

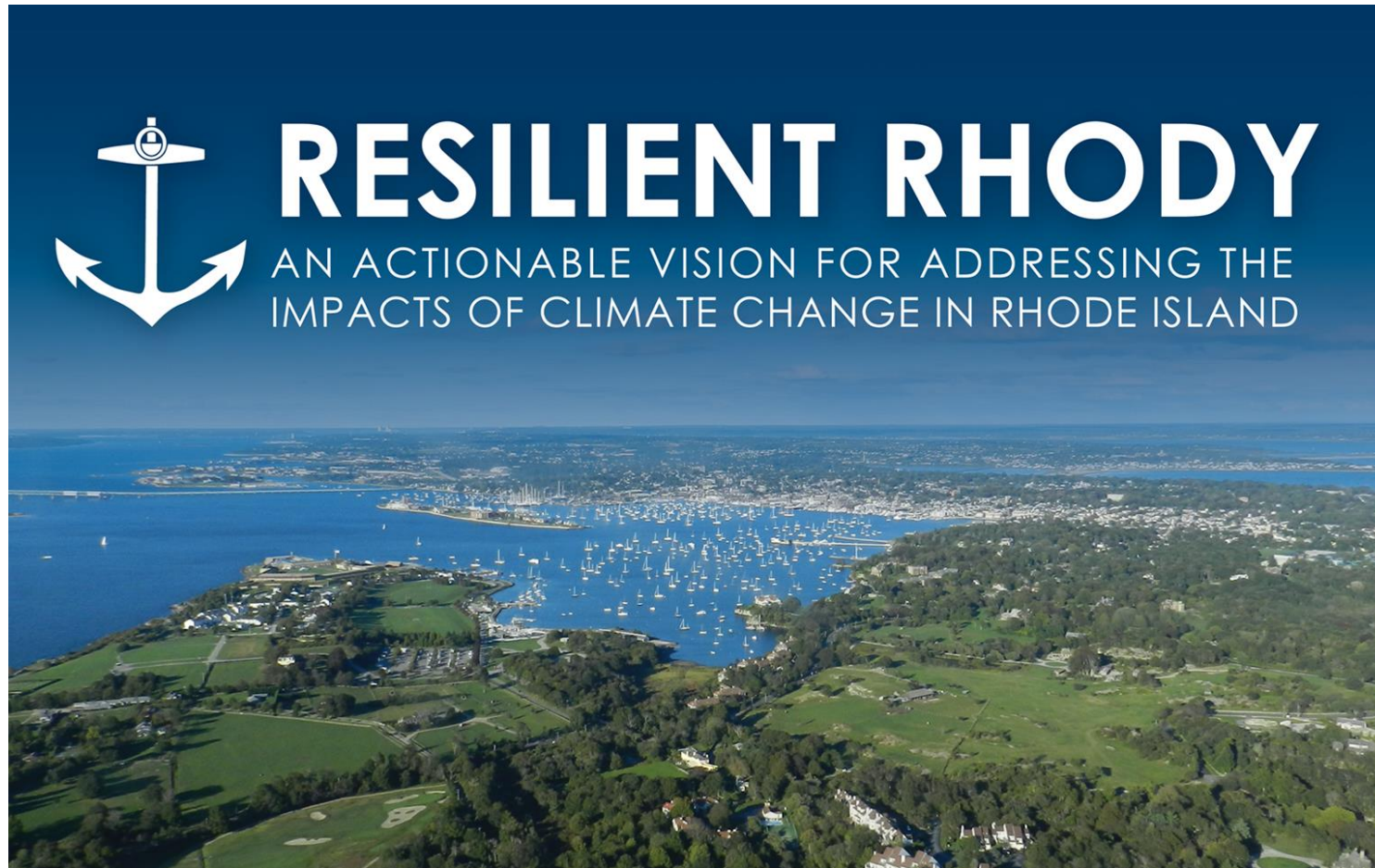


Rhode Island Resilience

Chief Resilience Officer



Resilient Rhody: Rhode Island's Climate Resilience Action Strategy



Making the Case for Climate Resilience



RESILIENCE THEME:
Natural Systems



RESILIENCE THEME:
Community Health and Resilience



RESILIENCE THEME:
Emergency Preparedness



RESILIENCE THEME:
Critical Infrastructure and Utilities

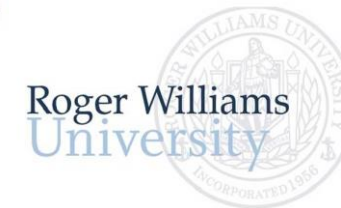


Financing Climate Resilience Projects

RI Resilience – Reports & History



RI Resilience – A Team Effort



RI Resilience – State + Local Collaboration

- **Municipal Resilience Program**

- **Launched in 2019** as a collaboration between RI Infrastructure Bank and The Nature Conservancy
- **Community Resilience Building Workshops:**
 - **Identify** community hazards, strengths, vulnerabilities, and priority actions
 - **Develop** localized resilience strategies
 - **1600+ Resilience Actions** identified to date
- **MRP Action Grants:**
 - **Fund** design and construction of capital projects with resilience benefits
 - **\$19.4mm in Action Grant funding** awarded to date
- **Project Pipeline:**
 - **Support** municipalities to identify further funding/financing sources
- **In 2023, RIDEM partnered** in this process with the state's CRO transition



Chief Resilience Officer – Executive Order 23-07

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;
- Work with RIIB 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**



Collaboration on resilience solutions at Fogland Point in Tiverton with Save the Bay

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

Resilience Needs and Vision

1. Expanding resilience support to **all 39 municipalities**
2. Aligning further with **existing planning processes**
3. **Increasing community engagement** in resilience planning processes
4. Expanding the breadth of **resilience technical assistance**
