



## MARISA Small Grants Program Call for Proposals

### Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Mid-Atlantic Climate Adaptation Partnership (CAP)/Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program is accepting applications for climate adaptation funding through the **MARISA Small Grants Program**. MARISA is one of 12 Climate Adaptation Partnerships (formerly RISA) funded by the Climate Program Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). MARISA's mission is to collaborate with communities in the Mid-Atlantic region to enhance their resilience to a changing climate through improved data, place-based decision support, and public engagement. MARISA is a consortium of organizations and universities in the Mid-Atlantic region, led by the nonprofit and nonpartisan RAND Corporation. More information can be found at [www.midatlanticrisa.org](http://www.midatlanticrisa.org).

### Objectives of the MARISA Small Grants Program

The objectives of MARISA's Small Grants Program for Climate and Hazard Mitigation and Planning are to:

1. Increase usefulness and usability of the MARISA Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning (CHaMP) tool to support members of local governments throughout their climate adaptation and/or hazard mitigation planning processes;
2. Increase trust and deepen partnerships between MARISA and the grant recipients with the intent of fostering lasting relationships and future collaborations;
3. Enhance local community capacity for resilience and adaptation to climate change.

In November 2022, we published version 1.0 of the Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning (CHaMP) tool (<https://champ.rcc-acis.org>). This tool is the result of a multi-year co-production process with the MARISA team, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Great Lakes CAP/RISA (GLISA) and the former Carolinas RISA (CISA) teams. It was designed with the intention of making it easier for local governments to incorporate historical and future climate into their FEMA hazard mitigation plans. Through this Small Grants Competition, the MARISA team is looking for partners who are willing to collaborate with the MARISA team to use CHaMP (and any other relevant MARISA resources/tools) to inform their hazard mitigation or other climate planning processes and provide feedback on the tool.

### Who is Eligible?

Non-profit local and regional/watershed organizations and local government departments/offices that support the development of FEMA hazard mitigation plans and climate adaptation plans within the Mid-Atlantic Region are eligible to apply. For profit entities, such as consulting firms, and international entities are not eligible to apply.



## Amount Available

We anticipate dispersing approximately \$25,000 through one or two awards to be used over a one-year period, with the possibility of a one year no-cost extension. The RAND Corporation reserves the right to determine at its discretion the number of awards, amounts of awards, and projects selected for award.

## Timeline and Start Date

- Informational webinar/ Q&A session: August 15, 2023
- Proposals Due: September 15, 2023
- Proposal(s) Selected: By October 31, 2023
- Projects should start no sooner than December 1, 2023. It is encouraged that applicants apply with a project start date between December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Project duration is for one year, with the option of a one year no-cost extension. Dates are subject to change.

## Eligible Activities

Successful proposals will focus on activities that leverage CHaMP (and potentially other MARISA tools) to incorporate historical and projected climate and hazard data into FEMA hazard mitigation plans or other climate-related planning documents/materials intended to meet the needs of the communities they serve in the context of climate resilience and adaptation. Innovative/novel approaches to reach these ends are encouraged.

Funding can cover direct and indirect costs. Funds may be used to support stipends, salaries and fringe benefits, workshop and facilities costs, and relevant travel. MARISA's staff time does not need to be budgeted.

Allowed activities include, but are not limited to:

- Use of CHaMP, other MARISA tools and team member expertise to inform an updated FEMA hazard mitigation plan or climate adaptation plan.
- Planning and conducting a "train the trainer" event/workshop focused on incorporating climate projections in FEMA hazard mitigation plans.
- Use of CHaMP to help inform local decisionmakers of historical and projected climate and hazard information as they consider actions affecting community well-being.

## Ineligible Activities

Funding is NOT available for:

- Advocacy, such as engagement with local, state, or federal government officials with the aim of influencing support of/opposition to issues, legislation, etc. This includes lobbying activities.



