

# THRIVE

## Resilience In Virginia



HUD-NDRC:  
**PHASE 2 Application**  
**The Commonwealth of Virginia**

**EXHIBIT A:**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**ExhibitAExecutiveSummary.pdf**



## EXHIBIT A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth of Virginia is partnering with three of the largest localities in the state, the cities of Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Newport News to submit a Phase 2 application to the US Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) National Disaster Resiliency Competition (NDRC). The six proposed NDRC projects within the partner localities, situated in the Hampton Roads coastal region where flood-vulnerable watersheds on the James and Elizabeth Rivers emanate from the Chesapeake Bay, are conceived as a set of pilot projects to initiate a long-term culture of resilience in every community throughout the region and, eventually, the Commonwealth.

Hampton Roads is home to over 1.7 million people, and following Hurricane Irene in 2011, the entire region was declared a major disaster area by the President. The risk from severe storms like Irene is exacerbated by sea level rise: Hampton Roads has the highest rate of relative sea level rise along the U.S. east coast due to a combination of rising water and significant land subsidence in southeastern Virginia.

While the region is threatened by water, water is also critical to its economy. Hampton Roads is home to the world's largest military base, Naval Station Norfolk, (with a plant replacement value of over \$4.2B), and many other major military installations and federal facilities such as NASA Langley. The Port of Virginia, another economic driver, is the only east coast port with shipping channels deep enough to accommodate the new Post-Panamax ships, and the largest shipper of coal in the US. These assets, which position the region as a global leader in security and trade, are investments worth supporting.

Innovation is found in Virginia's holistic regional resiliency approach that extends beyond infrastructure to encompass community and economic development. The Commonwealth's proposed NDRC projects will not only reshape the physical environment through water management, they are also connectional, linking LMI target-area residents with community resources, employment opportunities and expanded recreational amenities. Virginia's approach also provides the means for citizens to continue important community conversations on resilience that began as a result of the NDRC engagement process.

The proposed projects address a variety of extremely challenging social conditions, including high poverty public housing, low-moderate income traditional owner-occupied neighborhoods, industrial working waterfronts, disconnected communities, and areas primed for private commercial investment. Finally, a regional Coastal Resilience Lab and Accelerator Center will generate economic growth from water management innovation by leveraging state-wide academic research and regional workforce development focused on low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons and living wage employment.

Virginia has further refined its rather broad Phase I approach, *THRIVE: Resilience In Virginia*. In the Phase II development process, stakeholders focused on three of the five original goals: ***Build Water Management Solutions, Strengthen Vulnerable Neighborhoods*** and ***Improve Economic Vitality***. Together they will yield two long-term outcomes: ***Create Coastal Resilience and Unite the Region***.

The Commonwealth and its partners have secured over \$475 million in direct leverage to support the proposed projects in the Ohio Creek and Newton's Creek Watersheds (City of Norfolk), Crestwood/Oak Grove and South Norfolk/Mill Creek Watersheds (City of Chesapeake), and the Salters Creek Watershed (City of Newport News). Projects and activities vary based on the cities' unmet needs and community objectives, but all of them demonstrate how water management systems can be used to reconnect neighborhoods to natural environments, economic opportunity and to each other.

Since 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe has implemented a number of state-wide initiatives that are building resilience, including convening the Governor's Climate Change and Resilience Update Commission (July 2014) and appointing the Commonwealth's first Chief Resiliency Officer in 2015. Regional and city collective action is evidenced by the June 2015 Virginia Dutch Dialogues convened by Norfolk, Newport News, and Hampton to explore innovative solutions to regional flooding issues and by Norfolk's selection as one of the first cities worldwide in the 100 Resilient Cities program in 2014.

**DROPBOX for Phase II NDRC:** <https://www.dropbox.com/home/ThRIVe%20-%20Resiliency%20in%20Virginia%20-%20Phase%20II%20Proposal>