



p: 804.323.2033
w: www.PlanRVA.org

January 22, 2025

ATTN: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Attention: Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Division of Dam Safety & Floodplain Management 600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, VA 23219

RE: 2025 Community Flood Preparedness Fund Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, known as PlanRVA, is applying to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for a Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant. We propose to develop a regional flood resilience plan, including project recommendations, and to update the Flood Aware mapping tool. These are critical initiatives that promise to significantly and positively impact our community's preparedness and resilience in the face of flooding. Key benefits of this planning project will include:

1. **Enhanced Preparedness:** A Regional Flood Resilience Plan will help us better understand our region's specific risks and vulnerabilities. It will guide preparing for and responding to floods, reducing potential loss of life and property damage.
2. **Economic Resilience:** By mitigating flood risks and enhancing resilience, our region will be better equipped to maintain economic stability and attract investment. This plan will foster an environment that is conducive to sustainable growth and prosperity.
3. **Project Recommendations:** The Plan will call out specific resilience-oriented projects for each locality, which will help us prioritize issues and incorporate them into our regular funding cycles.
4. **Access to Additional Funding:** Securing the DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant will provide essential financial resources for an effective planning process, and will position us to apply for future implementation funding from both DCR and other opportunities.

A central feature of the PlanRVA Regional Flood Resilience Plan is coordination among localities, incorporating inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities. To ensure regional cohesion, PlanRVA will review and reference the existing resilience plans of the Town of Ashland, City of Richmond, and the County of Henrico, as well as the Charles City and Chesterfield Counties, which are under development as part of the Crater Resilience Plan, currently underway. Thus, a primary focus of PlanRVA's project will be developing resilience plans for Goochland, Hanover, New Kent, and Powhatan Counties. We have received enthusiastic support from each of these localities.


I write to pledge that PlanRVA will contribute agency resources as match for the PlanRVA Regional Flood Resilience Plan, to be paid during the funding agreement period. The total proposed cost of our project is \$240,310.46. PlanRVA will use direct support funds as an approximately 25% match of \$60,310.46 (which includes \$24,739.50 in salaries, \$13,025.34 in fringe, and \$22,545.61 in applied indirect costs). The indirect rate calculations are based on current approved rates, which are subject to change following cognizant agency review for FY26. However, PlanRVA commits to meeting the 25% in-kind match obligation regardless of the derivation among salaries, fringe, or indirect.

PlanRVA requests that the Department of Conservation and Recreation provide \$180,000 through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. We will pay the match contribution during the agreement period. The negotiated indirect We have an exemplary track record as an agency for completing projects funded with state and federal grants and will oversee the development of a regional flood resilience plan with the same level of conscientiousness.

Our region is no stranger to the damaging impacts of flooding, yet the localities we represent are unequally prepared for flooding. This limits their capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to flooding as well as eligibility for recovery funding when floods occur. With the increasing intensity of climate change apparent in stronger and more damaging storms, it is more crucial than ever to be prepared for flood risks. PlanRVA seeks to provide all our localities with comparable and complimentary flood resilience plans, so that all are best prepared individually and collectively. Our communities will receive technical assistance, gain an understanding of the flood risks they face, available resources to combat flood-related disasters, and targeted, science-driven, community-specific recommendations using best management practices. A regional approach is crucial because flooding does not respect locality boundaries, and developing shared resilience strategies in advance enables the most informed and impactful regional support should a severe flood event occur. This makes the entire public safer, wherever they live.

Creating a Regional Flood Resilience Plan is a proactive and strategic step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities in the future, and PlanRVA pledges to contribute our staff time and expertise to the creation of the PlanRVA Regional Flood Resilience Plan.

Sincerely,


Martha Shickle (Jan 21, 2025 14:51 EST)

Martha Shickle
Executive Director
PlanRVA
424 Hull St. Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23224
804-323-2033

PlanRVA CFPF Pledge

Final Audit Report

2025-01-21

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