



## MARISA Small Grants Program Call for Proposals

### Negley Run Watershed - Pittsburgh, PA

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 which has had an office in Pittsburgh for more than 20 years. 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 in the Negley Run Watershed are to:

1. Increase meaningful participation in MARISA's current research projects by frontline communities from underserved areas in the Negley Run Watershed in Pittsburgh, PA;
2. Enhance local community capacity for resilience and adaptation to climate change, including, but not limited to, the areas of stormwater management, health and wellness, workforce development, data collection, planning, and grant-writing;
3. Increase trust and deepen partnerships between MARISA and the Small G793161
4. Grant recipients with the intent of fostering lasting relationships and future collaborations.

### Who is Eligible?

Non-profit local and regional organizations that support frontline and underserved communities in the Negley Run Watershed in Pittsburgh, PA are eligible to apply. For profit entities, such as consulting firms, and international organizations are not eligible to apply.

### Amount Available

We anticipate dispersing approximately \$30,000 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 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: 1) enhance the capacity of the organizations to meet the needs of the communities they serve in the context of climate resilience and adaptation, and 2) build relationships with MARISA and utilize MARISA information or resources. 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:

- Engaging communities in discussions about alternative stormwater management strategies in the Negley Run Watershed. We are particularly interested in understanding community priorities related to co-benefits (e.g., active or passive recreational areas, urban heat island reduction, repaving, streetscape improvements).
- Citizen science projects to collect data of local interest and relevance in the Negley Run Watershed. We are particularly interested in supporting data collection that may be used to illustrate the impacts of and support adaptation to environmental change related to heavy rainfall and flooding events in the Negley Run Watershed.
- Activities that build local capacity for climate change adaptation and community resilience including supporting participation in planning and grant writing activities for managing stormwater in the Negley Run Watershed under future climate conditions.
- Green infrastructure or similar environmental planning and implementation activities.
- Innovative approaches, such as the use of art and/or communication tools, to meet any of the above objectives and/or activities.

## 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 MARISA's Tools and Resources for Adaptation Planning

- [Community Climate Outlook for Allegheny County, PA](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Climate Summaries](#)
- [Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning \(CHaMP\) Tool](#)

### 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), 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 our resources
  - e. what are 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, small stormwater sensors, plants for raingardens, 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 to participate in activities aimed at improving climate resilience and adaptation to heavy rainfall and/or flooding in the Negley Run Watershed, Pittsburgh PA.
- The extent to which the proposed work advance 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. (For example, an innovative approach could be one that incorporates art and climate into its methods/results if that is determined as a potentially successful way to connect with communities, conduct citizen science projects, etc.)
- Likelihood of the proposed activities creating or deepening relationships, trust, and a sense of belonging within communities.

## 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 to be held in a convenient Baltimore location 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)