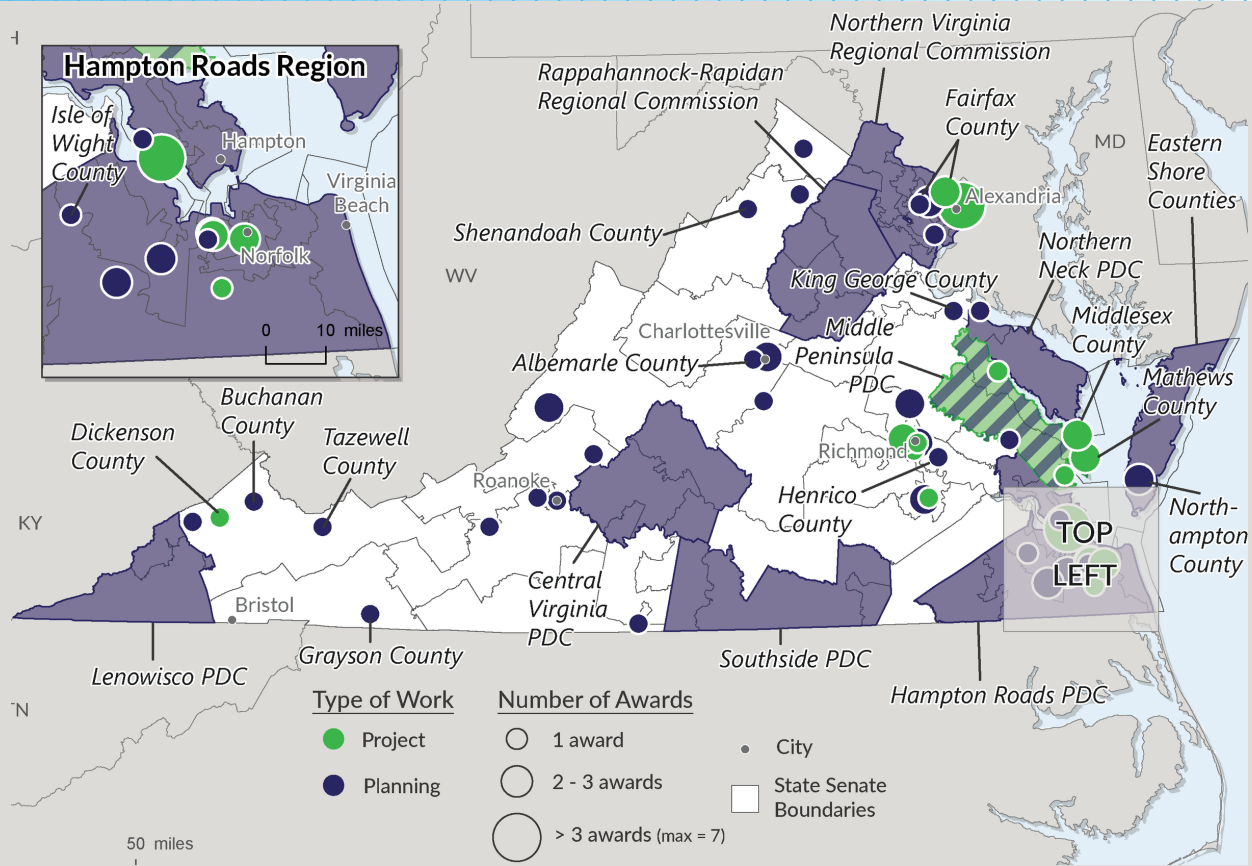


RGGI GRANTS

COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FUND



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.

CITY OF SUFFOLK

The City of Suffolk is Virginia's largest city by land area and 10th most populous city in Virginia. Home to the ancestral lands of the Nansemond Indian Nation and part of the Great Dismal Swamp, Suffolk has substantial agricultural lands as well as several primary transportation thoroughfares for the Hampton Roads region, including a hurricane evacuation route and Sentara Obici Hospital connector.



\$ 282,991



POINT OF CONTACT

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1 CAPACITY BUILDING AND PLANNING

With this CFPF award, Suffolk will train two Certified Floodplain Managers and develop a standalone Resilience Plan. The plan will assess the City's flood risk due to sea level rise and climate change with a focus on critical infrastructure as well as low-income geographic areas with compounding vulnerabilities. The plan will further emphasize potential flood mitigation projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and include strategies for responding to natural hazards more quickly after disasters and responsibly managing development in areas with high flood risk.

2 FINNEY OUTFALL TO NANSEMOND RIVER DRAINAGE STUDY

The Finney Outfall drains stormwater from a highly-developed area of downtown Suffolk predominately built over a century ago, which then runs north toward the Nansemond River. Several community assets and other critical infrastructure – including utilities, a cemetery, and major transportation routes for Hampton Roads like US 58/E. Constance Road – are impacted by flooding in this area. With this CFPF award, the City will conduct a drainage analysis of the existing stormwater sewer system and consider forward-looking climate impacts to create recommendations for potential flood risk reduction projects for inclusion in the City's resilience plan that protect historic and community assets while building community resilience.

3 KIMBERLY BRIDGE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Suffolk's North Main Street (US Route 32/460) at the Kimberly Bridge experiences recurrent flooding, both from rainfall as well as sunny day flooding when high tides in the Nansemond River are driven up through stormwater pipes and overtop the roadway. The area is a major community thoroughfare, home to many integral businesses, and serves as a major route for emergency vehicles and hospital access. This CFPF award will fund a new study that incorporates climate change impacts into a hydrologic and environmental contamination assessment to create recommendations to build flood resilience as well as improve community health.



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WHY IT MATTERS

These studies “will increase community resilience by identifying the cause of the flooding and recommend potential flood reduction projects to reduce both current and future flooding. Reduced flooding in this area would also reduce the impact of flooding on utility infrastructure within the study corridor as well as historic and cherished community assets”