

# Community Disaster Resilience Zones: Focusing Support from Federal Programs

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Resilience efforts across the federal interagency are leveraging Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) designations to strategically channel resources to the most at-risk and in-need areas across the nation.

The [Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022](#) requires FEMA to identify and designate the census tracts that are among the most at risk and in need of assistance to combat the effects of natural hazards. These designations help a wide range of public and private sector partners to channel investments toward building community resilience in the zones. Federal interagency partners are an important piece of a whole-of-community approach to bolster community-led efforts that protect lives and infrastructure.

## Finding New Grant Programs and Opportunities

To locate the most recent list of federal programs that support, prioritize, or incorporate CDRZ in some capacity, visit [Grants.gov](#) and enter “community disaster resilience zone” in the “Keyword(s)” box, and click the “Search” button. To easily identify the most recent posted entries, sort by “Posted Date (Descending).” A list of CDRZ and additional information is available at [FEMA.gov/cdrz](#).

## Examples of Federal Programs Supporting CDRZ

Recognizing the important mission of the CDRZ Act, multiple federal agencies have adapted existing programs to drive financial and technical assistance to designated communities. The programs below highlight key examples of the support, prioritization, and integration of these designated zones across the federal government.

### Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

#### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant and Technical Assistance Programs

The [BRIC](#) grant program supports state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners in reducing disaster risks by funding hazard mitigation activities. As a result of a CDRZ designation, FEMA may increase the federal cost-share for BRIC-funded mitigation projects within or primarily benefiting a CDRZ from 75% to 90%, reducing the financial burden on entities pursuing projects that primarily benefit CDRZ. Additionally, BRIC offers direct technical assistance to support the design of holistic, equitable hazard mitigation solutions to advance community-driven efforts within designated zones.

#### Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Swift Current Grant Program

The [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) program provides funding to state, local, territorial governments and Tribal Nations for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage. The Flood Mitigation Assistance [Swift](#)

**Current** initiative aligns flood mitigation funding delivery to support survivors by expediting awards after a disaster, rather than through an annual grant application cycle. FEMA leverages grant scoring criteria from both programs to prioritize applications for projects benefitting CDRZ.

### **Homeland Security National Training Program (HSNTP) National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC)**

The **NDPC** strengthens national preparedness by helping communities address evolving threats through funded training for SLTT emergency management and response teams. NDPC also collaborates with FEMA and other partners to tackle long-term trends affecting community resilience-building, such as rising disaster costs, advancing technology, demographic shifts, and emerging threats. In addition to serving communities nationwide, NDPC partners will implement training to address the needs of designated zones.

### **HSNTP Continuing Training Grants (CTG)**

The **CTG Program** provides funding to develop and deliver targeted training solutions to promote an integrated, whole-of-community, risk-informed, and capabilities-based approach to preparedness. A subprogram of CTG is the **National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium (NCPC)**, which provides funding through cooperative agreements to create FEMA-certified training solutions to address gaps in cybersecurity to communities nationwide. The **Alliance for System Safety of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) through Research Excellence (ASSURE)** is another subprogram that provides aid to first responders using UAS technology through emergency management and FEMA-certified training. The above programs intend to provide funding and support for designated zones.

### **Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)**

The purpose of the **RCPGP** is to build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness. This effort directly benefits CDRZ by addressing their unique challenges and fostering tailored solutions to enhance resilience in the most vulnerable communities.

## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

### **Climate-Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) Program**

The **CSCI** is a \$12.7 million program that aims to accelerate climate adaptation and resilience using proven tools and methods. A team of climate adaptation experts, led by the Climate Resilience Fund, will develop equitable climate resilience plans with local governments and organizations over the next four years to help communities meet risk assessment requirements to access federal or private funding. The initiative prioritizes high-risk, high-need communities, including designated zones.



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## Climate Program Office (CPO) Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) Program

The [CAP Program](#) enhances regional capacity to adapt to climate impacts through applied research and engagement. Funded by five-year cooperative agreements with NOAA, the work is accomplished by teams of research institutions, nonprofit organizations, and SLTT governments in multi-state regions. The program supports up to one full CAP team and encourages applicants to use CDRZ and the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) to identify target communities.

### U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

#### Rural Partners Network

The [Rural Partners Network](#) is an all-of-government program that assists rural communities across 11 states, including Puerto Rico, in identifying resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms. The program leverages its critical network assistance to support CDRZ identified in rural areas.