- Childcare costs
- Purchasing of general equipment not tied specifically to the proposed project, such as laptop computers

Subcontracts will not be allowed. Collaboration with MARISA is required. See MARISA's areas of expertise and tools below to understand the ways in which MARISA could be involved with/support proposed projects.

### MARISA's Areas of Expertise

- Use-inspired science for building adaptive capacity to climate variability and change
- Climate-resilient planning for urban stormwater and wastewater utilities
- Regional flood risk projections under climate change
- Climate impacts on public health and societal wellbeing
- Rural human health infrastructure under sea-level rise
- Responses to extreme heat
- Climate-related disaster mitigation policy analysis

### Links to CHaMP and Other MARISA Tools and Resources for Adaptation Planning

- [Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning \(CHaMP\) Tool](#)
- [Community Climate Outlooks](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Climate Summaries](#)
- [Intensity-Duration-Frequency \(IDF\) Curve Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#)

### How To Apply

The application requires a short description (narrative) of the proposed work (0.5 page), a detailed budget with a narrative budget justification, and the RAND Subrecipient Information and Compliance form. The narrative of proposed work, detailed budget template (attached), narrative budget justification, and RAND Subrecipient Information and Compliance form (attached) should be emailed together to [SmallGrants@rand.org](mailto:SmallGrants@rand.org).

1. For the description (narrative) of the proposed work, please include brief statements about:
  - a. your organization's mission and community served
  - b. the need for or relevance of this work
  - c. who will do the proposed work
  - d. how you anticipate working with MARISA and using the CHaMP tool
  - e. your anticipated outcomes (and outputs, if any) from this work.
2. Please submit a completed detailed budget using the provided RAND budget template as well as a narrative budget justification that describes how funds will be used. Please include the following in the narrative budget justification:



- a. personnel: title, organization, background, role on project, amount budgeted, percent effort being committed to the project
- b. equipment, materials, and supplies: can include printed materials and/or rented chairs for a workshop, etc.
- c. travel: proposed travel, purpose, and cost. Should include attendance in at least one MARISA day-long workshops being held in the Baltimore area.
- d. indirect costs: indicate if you are using your institutions negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) or if your institution does not have a NICRA that you are using the federal de minimis rate of 10.0% (2 CFR 200.414(f)).

## Proposal Review Criteria

Proposals will be rated on a scale of 1-5 as to how well they meet the following criteria in the aggregate:

- The extent to which the proposed work enhances the capacity of communities served by the proposing organization.
- The extent to which the proposed work advances MARISA's mission.
- Demonstrated capacity to administer the funds and complete the proposed work.
- Inclusion of a plan for collaboration, both with communities served and with MARISA
- Incorporation of innovative approaches to reach its goals.
- Likelihood of the proposed activities creating or deepening relationships, trust, and a sense of belonging within communities.

Additional preference will be given to applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Those who have not included climate change in their hazard mitigation or climate adaptation plans previously
- Those who have not previously worked with MARISA team members
- Those who are not located in/serving MARISA's current communities of focus

The level of need of the communities served by the proposed work (e.g., number of Justice40 communities served) will also be considered in the review process.

## Awardee Responsibilities

- Organizations selected must be willing to be classified as a subawardee of the RAND Corporation, accepting RAND's subaward terms and conditions and any applicable flow down provisions from the NOAA award that funds MARISA, in addition to compliance with the federal regulations under 2 CFR 200.
- Non-negotiable reporting requirements may include invoicing, technical or progress reports, and proof of use of funds on a monthly basis.
- Recipients will be expected to participate in at least one day-long workshop for networking and mutual learning.



- Recipients must be willing to cooperate with MARISA on an evaluation of this small grant program, which may include responding to a short survey and/or having a conversation with the MARISA PI and program manager.
- Other reporting requirements will be collaboratively determined by MARISA and the awardee institution.

[For more information, email SmallGrants@rand.org](mailto:SmallGrants@rand.org)