

Building Resilience Through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities

A Response to NOAA's
Announcement for a Coastal Management Fellowship

October 15, 2021

Prepared by the Delaware Coastal Programs

Delaware Coastal Programs Contact:


Robert W. Scarborough, Ph.D., Environmental Program Manager II

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy

Phone: (302) 739-9283

Bob.Scarborough@Delaware.gov

Project Contact:  Date: 10/15/2021

Robert W. Scarborough, Ph.D.



BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

This document represents the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) Delaware Coastal Programs' (DCP) response to NOAA's September 2021 request for project proposals for the Coastal Management Fellowships. It outlines a project proposal from the DCP, which includes the Delaware Coastal Management Program (DCMP) and the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR). The outcome of this effort will meet the critical need to educate the public and assist underserved communities to deal with climate change impacts such as sea level rise, coastal storms, and extreme heat events. This project will identify adaptation measures and corresponding implementation actions to provide resiliency for the individuals, their property, and their community. Further, this project will directly address NOAA's strategic focus area of Resilient Coastal Communities. Primarily the sub-areas to: *"Increase public awareness of coastal hazards and actions that can be taken to reduce the loss of life and property."* and *"Build capacity to pursue strategies such as hazard preparedness, mitigation, and post-hazard redevelopment planning by providing an integrated suite of data, information, training, technical assistance, cooperative funding, and policy tools to coastal communities."* In addition, inherent through the process the project will address the sub-area of: *"Identify and engage partners in maximizing the understanding, visualization, and application of risk-wise strategies."* It is the intent of this project to target underserved front-line communities in Delaware, which are defined as communities already being impacted or will be the first to be impacted by climate change and coastal hazards.

As climate change causes sea levels to rise, storms to become more intense and temperatures to rise additional efforts are needed to reach all vulnerable populations. However, many of these vulnerable communities do not have a local traditional governmental support structure and need to be reached through non-traditional avenues. The current Fellow is developing a tool for individual home and business owners to use to help protect their property, and the DCP has worked with small to medium sized coastal municipalities to improve their preparedness and resiliency through our Resilient Community Partnership Program. Still, there are Delaware communities that do not have an organizational structure that would benefit from a formal process and tools to adapt to climate change related issues. Unfortunately, many of these communities are also ones in need of support due to social or economic inequities. These communities can be found in rural unincorporated areas of the state or within a municipality that is dealing with a myriad of other issues. These communities, while not formally organized, are often served by faith-based organizations, civic associations, and/or local non-profit organizations. The DCP's proposed project for this Fellowship is to collaboratively work with these organizations to provide technical assistance, information, and resources that will support their efforts to serve these communities and more effectively connect with the impacted individuals within the community. This project will also support various actions for front-line communities, defined as communities that experience the first, and often worst, impacts of climate change, as outlined in the 2021 Delaware Climate Action Plan.

The Fellowship project will employ a multi-prong approach for supporting these underserved populations. First, the Fellow and DCP will identify the underserved communities and the relevant organizations. Then, the Fellow and DCP will determine the local knowledge base of the various organizations and their understanding of the impacts of

climate change and adaptation measures. Next, the Fellow will assist DCP staff to conduct needs assessments for the identified communities to determine the level and types of risk they face. Finally, the Fellow will help develop adaptation strategies that individuals or the community can execute or garner monetary support for implementation. In addition to the direct support to the communities, the Fellow will develop a playbook including ways to connect and engage with local and national relief organizations (ex. Red Cross), a catalog of who to contact at the local and state level for support on climate change concerns and responding to flooding and storm events, and what the organization can do to support their constituents in case of an event (ex. provide their building as a cooling center or stockpile needed flood recovery supplies). For organizations already involved with some of the support groups, the Fellow will gather information and determine lessons learned to disseminate this local knowledge to others. In coordination with the playbook, a tutorial on locating funding sources and grant writing will be developed to support the implementation of any recommended adaptation actions in their communities. While the playbook and tutorial will be important resources that can be transferred to other states, the most important part of this project will be engaging with the underserved communities using various outreach methods (both in-person and virtually) to build relationships and provide support for climate adaptation strategies.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goal of this project is to support underserved communities and provide resources and tools to adapt to climate change impacts. By collaborating with faith-based, civic organizations and other NGOs trusted by these communities, DCP hopes to increase the resiliency of Delaware's front-line communities.

