action Grants and the planning and financing of other resilience projects;

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- Work with RIB and CRMC on the implementation of the OSCAR grant program;
- Plan and implement projects to protect and restore the habitat and recreational resources owned or under the stewardship of DEM;
- Aggressively track and apply for federal grants to fund resilience efforts across Rhode Island;
- Coordinate resilience efforts with decarbonization programs, activities, and policies taken in accordance with the RI Act on Climate; and
- Provide biennial reports to the RIEC4, the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate on the State of Resilience in Rhode Island, with the first report to be submitted by December 31, 2024.

Chief Resilience Officer Mission

Three Core Goals: Elevation, Collaboration, and Transparency

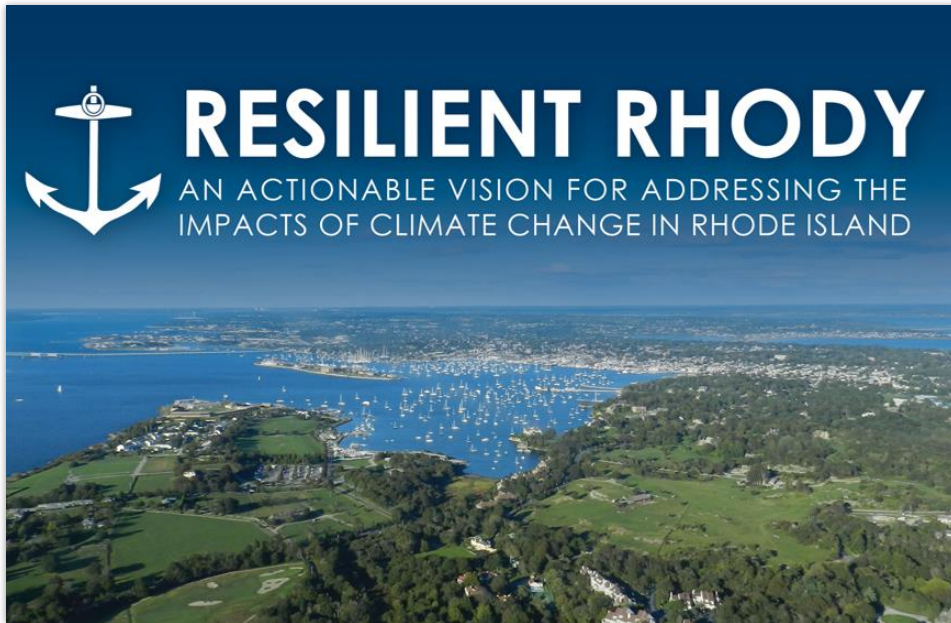


CRMC, URI, Save the Bay, and City of Warwick collaborate on resilient solutions at Oakland Beach – SAID Program, 2019

- Elevate local resilience needs, seeking funding and policy solutions to address these needs
- Foster collaboration & coordination on resilience efforts statewide, spanning agencies and organizations
- Increase transparency and accessibility of resilience information

CRO Objectives & State Resilience Needs

Executive Order – Planning & Policy, Funding & Implementation



Resilient Rhody, 2018

- State Resilience Plan Update
- Statewide Resilience Program
 - Municipal Resilience Program 2.0
- State Resilience Grants
- Federal Funding for Resilience
- State Policy & Standards for Resilience

Update: Municipal Resilience Program 2.0

- MRP 2.0
 - Community Resilience Building Workshop update opportunities, aligned with statewide planning processes
 - Sharpened focuses on community engagement and regional collaboration
 - Annual Resilience Updates / Grant Project Identification Meetings
 - Design / Engineering Technical Assistance
 - MRP Action Grants
 - Regional Resilience Coordinators
 - Resilience Project Scoping & Funding Opportunities Across State Agencies
 - Mapping & Web Development
- Collaboration between RIDEM, RIIB, & TNC