### U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

#### Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP)

The [GRRP](#) offers loans and grants to improve the energy efficiency, disaster resilience, and health of HUD-assisted rental housing. The January 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) uses FEMA's National Risk Index to guide energy reduction, renewable energy, and resilience measures. HUD plans to leverage designated zones in the future for disaster-prone areas, aligning with its commitment to climate resilience and energy efficiency.

#### Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE)

The [PRICE](#) program preserves long-term housing affordability in manufactured housing communities (MHCs), redevelops MHCs, and primarily benefits low- and moderate-income residents. These communities face significant challenges to affordability, resilience, infrastructure, and maintenance that are exacerbated by state titling and local zoning laws, financial pressures, and natural hazards. Designated zones receive additional selection points during the application process.

### U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)

#### Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program

The [PROTECT Program](#) funds projects that improve the resilience of transportation systems to climate change impacts such as flooding and wildfires. [USDOT's Thriving Communities Program](#) provides technical assistance to



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disadvantaged communities to help plan and build transformative infrastructure projects that improve mobility, sustainability, and resilience. CDRZ designations help USDOT prioritize the most vulnerable communities in these efforts by leveraging selection criteria in the [PROTECT NOFO](#).

### Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program

The RCP program supports the reconnection of communities divided by transportation infrastructure, prioritizing support for disadvantaged communities to improve access to basic daily needs. Funds for the [Fiscal Years 2024-2026 RCP grant program](#) are awarded on a competitive basis to support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore connectivity through the removal, retrofit, hazard mitigation, or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities. Applicants score higher if they demonstrate that the project benefits communities within a designated zone.

### Stage 2 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants

The [SMART Grants program](#) funds demonstration projects focused on advancing smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety, solving real-world challenges and building expertise in the public sector. Projects that benefit designated zones fulfill USDOT's requirement to incorporate evidence-based climate and adaptation measures and features.

### Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program, Mega Grants, and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program

The [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant \(MPDG\) opportunity](#) contains three grant programs: the INFRA, the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). The funding benefits surface transportation infrastructure projects focused on resilience to include highways and bridges, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade crossings or separations, wildlife crossings, public transportation, marine highways, and freight projects, or groups of such projects.

### Small Community Air Service Development Program

The [Small Community Air Service Development Program](#) provides financial assistance to enhance air service in small communities. USDOT funds projects that advance safety, equity, climate and sustainability, workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation. Applicants score higher for projects benefitting communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as designated zones.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants)

The [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#) will invest \$2 billion for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and



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build community capacity. Projects that supported, advanced, or complemented funding related to CDRZ were prioritized during the application process.

### **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM)**

The [EJ TCGM](#) program provides subgrants to community-based nonprofits and other eligible subrecipients for assessment, planning, and project development activities. Grantmakers will reduce barriers to the federal grants application process and increase the efficiency of the awards process for environmental justice grants. Designated zones are part of EPA's criteria to identify eligibility and prioritize award selection.

### **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs)**

The [EJ TCTACs](#) help underserved communities across the country mitigate environmental justice concerns, in partnership with the Department of Energy. Technical assistance centers will receive funds to provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, develop grant proposals, and effectively manage grant funding. In addition, these centers will provide guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants. The program intends to provide critical capacity-building technical assistance to complement climate and disaster resilience support for designated zones.

### **Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)**

The [CCER TA](#) provides free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops that support climate resilience and environmental justice activities in disaster-prone areas. The program supports retrofits to community-serving buildings, redesign of public parks, open space, and waterways and helps several communities with designated zones.

## **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

### **Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Program**

The [HUBZone](#) program provides contracting assistance to small businesses located in HUBZones—economically distressed communities, including Tribal lands—to promote job growth, capital investment, and economic development. FEMA and SBA work together to cross-reference HUBZone communities with CDRZ and promote whole-of-government economic development support.

### **SBA Small Business Development Centers (SBDC): Women's Business Centers (WBCs), Veteran's Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs)**

The SBA offers personalized business advising and technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them access capital and improve their strategic operations, marketing, financial management, and innovation, through SBDCs. Several centers, including [Women's Business Centers](#) and [Veteran's Business Outreach](#)



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Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ): Receiving Support from Federal Programs

[Centers](#), enhance small business disaster resilience in designated communities based on opportunities and interest.



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