The main objectives of the project will be to:

- Engage and develop trusted relationships with various faith-based, civic and community organizations that represent and/or aid underrepresented and underserved populations in front-line communities.
- Understand community current resources and needs.
- Provide organizational leadership with relevant information about climate change impacts and adaptation actions.
- Perform vulnerability assessments and recommend adaptation measures for the communities the organizations represent.
- Develop outreach materials and presentations using the appropriate media and languages for the target communities.
- Provide training to organization leaders on locating adaptation funding sources and writing grant proposals to implement adaptation actions.
- Provide resources to organization leaders on the emergency response support their organizations can provide during/after extreme weather events to their community.

MILESTONES & OUTCOMES

The following milestones and outcomes have been developed to provide a general timeline and schedule for the project tasks. The Fellow's responsibilities are divided into four

major tasks, each of which are considered a significant milestone having deliverables or anticipated outcomes. The Fellow will lead on several tasks and serve as part of the support team on others. The project team has a broad range of expertise that provides some level of flexibility to tailor the Fellow’s work plan and maximize their individual strengths and expertise. The tasks and deliverables are described in more detail in the project description section of this proposal.

Overview of the Project:

Task 1 – Identify and Engage with Organization Leadership.

Deliverables:

- Identify and develop a list of local organizations and communities
- Contact and engage with the organizations about the project
- Develop and provide training on climate change impacts based on type of organization, role of organization, and the community

Task 2 – Vulnerability Assessment.

Deliverables:

- Engage with the communities to fully understand their needs and concerns
- Perform vulnerability assessments of the target communities
- Determine appropriate adaptation measures for each community

Task 3 – Outreach.

Deliverables:

- Develop outreach materials via different media and languages for distribution to communities
- Develop presentations and workshops for communities based on common vulnerabilities and adaptation measures

Task 4 – Support Organizational Efforts on Adaptation.

Deliverables:

- Develop and present a primer on adaptation grant funding
- Determine and support the implementation of actions that organizations can do to provide resources for their communities

Timeline:

	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Task 1								
Task 2								
Task 3								
Task 4								

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Task 1 – Identify, engage, and educate organization leadership.

Task 1 will involve identifying organizations that regularly interact with underserved and underrepresented communities. This will be done in cooperation with Delaware State University (DSU), a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Sociology and Criminal Justice Department, who the DCP is currently partnering with to improve DNREC's outreach and communication to underserved audiences. The target communities for this project are defined as either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed set of individuals, where either type of group experiences common conditions including low income; high and/or persistent poverty; racial, ethnic, and minority residential segregation; linguistic isolation; distressed neighborhoods; and a disproportionate environmental stressor burden. This definition of underserved communities is modified from the "CEQ, Environmental Justice: Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act" and is the definition used by DSU. Staff from DSU will facilitate introductions to the organizations that they have historically engaged to work on equity and justice issues. The Fellow, with support from DCP, will then meet with the representatives of the organizations to better understand the communities they serve, their role in the communities, and if and how they provide information on climate change, hazards, and adaptation measures to those they serve.

After the initial meetings, an educational session will be created for the organizations. Whenever possible, these sessions will have multiple groups in attendance based on similarities of organizational type and the communities served. The educational sessions will provide an overview of the causes and effects of climate change with a focus on the projected impacts for the targeted communities. These sessions will deliver information on how the DCP can assist underserved communities to improve their resilience to climate change and associated coastal hazards, which is a primary goal of this proposed fellowship.

Task 2 – Vulnerability Assessment.

Task 2 involves the Fellow working with experts from DNREC, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, and other experts to determine the vulnerabilities that each community is projected to face due to climate change. The primary impacts will be flooding due to sea level and the increased intensity and frequency of storm events, and excessive heat events. It is estimated that there will be three main geographic areas that will be impacted by climate change which will require assessment 1) small unincorporated coastal towns, 2) underserved neighborhoods in larger municipalities, and 3) rural communities in unincorporated Delaware coastal areas. The vulnerability assessment will consider impacts to public infrastructure, personal property, health, and socio-economic effects.

Once the vulnerability assessment is completed it will be used to develop a catalog of adaptation measures that could be implemented for each community. Adaptation measures could consist of physical measures to lessen the impacts of climate change on property, preparatory actions to facilitate a rapid community response to coastal hazard events and plans to manage any social and economic impacts of climate change.

Task 3 - Outreach.