Community Resilience Building Workshop, 2019

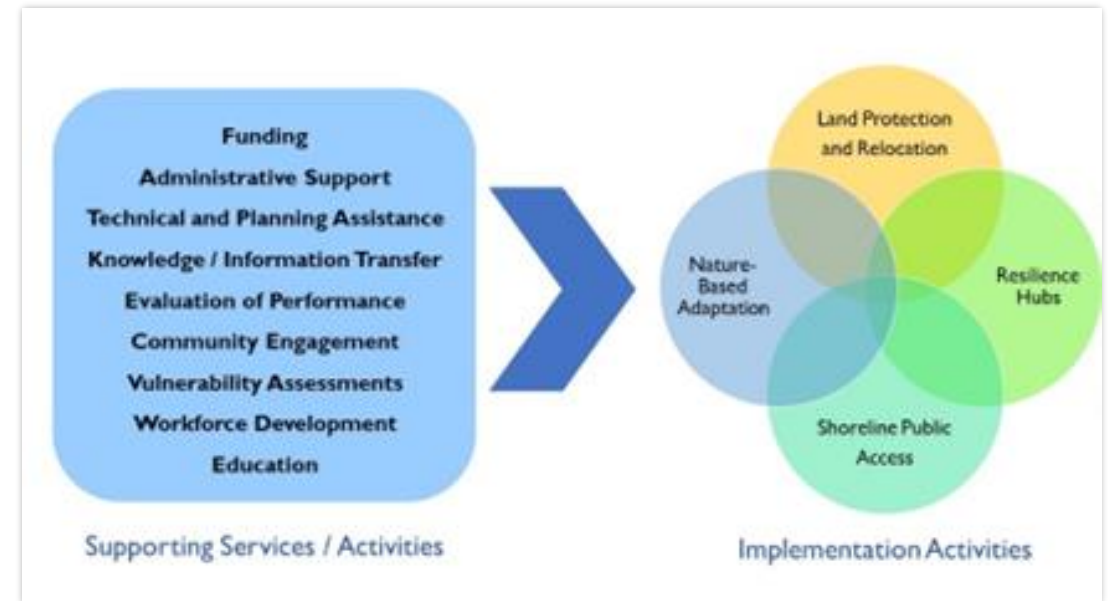
Update: Municipal Resilience Program 2.0

- MRP 2.0 Strategy Memo drafted between RIDEM, RIIB, and TNC
- RIDEM & RIIB Inter-Agency Workplan Developed
- RI League of Cities & Towns Presentation 3/21/24 – RIDEM, RIIB, TNC, and City of Providence
 - Overview of the proposed 2.0 approach
 - Solicitation of feedback from municipalities & local partners
- Funding
 - Collaborative FEMA BRIC Grant Submitted Feb 2024 – RIDEM, RIIB, & TNC
 - Existing NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund grant being leveraged to provide Design & Engineering Technical Assistance pilot
 - NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge – Regional Resilience Coordinators



Update: NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

- RIDEM coordinated a \$55mm Track 2 Implementation application
 - 39 collaborators and 11 subawardees
- Across four key activities, supports
 - Landmark Resilience Projects
 - Community Engagement, Workforce Development, and Knowledge Transfer
 - Resilience Funding Programs (Grants)
 - Regional Resilience Coordinators
- Submitted LOI August 2023, which was one of 120 of 900 to be accepted
- Submitted Full Application February 2024
- Expected to hear Summer 2024



RIDEM NOAA CRRC Proposal, 2024

Statewide Resilience Program

Rhode Island needs a suite of resilience solutions - capacity, engagement, planning, design, construction, monitoring, and maintenance – delivered in collaboration through five key elements:

1. State Resilience Staff: CRO + Regional Resilience Coordinators
2. EC4 Agencies
3. Statewide Technical Assistance Partners
4. Academic Institutions
5. Municipal Resilience Core Teams

Next Steps

In the coming months, how can the EC4 stay engaged & supportive? What are the CRO's current needs from the EC4 agencies?



1. Meeting with each EC4 Agency to discuss your programs and connections to climate resilience
 - What programs can be elevated and shared more broadly with local entities?
 - What are your current resilience questions and needs?
2. Re-establishment of the Resilience EC4 Subgroup
 - A space for staff across our agencies to coordinate on shared resilience initiatives
 - I'd like to ask each EC4 agency to determine a designee for this subgroup, if you are amenable

Contact the CRO

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