In 2020, Virginia passed the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act to protect Virginians from growing flood risk from more frequent and intense storms and sea level rise. This allowed the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and established the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). RGGI is a market-based program of 11 states that generates funds while reducing electricity sector emissions. Half of its proceeds fund low-income energy efficiency programs and 45% fund the CFPF.

The CFPF provides loans and grants for projects, studies, and planning throughout the Commonwealth to identify and address flood vulnerability for communities. CFPF funds can build capacity in localities that otherwise would not have the resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and action-oriented flood mitigation approaches.

**TOWN OF ASHLAND:**

**RESILIENCE PLAN & STAFF TRAINING**

The Town of Ashland is situated on flat, poorly drained soils that raise serious concerns from residents and business owners about future flood risk as weather events become increasingly intense. The Town is in need of a flood resilience plan, but does not have the in-house financial or personnel capacity necessary for its development. This CFPF grant will enable the municipality to hire a consulting firm to develop a resilience plan that includes projects, strategies, and goals to prioritize and budget for flood risk reduction initiatives. The Town will also send two staff members to the FEMA Emergency Management Institute and take the Certified Floodplain Manager exam.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

“The Town feels strongly that we need to assess our vulnerability to climate change and increased intensity storms, evaluate our existing resources and determine where they need to be augmented, and examine opportunities to increase the Town’s resilience with strategies and/or projects.”

**POINT OF CONTACT**

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**TOWN OF ASHLAND**

$62,630

**RGGI GRANTS**

**COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FUND**