Outreach will be a major component of the project. As the Fellow increases their familiarity with the topics and the communities, more of the outreach responsibilities will be transferred to the Fellow. The outreach will focus on providing information and resilience materials to the underserved communities. To support this task, DCP will have received the recommendations from our current engagement project with DSU outlining the best methods for interacting with underserved communities, expected in December 2022. The Fellow will be at the forefront, if not the initiator, of putting these recommendations into practice on this project. It is anticipated that the Fellow will be working with various media and helping the DCP to establish procedures and develop contracts for translation services for print, virtual and in-person outreach materials. The Fellow will be assisted by the DNERR Coastal Training Program Coordinator with all outreach activities. To promote the project and present information the fellow will create a webpage to be hosted on the DNREC website and will create regular postings for DNREC's social media sites (Twitter/Facebook /Instagram). DCP will ensure that the Fellow has the ability to deliver presentations at regional and national conferences by providing additional resources to Fellows above the NOAA allotment for travel and conferences (as needed). The Fellow will also create a final report detailing all phases of the project, including successes, failures, and challenges. The report can be used as guidance when working with underserved communities by state agencies in Delaware and other coastal management programs across the country.

Task 4 - Support Organizational Efforts on Adaptation.

Throughout the project the organizations will be the main avenue to facilitate engagement with the communities. As the project nears completion the Fellow will engage with the organizations' leadership to review the findings and outline areas where the organization can assist the communities. Examples of this could be opening access to buildings on extreme heat days or stockpiling necessities for hazard response to be used by the community. It is anticipated that some adaptation measures will need support from regional/national NGOs or government agencies, the Fellow will create a directory of who to contact and services provided by these NGOs or agencies to respond to an event or how the organizations can assist in adapting to longer term climate change issues. Additionally, the Fellow will provide presentation(s) on effective grant writing and potential sources of funding that can be used to provide resiliency to the communities.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & JUSTICE

This Fellowship project's main goal is to provide resilience to underserved front-line communities. These communities have historically dealt with the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards with minimal support or concern. Because these communities may not have a formal organizational structure, they often do not receive the needed resources to protect their property, and livelihood. By reaching these communities through trusted sources of faith-based organizations, civic associations, and local non-profit groups, this project will convey information and other resources that are desperately needed.

FELLOW MENTORING

This project has challenging tasks that cannot be met by a single individual's efforts. It will require a team of individuals with varying management and technical backgrounds. From joining the project to completion of the Fellowship term, the Fellow will be fully integrated into this project as part of the leadership team. The DCP team for this project has extensive experience to carry out each task of this project, providing the Fellow an opportunity to work closely with professionals with various types of specialized expertise. The Fellow will be one of the individuals that are crucial to the successful completion of the project and will take on a lead role and increasing project responsibility as they gain experience and confidence through the peer-to-peer mentoring activities with the project team. The Fellow will gain valuable experience in the areas of communication, environmental justice and social equity, vulnerability assessment, and understanding the wide range of impacts adaptation/protection decisions that can benefit underserved communities. The Fellow will also hone their collaboration skills working with various divisions in DNREC, other agencies in the state, several federal agencies, Delaware State University, and other experts in the field.

The Fellow will be under the primary supervision of the Delaware Coastal Management Program's Environmental Program Manager II but will work very closely with staff from the DCMP and the DNERR. The Fellow's lead mentor will be Kristen Thornton in the DCMP. The Fellow will be located at the DCMP offices in Dover and will have full access to facilities available at the DNERR. The dedicated Project Team is outlined below:

- Coastal Management Fellow
- Robert Scarborough, Ph.D., DCMP Environmental Program Manager II
- Kristen Thornton, DCMP Environmental Scientist III
- Drew Faulhaber, DCMP Environmental Scientist III
- Jennifer Holmes, DNERR Coastal Training Program Coordinator
- Margaret Pletta, DCMP Planner IV

The Fellow will be an integral part of this team of coastal management and technical professionals, and will never be left without the guidance, assistance, and leadership of a team member. This team integration approach will ensure that the Fellow receives the maximum concentration of educational and professional development opportunities possible while gaining valuable experience on the varying aspects of coastal management. The Fellow will be provided the opportunities to participate in numerous other activities at the DCMP and DNERR including field research, education and outreach activities, ocean policy and regulatory permitting based on their interests and desires.

OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

Delaware Coastal Programs staff currently have permission for limited telecommuting, at a minimum staff are required to be in the office two days a week. All staff working on coastal resilience including the Fellow's supervisor and mentor are in the office on the same days. The Fellow will be expected to work in the office the same two days but may work in the office up to 5 days a week. On most days of the week the office will have members of the DCP working on location. This telecommuting schedule is by

approval of the Division Director and Department Secretary and may alter to more in-office days at their discretion. As DCP has hosted a Fellow throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we are highly experienced with supervising and mentoring remotely, if needed, and can provide the necessary support for proper professional development of the Fellow. DCP will provide a furnished office along with a personal computer with office software (Microsoft Office), ArcGIS software, and other software as needed. If the Fellow elects to tele-commute on certain days a laptop computer and monitor will be supplied along with VPN access to their desktop. The Fellow will also have full State e-mail, internet capabilities, and access to all DNREC and DCP network data drives. State vehicles will be available for all project activities as needed. The Fellow will also be provided any additional resources deemed necessary for completion of the project.

In addition, the DCP will provide funds and materials for all workshops and meetings required for the project, funding for any necessary training, as well as printing, photocopying, mailing, and incidental costs for project interim products. Funds are also available for travel to professional conferences or meetings in which the project aspects are presented and for project related training.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Each of the project partners listed below have communicated interest and willingness to support this project. All have agreed to participate in the project and provide any information and technical support necessary to make the project a success.

- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
 - Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy
 - Delaware Coastal Programs Section
 - Delaware Coastal Management Programs
 - Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - Climate & Sustainability Section
 - Division of Community Affairs
- Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination
- Delaware State University
 - Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
- Collaborate Northeast
- South Wilmington Planning Network

COST SHARE

The DCMP will provide the \$15,000 Fellowship match through State funds. This will be paid in \$7,500 per year installments. In addition, DCMP has historically allocated to the Fellow additional funds to attend trainings and professional conferences related to the project.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA

This project will directly address NOAA's strategic focus area of Resilient Coastal Communities as detailed in the OCM Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Primarily the strategies to: *"Increase public awareness of coastal hazards and actions that can be taken to reduce the loss of life and property."*, *"Foster engagement and coordination among public and private sector partners to leverage resources as well as to share resilience related expertise lessons learned and best practices"* and *"Build capacity to pursue strategies such as hazard preparedness, mitigation, and post-hazard redevelopment planning by providing an integrated suite of data, information, training, technical assistance, cooperative funding, and policy tools to coastal communities."* The ability of the DCP to reach underserved communities more effectively through this fellowship project will substantially benefit these coastal communities in hazard awareness, protection of property and resilience. By engaging with faith-based and civic organizations as well as other community NGOs, the number of advocates for coastal resilience will increase and these organizations will aid the DCP and other state agencies in providing needed resources. Assisting the organizations in locating and applying for funding to support climate change adaptation grants will also greatly benefit the communities.

The work of the Fellow will also impact the strategy: *"Provide coastal hazard and climate change related data, tools, guidance, training, and technical assistance to people working to enhance community resilience and to communicate risk to the public."* This proposed project, by identifying the faith-based and civic organizations as a way to engage with the communities, will get these organizations involved with continued support on climate change issues. By providing training and resources to the organization leaders and by providing adaptation measures that the organizations can do to support the residents, the Fellow and DCP will provide a trusted source of information and resources for the impacted communities.

COLLABORATE NORTHEAST ► ► ►

October 14, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Collaborate Northeast, a community based organization, is in full support of the 2021 Delaware Coastal Programs application for a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow. Collaborate Northeast is the community organization emerging from the Blueprint Communities® program of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh for Northeast Wilmington. The program is an asset based approach to develop long term sustainable resident and stakeholder participation in revitalizing their community.

Delaware's coastal location creates challenges across the state for virtually all cities and communities. Compounded by a need to upgrade aging infrastructure and direct redevelopment to create economic sustainability, the resources and capacity to address the demands imposed by sea level rise are scarce. As a result often the most vulnerable in underserved rural communities and in underserved environmental justice neighborhoods within a municipality are left behind.

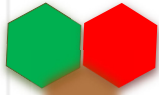
Residents in these communities deserve to be included in the assessment of their community and in prioritizing the climate adaptation strategies that best compliment their grass roots community vision. This proposal has a strong focus on engaging with the community using various outreach methods to build relationships and provide support. Additionally the proposal includes performing a needs assessments for the identified communities to determine the level and types of risk they face.

