

**Exhibit A - Executive Summary**

State of Illinois

ILExhibitAExecSummary.pdf

## **Illinois Storm Ready – Weather or Not**

### ***Collaborated Solutions for Tomorrow's Climate***

This State of Illinois Phase 2 application further details opportunities for HUD to encourage and support resilience-building strategies across Illinois that will deliver innovative, cost-effective, leveraged, and implementable multi-benefit solutions to systemic problems that help vulnerable populations. These strategies will engage local residents, businesses, regional partnerships, foundations, and a variety of other stakeholders to drive a culture shift and create a lasting legacy of resilience in Illinois.

Creating a sustainable culture shift away from the siloed, singular program, “business as usual” disaster recovery approach in Illinois toward resilient thinking and actions for disaster recovery efforts and publicly funded projects requires a dedicated, consistent collaborative effort. Building off the State of Illinois’ Phase 1 Regional Partnerships and Resilience Framework approach, the Phase 2 community and individual engagement process has made it clear that **statewide resiliency planning**, highlighting pilot community **resiliency projects**, is required to best address the unmet needs for the most impacted and distressed populations, and even the less vulnerable populations, in a holistic resilient manner.

Through strong partnerships, thoughtful narratives, videos, and exhibits, this \$ \$48,944,500 application presents a bold new approach to promoting, incorporating, sustaining and ensuring resiliency, including: Regional Resiliency Alliances, Resiliency Coordinators, Resiliency Assessment Teams, climate change-influenced tools, model ordinances, individual risk assessments, and 5 storm-ready pilot demonstration projects (in addition to those proposed by our HUD NDRC applicant partners in Northeastern Illinois) spread geographically across the state. These pilot project areas represent a true cross section of the social, ecological, and built

profiles found in Illinois communities. Successful interventions will be transferred to other impacted communities.

While principally focused on building capacity and resiliency alliances among smaller vulnerable communities in downstate Illinois, this Phase 2 application also reflects the State of Illinois' partnership with and commitment to the Northeastern Illinois Resilience Partnership (City of Chicago, Cook County, DuPage County, State of Illinois) and the ongoing development of a scalable regional resilience strategy that:

- Fosters multi-jurisdictional collaboration by engaging other jurisdictions in the Chicago area that are not eligible for the NDRC;
- Ensures that the Partnership's long-term ideas can be achieved beyond the HUD grant;
- Utilizes a powerful resource group that includes representatives from all 4 NDRC applicants, as well as diverse experts from academia, public health, philanthropy, emergency management, transportation, stormwater management, utility companies, land management, and community-based organizations to guide the state and regional resilience strategies; and
- Incorporates our shared resilience vision and innovative resilience strategies into a formal, statewide and region-wide plan that covers a comprehensive set of planning issues for communities, economies, infrastructure systems, and ecosystems.

The HUD NDRC application process alone has invigorated resilient thinking and collaboration in Illinois. Now, a HUD NDRC grant award to the State of Illinois in response to this application is critical to catalyzing resilient thinking as a tangible, standard practice in Illinois. A HUD NDRC grant award to the State of Illinois will facilitate the necessary culture shift to allow disaster-prone Illinois to become a state where extreme natural events are no longer natural disasters.