5. Expanding **local and regional capacity** for resilience building



Rhode Island Climate Resilience Program

1. Planning

- *Resilient Rhody 2.0*
- Community Resilience Building Workshops 2.0 (MRP + Local HMPs – 5 year intervals)
- Local Resilience Action Updates & Grant Application Assistance Meetings (annual)

2. Implementation

- Resilience Design & Engineering Assistance
- State + Federal Resilience Grants

3. Capacity Building & Partnerships

- State Resilience Office (Regional Resilience Coordinators)
- EC4 Resilience Collaboration
- Rhode Island Resilience Partners

4. Transparency & Information Sharing

- Resilience Web Resources
- Annual *Rhode Island Resilience Summit*



Resilience Planning

- **Resilient Rhody**
 - **Rhode Island Resilience Report** Winter 2024
 - Compilation of Resilience Information and Identified Resilience Actions to date
 - **Resilient Rhody 2.0 Strategy** to follow (2025-2026)
 - Goals, Strategy, Ownership, and Metrics for Success
- **Community Resilience Building Workshops 2.0 (MRP + HMP)**
 - FEMA BRIC application submitted Feb 2024
 - CRB 2.0 Workshops - **Community Attendees, Community Leadership**
 - **Four Key Stages** – 1. CRB 2.0 Workshop; 2. Re-engagement of CRB 1.0 Attendees (Hazard Mitigation + Resilience Stakeholders); 3. Hazard Mitigation + Resilience Core Team Meeting(s) (introducing 2 Community Representatives); 4. Revisiting compiled Hazard Mitigation + Resilience Actions with Community + Stakeholders
 - Strong encouragement of **Regional Collaboration** through multi-jurisdictional plans
- **Annual Resilience Updates & Grant Application Assistance Meetings**
 - Offered to cities and towns annually to **update their Resilience Actions** and **discuss grant eligibilities** for projects
 - Scheduling options offered for the **weeks of May 13th and May 20th 2024**

Municipal Resilience Program 1.0

97% of Rhode Island Municipalities now participating!

