

Q&A Summary

Funding Opportunity SPG2024-5

Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grant Program

Eligibility Questions

Can communities participate in a Track 2 vulnerability assessment and apply for a Community Action Grant?

Enrolled communities may participate in applications for both a Track 2 Service Provider Grant and a Community Action Grant, but may only participate in one application per grant opportunity.

On the bottom of page 4 of the Program Statement it says, Service Providers with an active service provider grant from an earlier round are eligible to apply but may not apply for new funds to support the same communities. Am I interpreting that correctly, in that if we are currently or previously have helped communities enroll with a Service Provider Grant, we cannot now apply to help them with a Track 2 proposal for the community vulnerability assessment?

That statement should apply individually to each Track. You would not be able to assist a community that has already participated in a Track 1 Service Provider Grant in another Track 1 Service Provider Grant, but you could invite a community that you helped enroll to now participate in Track 2 to do the vulnerability assessment.

Grant Description

Do both grant tracks require Service Providers to assist communities to apply for funding to support identified community priorities?

Yes, both tracks require assistance to communities in seeking a Community Action Grant or other funding for priority projects.

If a community participates in both Service Provider grant tracks, do you expect two Community Action Grants to be written for the community? Or can a second funding option be used instead?

If a Service Provider works with the same community in this round to complete both Track 1 and Track 2 grant projects, we would expect to see two funding sources pursued, which could

be Community Action Grants or other funding sources better suited to the community priorities.

Track 1-Specific Questions and Answers

What is the typical timeline for Track 1 grants is? I.e., 3 months, 6 months, etc.

A typical timespan for completing the enrollment requirements is 6-12 months. We encourage Service Providers to complete community enrollment and work with the community to develop a Community Action Grant application for the next grant round. In this case, the next anticipated grant application deadline is August 2025.

Is it possible for a service provider to help only one community enroll and still get reimbursed for services?

The goal for working with 2-5 communities within each grant track is to encourage a regional approach and collaboration between the communities. That being said, we would not want a community to miss out on the opportunity to enroll if a second community in the region cannot be recruited to apply for the grant. In this case, we would allow a Service Provider to apply for a grant with only one community participating.

Track 2-Specific Questions and Answers

I'm trying to understand the vulnerability assessment that a town can do through the CRP Track 2 Service Provider grant, which is a value of \$10,000 - \$12,500, and the difference between that option and the vulnerability assessments that some towns have paid much more for.

Communities should consider their needs and goals to determine which type of vulnerability assessment is the best fit. A Track 2 assessment, to be completed with the assistance of a service provider, could incorporate a more regional approach, providing insight into how vulnerabilities due to climate impacts intersect across neighboring towns, and offer direction on where further investigation is needed. A Community Action Grant vulnerability assessment could provide more quantitative or technical analysis of a priority area and provide more specific details, such as numerical risk assessment to analyze the likelihood and impact of a risk, that would be needed to begin to prioritize vulnerable areas for action.

Have you considered having a standard format for all the data being collected through the many grants to create more regional data sets of vulnerability?

While standardized collection and format could be helpful from a regional perspective, we also understand that the needs of each community will be unique. To allow each organization and community to develop a process that fits their specific needs, we are not requiring a standardized format at this point. For now, we are focused on assisting each community to better understand their unique vulnerabilities to better prepare for climate impacts and increase resilience at the community level.

Can Track 2 community vulnerability assessments be used to augment community vulnerability assessment work that is underway or has already been completed?

If an applicant can identify specific work that has not been addressed in either current or ongoing vulnerability work, there could be the opportunity to augment. The application should provide justification on how the Track 2 assessment will examine different vulnerabilities and how that work will be incorporated into the existing assessment.

What are the specific deliverables required by the service provider for the Track 2 vulnerability assessment?

These are outlined in the Program Statement Section 2.5, Subsection D.

Can a Track 2 grant leverage and bolster services that are part of an existing but not yet launched, federally funded project that includes vulnerability assessments for multiple enrolled communities?

Potentially, yes. The proposal should demonstrate the need for the Track 2 vulnerability assessment to support and augment the federal project, while meeting the requirements of the Track 2 Service Provider Grant found in Section 2.5, Subsection D.

Could a Track 2 project focus on one aspect of the assessment, such as social vulnerability assessment, or must assessments include broad brush approach to all aspects of community vulnerability, infrastructure, environmental and social?

The Track 2 vulnerability assessment should meet all the requirements outlined in the Program Statement Section 2.5, Subsection D.

Is the intention that the Community Action Grants that are applied for at the end of Track 2 should be related to the results of the vulnerability assessment? For example, if a town primarily identified road vulnerability priorities but wishes to apply for a Community Action Grant for energy efficiency upgrades, Could the project be eligible, or should service providers direct towns to focus on the infrastructure and resilience projects that were identified through that vulnerability assessment?

If there is a compelling reason that the energy efficiency project is a greater priority to the community than a need identified by the vulnerability assessment, the applicant should demonstrate that reasoning in the Community Action Grant application.

The Track 2 scope indicates that we need to engage at risk populations. Is there a certain level of community engagement you are looking for?

The applicant should propose a level of engagement that is applicable or feasible within the project budget. This is a similar expectation of community engagement to a Track 1 enrollment grant.

Regarding the Track 2 deliverable to assess the relative risk to priority assets for each hazard, taking into consideration age, condition, location, criticality, etc. In the past we've interpreted this as involving the inclusion of an engineer to assess town assets. However, \$10,000 seems limited for leveraging this knowledge and conduct, community engagement and submit Community Action Grants. Can you clarify to what extent we should plan to assess community infrastructure?

Proposals should include what is feasible within the project budget. If this needs to be more of a qualitative assessment that identifies needs for further investigation through a Community Action Grant or other funding, that's a possible scope of work. Think about Track 2 in the same vein as Track 1, as a first step in helping communities identify where their vulnerabilities are, and what they need to pursue additional funding or additional services to help them.

Can communities still use the Community Action Grant to fund vulnerability assessments?

Yes.

Budget Proposal and Cost

How should we calculate the rate for staff or volunteer in-kind time?

There is flexibility in how the hourly rate is calculated, one way is to use the staff or volunteer's existing hourly or salaried rate, but if a rate isn't set, please provide justification around how the rate was calculated.

General

Do you anticipate changes to the list of community actions based on updates to Maine Won't Wait? For example, new inclusion of materials management actions.

We do, but not for this grant round. We will provide more details on any changes to the list of community actions for the next grant round, anticipated to have an application deadline in August 2025.