Community Sufficiency Grant Program

2018 Application

Building a culture of local resilience - working together to collectively thrive and survive

Eligibility:
To apply for a Community-Sufficiency Grant, you must:
a) be part of a current Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) Resilience Team OR
b) be part of a dedicated group (two or more people) that is in the process of becoming a CROs Resilience Team.
*See page 4 for more information and guidance on how to start a CROs Resilience Team.

Grants awarded will meet one or more of the following goals:
- Assessing resilience vulnerabilities and priorities
- Mitigating and/or adapting to climate change impacts
- Implementing local and/or state Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Organizing emergency and disaster management resources and strategies
- Building local social cohesion and improving community connections
- Facilitating partnerships that further environmental and/or community betterment objectives and help break down silos across sectors (including but not limited to: watershed groups, conservation commissions, energy commissions, agriculture/food programs, and educational programs)

Submission and acceptance details:
*Preference will be given to Resilience Teams that have completed or have plans to take the Community Resilience Assessment[1] and/or have gone through steps of the CROs Resilience Framework (see page 5).
*Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and awarded as funding is available.
* Funds may be awarded at a level less than the amount requested.
*Resilience Teams may be awarded one grant in a 12-month period. Grant applications may include funding requests for more than one project, and allocation of resources is at the discretion of Teams.

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[1] CROs Community Resilience Assessment: http://www.gocros.org/community-resilience-selfassessment

*Grantees will be required to give periodic updates to CROs on project progress via email, phone or in person. The terms of required updates will be determined based on project objectives and deliverables. Upon project completion, grantees will be required to submit a short report that documents project outcomes, materials generated (if applicable), and measurable impacts.

*Assistance with project development through planning workshops and resources for outreach is available to applicants upon request.

*Submit applications and direct inquiries to Mindy Blank - mindy@gocros.org. For funding requests exceeding $2,500, please get in touch.

APPLICANT PROPOSAL

Responses may be as brief or in-depth as needed to adequately convey critical elements of the proposed project. Applications will be reviewed and scored with a maximum of 20 points. Applicants may be contacted by CROs to provide more details.

1) **Please provide the following information:**
   a) Date of application
   b) Organization name, primary contact person, email, mailing address, phone number, website (if applicable)
   c) Grant amount requested
   d) Time period the grant covers
   e) Grant goal/s addressed by project (select from the list on page 1)

2) **Has your Resilience Team completed a Community Resilience Assessment? If no, please indicate if you are planning or requesting to complete an Assessment.**

3) **Project purpose - What community needs are you trying to address with this project? (2 pt.)**

4) **Project proposal - What does your project entail, and how will it accomplish grant goals? How will it improve your community's ability to provide and sustain basic human needs (water, energy, food, natural resources, and/or social systems)? (5 pt.)**

5) **Project support - How and by who was the proposed project identified? Is there broader community support for it, and will it help increase community collaboration? (2 pt.)**

6) **Impact** - **Who will be served by this project? What social, community, and climate change impacts will this project have? Is it scalable or could expand beyond your community in the future? (5 pt.)**

7) **Expected challenges** - **What challenges do you expect to face in implementing this project, and have you identified strategies for addressing them? (2 pt.)**

8) **Request & timeline** - **What are the estimated costs? Within your specified project time period, what are key milestones that demonstrate project progress? What type of assistance will you require/request from CROs to accomplish your project? (2 pt.)**

9) **Evaluation** - **What would be a successful outcome of this project? How will you measure project progress and outcomes? (2 pt.)**

10) *Optional:* **If you have any additional information about your organization, project, or complementary funding sources, please provide it here.**

Civic engagement ✦ Local self-reliance ✦ Climate change adaptation ✦ Hazard mitigation ✦ Community fun!

What is CROs?
CROs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides resources for communities to increase their ability to collectively thrive and prepare for challenges that lie ahead, whether climate change impacts, social disconnects, or economic disruptions. Addressing these challenges can be daunting and slow - and getting from project ideas to the action phase is not always straightforward. **CROs will meet you where you're at and help you assess vulnerabilities, determine   priorities, and implement and evaluate projects that build local and regional resilience.**

What is a "Resilience Team?"
Resilience Teams are local, volunteer-based nodes of CROs that receive organizational, structural, and financial support from CROs to build "community-sufficiency," which means meeting basic human needs on the local level in a way that's environmentally and socially sustainable. CROs increases community capacity with resources that accelerate action while strengthening social cohesion and regional ties.

Teams have diverse community participation to help bridge social gaps. Some teams include a mix of Select Board members, conservation and planning commissioners, food co-op volunteers, emergency responders, town managers, farmers, watershed groups, foresters - and many other engaged citizens who care about their communities. They are the local problem-solvers!

How are Resilience Teams formed? What are the requirements? It's simple!
- Contact Mindy Blank (mindy@gocros.org) to get more information and begin.
- Two or more people in a town decide they want to form a team.
- They propose it to the municipal government .
    - There are no municipal government requirements apart from granting approval.
- Teams work with CROs to develop a plan with goals to achieve together.
    - This may include, but is not limited to, organizing the Community Resilience Assessment, workshops, resources needed, and project development and implementation. Plans and objectives often coincide with work already being done by team members and municipal governments.
- Team members have quarterly calls and attend annual gatherings to share experiences, learn about other initiatives, and build connections.

What are some Resilience Team projects?
✦ Annual & monthly resilience skills-building workshops ✦ Participated in CROs resilience assessment and project planning workshops ✦ Planted riparian buffers ✦ Organized community celebrations, roundtable discussions, neighborhood captain programs, Tropical Storm Irene anniversary events, and green-up days ✦ Implemented Hazard Mitigation Plans ✦ Protected floodplains & watersheds ✦ Created emergency shelters ✦ Assisted with FEMA buyouts ✦ Many more!

CROs Resilience Framework

1. Towns or groups complete a [Community Resilience Assessment](#) that helps identify vulnerabilities, priorities, and opportunities to collaborate.
2. CROs provides resources like trainings or connections with experts that increase knowledge and skills to efficiently address priority vulnerabilities.
3. Grants and other fundraising opportunities are available to support project implementation and new outreach strategies.
4. Project mapping and implementation workshops are facilitated to bring more stakeholders together to create cohesive plans.
5. Project progress is evaluated to celebrate successes and brainstorm solutions to challenges.