Collaborate Northeast, working in the broader Northeast section of Wilmington, DE fully supports this approach. It compliments the work that the Collaborate Northeast Resilience Working Group has recently undertaken. Collaborate Northeast would welcome an opportunity to collaborate with a Coastal Management Fellow.

Sincerely,



Bobbi Britton,
Co- chair, Collaborate Northeast



South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

October 14, 2021

SWPN CORE GROUP

Brittany Salen, *Co-Chair*
Executive Director
Environmental Justice Initiative

William Swiatek, *Co-Chair*
Principal Planner
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Michelle Harlee,
4th District City Councilmember
City of Wilmington

Rysheema Dixon
At-Large City Councilmember
City of Wilmington

Diana Dixon,
Vice President
Southbridge Civic Association

Daymon Bagwell,
Treasurer
Southbridge Civic Association

Travis Smith, Sr.,
President
Southbridge Connects

Alison Windle,
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

Victor Perez,
Associate Professor
University of Delaware

Marie Reed,
Past President
Southbridge Civic Association

Ella Edwards,
Health Promotion Advocate
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

John Harrod
Director
DuPont Envir. Education Center

Russ Zerbo
Advocate
Clean Air Council

Kate Dupont Phillips
Executive Director
Healthy Communities Delaware

Robert W. Scarborough, Ph.D.
Program Manager II
DNREC/Delaware Coastal Programs
100 W. Water St., Suite 7B
Dover, DE 19904

RE: Letter of Support for Building resilience Through Relationships Program

Dear Mr. Robert W. Scarborough,

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is proud to support the Delaware Coastal Management Program's (DCMP) proposed project "Building Resilience Through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities" to the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Programs. The project requests a fellow to work collaboratively with faith-based organizations, civic associations, and/or local non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance, information, resources, and tools to adapt to climate change impacts. This project seeks to fill the gaps between access, education, and the actual individual impacted by climate change.

The SWPN is a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and government, nonprofit and private agencies. The goals of the proposed project directly align with the Network's mission to collaborate and serve as a vehicle for information-sharing to improve the community's quality of life. By enlisting the support of faith-based, civic organizations and other NGOs this project has the potential to increase the resiliency of Delaware's front-line communities. These types of projects are vital to the health, future, and resiliency of the Southbridge neighborhood and the City of Wilmington as a whole.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at: SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Britt Salen
Co-Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network

Bill Swiatek
Co-Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network



Delaware Emergency Management Agency
State of Delaware, Department of Safety and Homeland Security

October 14, 2021

Robert W. Scarborough, PhD
Program Manager II
DNREC Delaware Coastal Programs
100 W Water St Suite 7B
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Mr. Robert W. Scarborough,

As Delaware's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, I am delighted to express my support for the Delaware Coastal Management Program's proposal "Building Resilience Through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities".

As the lowest lying state in the nation and already witnessing firsthand the impacts of sea level rise, the Delaware Coastal Management Program is essential to our state as a recognized leader in climate adaptation and partner to our hazard mitigation program at the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). Delaware's mitigation program currently manages 15+ mitigation projects and with multiple funding programs available to address climate change and sea level rise, our program is looking forward to further collaborate with the Delaware Coastal Management Program and local organizations for mitigation endeavors in the frontline communities.

The proposed project is a crucial component not only address mitigation actions but also protect life and property throughout the State whenever a disaster happens, as established in our State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Information and resource sharing is a key priority for our office specially during disaster activations. Furthermore, it is precisely these local organizations who are the frontline partners that make a difference in the response and recovery stage as it was witnessed recently with Tropical Storm Isaias (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021) and Tropical Depression Ida (2021).

Given the alignment of the project to our core mission of supporting collaborations between local organizations and knowing firsthand the quality outcomes that Coastal Programs leadership and staff produce, DEMA enthusiastically supports the proposal and looks forward to working with the fellow on this project. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact DEMA at 302-659-2249.

Sincerely,

Karen Montes-Berrios
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Delaware Emergency Management Agency



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

October 14, 2021

Robert W. Scarborough, Ph.D.
DNREC/DCCE/Delaware Coastal Programs
100 W. Water St., Suite 7B
Dover DE 19904

Dear Dr. Scarborough,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposal for the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship entitled, *Building Resilience Through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities*. I am writing to express my support for the Delaware Coastal Program's (DCP) project proposal for a Coastal Management Fellowship. Having worked in concert with the DCP on current and past projects, I can attest to the quality your staff exhibits in their work-products and to their commitment to serving the public.