2019 | *Westerly, South Kingstown, Portsmouth, Barrington & Warren*

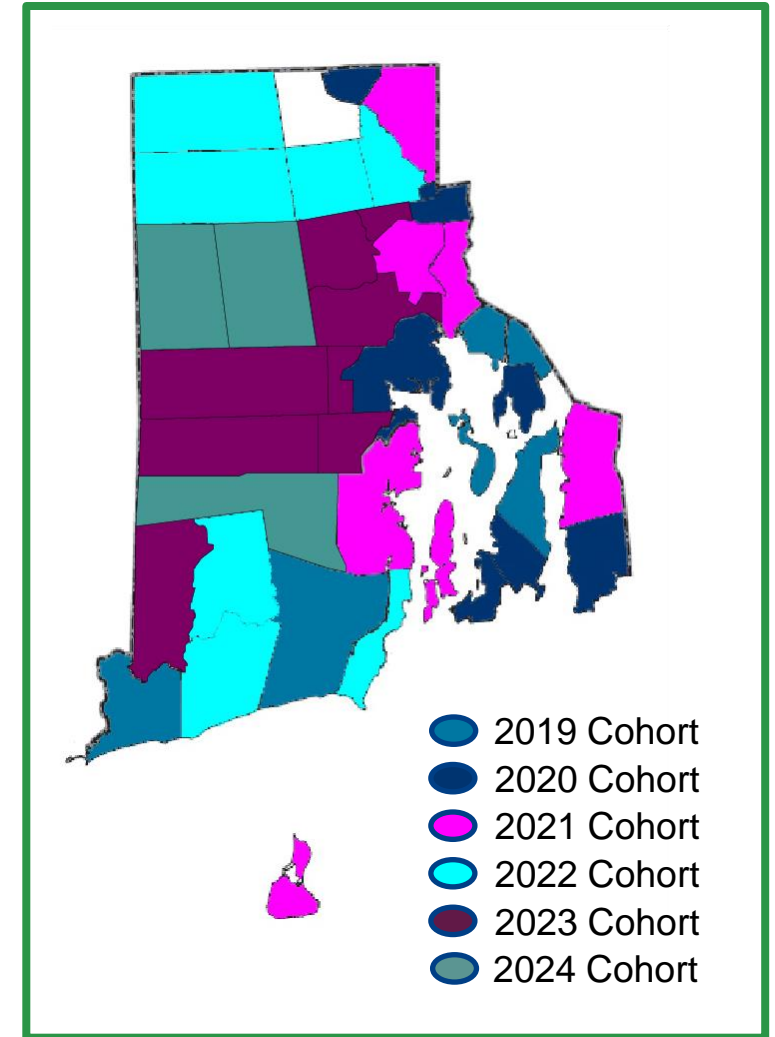
2020 | *Bristol, Woonsocket, Little Compton, Warwick, Pawtucket & Central Falls, Newport, Middletown*

2021 | *Cumberland, East Providence, Jamestown, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, Providence, Tiverton*

2022 | *Burrillville, Charlestown, Glocester, Lincoln, Narragansett, Richmond, Smithfield*

2023 | *Coventry, Cranston, East Greenwich, Hopkinton, Johnston, North Providence, West Greenwich, West Warwick*

2024 | *Foster, Scituate, Exeter... and counting!*



Resilience Implementation

- **Resilience Design & Engineering Assistance**
 - Partnership between RIDEM, RIIB, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Bay, and consultant Weston & Sampson
 - Two stages – **1. Site Visioning** (on-the-ground site visits with guidance from environmental consultants) **2. Conceptual Design** (putting pen to paper in preparation for upcoming funding opportunities)
 - Launched **May 6th 2024; Site Submittals due May 24th** (4 Yes/No Eligibility Qs)
- **State + Federal Resilience Grants:**
 - **State Grants:** Climate Resilience Fund; Ocean State Climate Adaptation + Resilience Fund; Municipal Resilience Program Action Grants
 - **Federal Funding:** NOAA CRRC application submitted Feb 2024 (\$55mm); NFWF NCRF Letter of Intent submitted April 2024 (\$10mm)

State Resilience Funding, cont.

1. OSCAR (Ocean State Climate Adaptation & Resilience) Grants

- **Eligible Projects:** Planning, Design & Construction projects that deliver climate resilience benefit, habitat restoration benefit, and public access benefit (Removal/Relocation of vulnerable infrastructure, Restoration of river & stream floodplains, Revegetation, Land Acquisition, Redesign/Resizing/Replacement of culverts/bridge spans at wetland crossings, etc.)
- **Funds Available:** \$4mm available (Spring 2024 RFP live – applications due June 21st 2024) | No Match Required

2. Climate Resilience Fund Grants

- **Eligible Projects:** Design & Construction projects that deliver climate resilience benefit (Removal/Redesign/Relocation of vulnerable infrastructure, Green Infrastructure & Nature-Based Solutions); some Planning costs considered
- **Funds Available:** \$4.3mm awarded to date | **\$1mm available (May-June 2024 RFP anticipated)** | \$2mm anticipated through 2024 State Green Bond | 25% Match Required

3. Municipal Resilience Program Action Grants

- **Eligible Projects:** Design & Construction projects that deliver climate resilience benefit (Removal/Redesign/Relocation of vulnerable infrastructure, Green Infrastructure & Nature-Based Solutions)
- **Funds Available:** \$19.4mm awarded to date | **\$5mm available (May-June 2024 RFP anticipated)** | \$10mm anticipated through 2024 State Green Bond | 25% Match Required

Resilience Grant Outcomes



MRP Action Grant - Watershed Restoration at the Bristol Golf Course

- *Restoring ponds and impoundments*
- *Removing fill and culverts*
- *Daylighting streams*
- *Restoring a buffer of native shrubs, trees, and grasses*



