The City of Richmond is home to over 225,000 residents and includes a number of low-income geographic areas as well as populations with a high social vulnerability index score. The City needs numerous stormwater infrastructure improvements to provide increased flood protection, continued access to key transportation pathways, and improved public safety for major areas of Richmond’s underserved populations and communities.

Virginia passed the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act of 2020, allowing the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and establishing 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 need additional resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and action-oriented flood mitigation approaches.

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CITY OF RICHMOND

CITY OF RICHMOND $8,746,047

Mary-Carson Stiff, Wetlands Watch, mc.stiff@wetlandswatch.org
1. **MCGUIRE AND CHAPEL DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Southside Richmond experiences repetitive flooding due to insufficient stormwater systems in the neighborhood. With a $1,100,000 CFPF grant, the City of Richmond will install new and upgraded stormwater conveyances with larger piping, stormwater inlets, and drainage channels in the McGuire/Chapel neighborhood.

2. **RICHMOND MANCHESTER, AND SHOCKOE BOTTOM NEIGHBORHOODS**

The Northside and Southside levee system protects over $900 million of property value in the City of Richmond. Since their construction in the 1990s, there has been no comprehensive survey or digital drawing information for the system in its entirety. With a $103,500 CFPF award, Richmond will establish a digital baseline for the system, allowing updates to emergency response flood plans and the development of outreach tools for the communities who live alongside the levees.

3. **RICHMOND STAFF PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

The City of Richmond’s Water Resources Division currently reviews hydrology and hydraulic analyses and no rise certifications for development plans and projects proposed in floodways. With this $23,153 CFPF award, the city will be able to outsource these reviews to a third-party consulting firm so the City’s engineer can better learn how to perform these reviews in the future.

4. **WINDSOR FARMS RESILIENCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

The City of Richmond’s Water Filtration Plant is protected by a flood project and levee system constructed in the early 1990s. This $19,394 CFPF award will fund direct surveying and engineering consulting services to provide the City with a comprehensive survey and baseline digital drawing information to organize future needs and emergency flood response plans.

5. **MAYO ISLAND ACQUISITION**

Mayo Island, located in the James River, within a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area and one of Richmond’s fastest growing population areas. In addition, Mayo Island’s location is in an area designated as both an Opportunity Zone and an area of High Social Vulnerability. The CFPF award will be utilized to support the City of Richmond in the acquisition of Mayo Island. The City plans to open a new public park on the island and implement restoration to reduce flood risk for residents and tourists.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

The City of Richmond is pursuing several projects that have significant potential of providing increased benefit for flood protection and public safety to major areas of Richmond’s underserved populations and communities, not only for those residing in the project area, but those traveling through and/or visiting.