DCP's project would identify underserved populations, assess their vulnerability to climate change and their capacity to adapt to those changes, and develop a suite of options best-suited to the community's needs. Information on potential adaptation options and available resources would be disseminated using appropriate outreach materials to empower the community to become more resilient in facing identified hazards.

The Office of State Planning Coordination is dedicated to assisting local governments and the public through targeted planning efforts, by fostering relationships between communities and state agencies, and connecting people to the resources and expertise needed to help them thrive. A key element to successful community planning is of course public involvement in the process. To solicit this involvement, traditional public outreach methods such as public meetings, online surveys, and workshops or webinars are used to collect input from segments of the community.

However, we recognize that these methods are less successful in reaching disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Numerous factors contribute to this such as lack of transportation, poor or no internet connectivity, and limited free time to participate in traditional public outreach, and in some cases a general mistrust of government plays a part. The DCP's project focus will be on rural unincorporated areas with marginalized or disadvantaged populations. The DCP intends to develop community trust through a creative relationship-building approach with faith-based organizations, civic groups, and local non-profit organizations. After establishing trust, the DCP will be better positioned to assist vulnerable populations and assess their communities' risk to changing environmental conditions. By helping

vulnerable populations increase their local capacity to address climate change, the proposal aims to foster a more resilient community.

My office has long benefited from the alliances between our programs and the technical, planning, and outreach expertise you and your team provide. Given our past relationship and the alignment of the proposal with State Planning's core mission, I fully support this effort and hope for your success in securing a NOAA Coastal Fellow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Edgell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Edgell, AICP
Director, Office of State Planning Coordination



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
89 KINGS HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

Division of
Community
Affairs

Phone: (302) 739-9000
Fax: (302) 739-6242

October 14, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Community Affairs, extends our enthusiastic support for the "Building Resilience Through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities" fellowship proposal.

The Division of Community Affairs is the DNREC point of contact for leadership and communities impacted by climate change and environmental justice issues. Our Community Ombudsman is responsible for assisting communities in understanding environmental issues and developing partnerships with DNREC and external agencies to address them. The Community Environmental Project Fund administered by the Division of Community Affairs redirects money collected from civil and administrative violations to restorative community projects.

The frequency and scale of the climate change related issues that have come to our attention is alarming:

- Complete failures of residential and community septic systems due to the inundation of drainage fields by more frequent incidences of heavy rainfall in Sussex County, DE.
- Evacuation of entire communities in New Castle County, DE due to flooding
- Increasing funding requests for tree planting and heat mitigation projects from environmental justice communities throughout the state.

The Division of Community Affairs will work closely with the Coastal Management Fellow to further the relationships that we have established in these communities and increase the capacity of the organizations in them to address climate change. We encourage NOAA funding for the Coastal Management Fellow and look forward to an opportunity to strengthen our service to Delaware Communities.

Sincerely,

Patrick Emory
Director, Division of Community Services

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE



October 14, 2021

The Program Manager
The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship &
Digital Coast Fellowship Programs
NOAA, Washington DC

Dear Program Officer(s) and Reviewer(s),

Letter of Support

As Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Delaware State University, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for this grant application to the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship and Digital Coast Fellowship Programs. The proposed project, *Building Resilience through Relationships: Collaborating with Local Organizations to Support Frontline Communities*, is a collaborative venture with underserved communities with the goal of providing resources and tools to adapt to climate change impacts.

My department and I are willing to help the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) by facilitating introductions to the organizations that we have historically engaged to work on equity and justice issues. We have been working with underserved communities in the state of Delaware and have connected with a network of environmental justice groups and diverse socially vulnerable populations. Currently, I am the Principal Investigator on a collaboration project with DNREC to evaluate DNREC's public engagement strategies. DNREC's commitment to help address vulnerability and resiliency in underserved communities is admirable and this proposal is a step further in that pursuit.

Kindly let me know if you have any questions pertaining to this letter of support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ra" with a large, stylized initial "R" that loops around the "a".

Raymond A. Tutu, PhD
Chair, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

1200 N. DUPONT HIGHWAY • DOVER, DELAWARE 19901-2277 • (302) 857-6670 • FAX (302) 857-66672

Delaware State University is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate because of race, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex or disability.