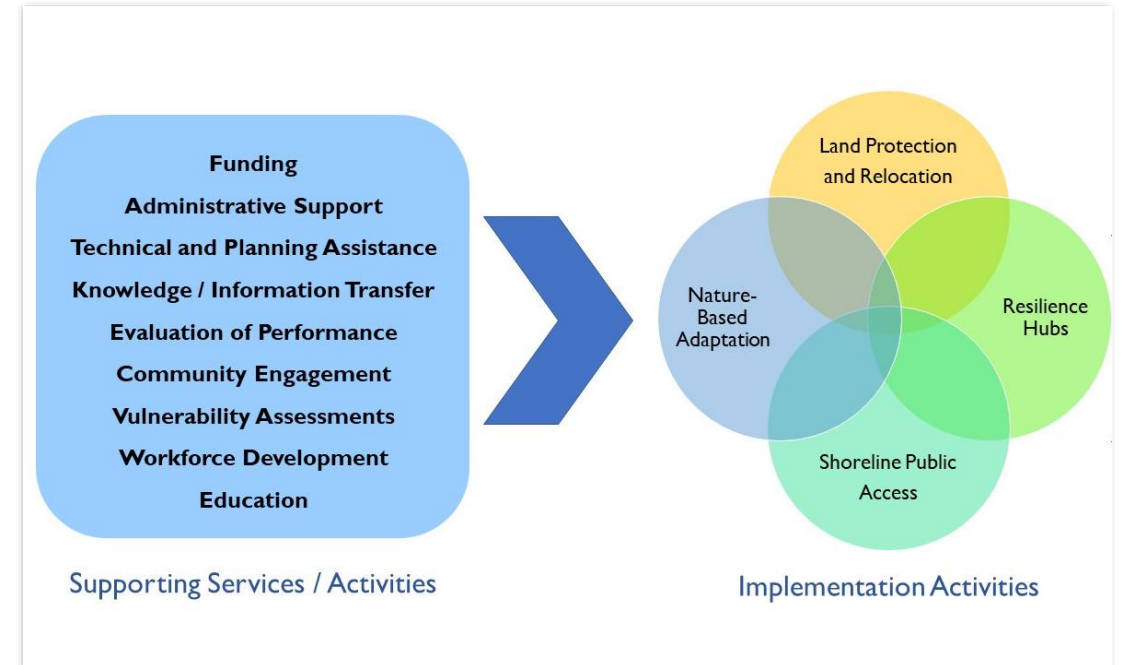
MRP Action Grant – SWIFCAP I – Stormwater Inland Flooding Climate Adaptation Project #1

- *Re-contoured and installed stormwater management BMPs along the roadside of Anthony Road*
- *Rehabilitated catch basins*
- *Installed rain gardens and restored existing wetlands*



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

Resilience Capacity Building & Partnerships

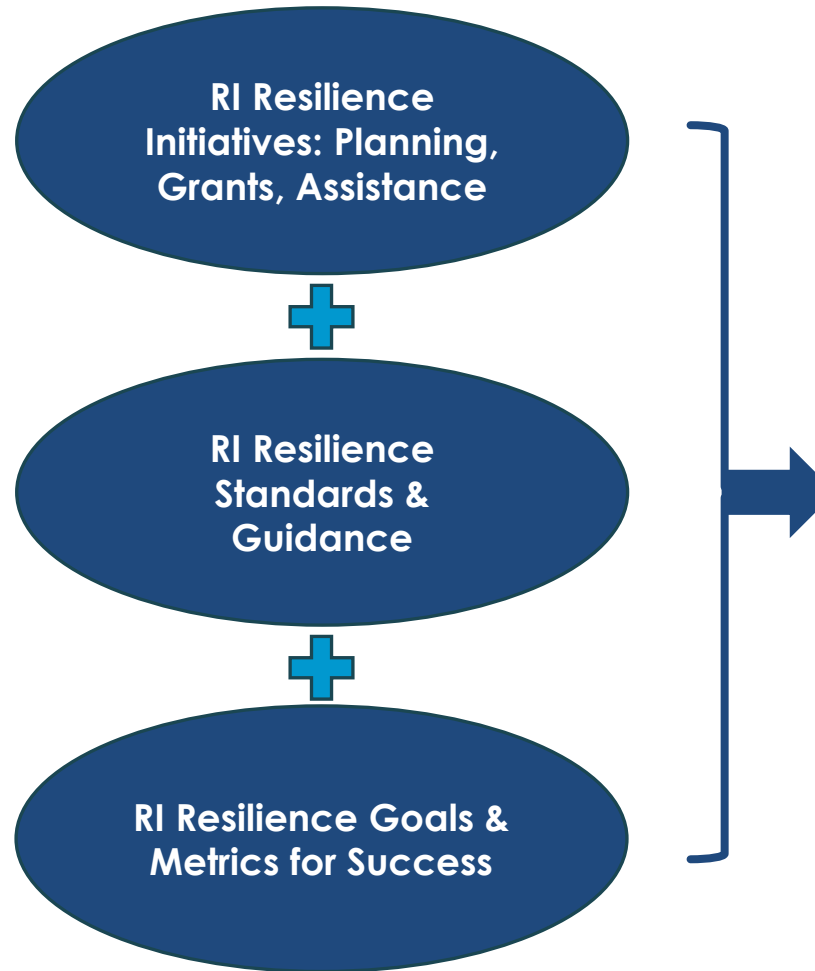
- **State Resilience Office**
 - CRO + **5 Regional Resilience Coordinators**
 - Coordinators to support municipalities with **resilience planning, grant writing, and project management** assistance
 - NOAA CRRC application submitted Feb 2024
- **EC4 Resilience Collaboration**
 - **EC4 Agency interviews** conducted with Commerce, OER, DOH, EOHHS, CRMC, DOT, Div. of Statewide Planning
 - **Resilience EC4 Subgroup** – EC4 designees appointed, group to meet early June 2024
- **Rhode Island Resilience Partners**
 - Non-profit and university partners positioned to **provide community engagement, workforce development, and knowledge transfer activities** under NOAA CRRC application submitted Feb 2024
 - **Resilience Partners meetings** anticipated to begin Summer 2024

Statewide Resilience Collaboration

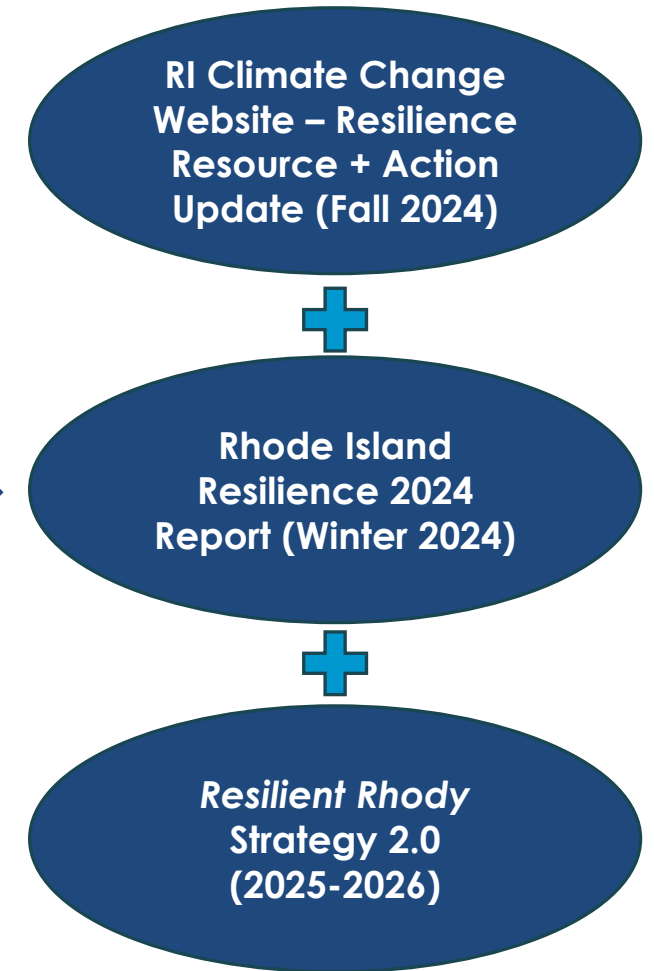
Who?



What?



Outcomes this will inform?



Resilience Transparency & Information Sharing

- **Resilience Web Resources**
 - Website additions scoped for State Climate Change website, including:
 - Statewide Resilience Resources
 - Grant Opportunities & Events
 - Searchable Resilience Action Database
 - Next steps: Delivery, Action Mapping
- **Annual *Rhode Island* Resilience Summit**
 - Event anticipated in alignment with launch of MRP Community Resilience Building Workshops 2.0
 - Opportunity to share upcoming resources, discuss priority topics, and recognize successes

Contact the CRO

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