

### Executive Summary

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants (CCG) program is a match-free funding program that supports community-driven projects that address environmental and climate justice challenges. The program aims to: Reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges, and advance clean energy.

The grant opportunity under Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change offers funding amounts ranging from \$10 to \$20 million to support environmental and climate justice projects. Eligible applicants must form statutory partnerships that include a lead applicant and a statutory partner, with one being a Community-Based Organization (CBO) and the other a local government, federally recognized tribe, or institution of higher learning. All grant activities must be completed within three years from the award date, with no extensions permitted.

The project "Strengthening Community Resilience Hubs in Seminole County," led by the Seminole County Government in partnership with Community Leaders, Seminole County Public Schools, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC), and the Community Based Organization (CBO) – Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW), seeks \$20 million in funding over three years to enhance community resilience in Low Income Disadvantage Communities (LIDAC) throughout Seminole County. The initiative aims to establish and upgrade community resilience hubs in community centers, churches, public schools, and county buildings that serve as critical resources during emergencies. By fortifying these facilities, the project ensures they remain operable and effective in providing essential services during extreme weather events, natural disasters, and other emergencies, thereby enhancing the overall resilience and safety of the community.

#### Objectives:

1. **Increase Community Resilience:** Strengthen the infrastructure of designated resilience hubs to better withstand and operate during emergencies.
2. **Enhance Emergency Preparedness:** Equip hubs with necessary resources and backup systems to provide continuous service during crises.
3. **Foster Community Engagement:** Involve community members in the planning and implementation process to ensure the hubs meet local needs.
4. **Improve Public Health and Safety:** Reduce health risks associated with environmental hazards by providing safe and reliable shelter and services.

#### Key Activities:

1. **Assessment and Planning:**
  - Conduct comprehensive assessments of community needs and existing vulnerabilities.
  - Develop detailed plans for creating or upgrading resilience hubs to address identified gaps.
2. **Infrastructure Improvements:**
  - Implement structural retrofits such as raising building elevations and enhancing insulation and cooling systems.

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- Install backup power solutions, including generators and solar energy systems with storage capabilities.
- 3. **Emergency Equipment Installation:**
  - Purchase and install advanced communication systems that function independently of local power and telecommunications infrastructure.
  - Integrate wildfire mitigation measures, including fire-resistant materials and air filtration systems.
- 4. **Community Engagement and Training:**
  - Organize educational programs and training sessions for community members on emergency preparedness and resilience hub utilization.
  - Establish collaborative governance structures involving local leaders, residents, and partner organizations to oversee hub operations.
- 5. **Ongoing Operations and Maintenance:**
  - Develop and implement maintenance plans to ensure the resilience hubs remain functional and efficient year-round.
  - Establish agreements and protocols with emergency response organizations to activate and manage hubs during crises.

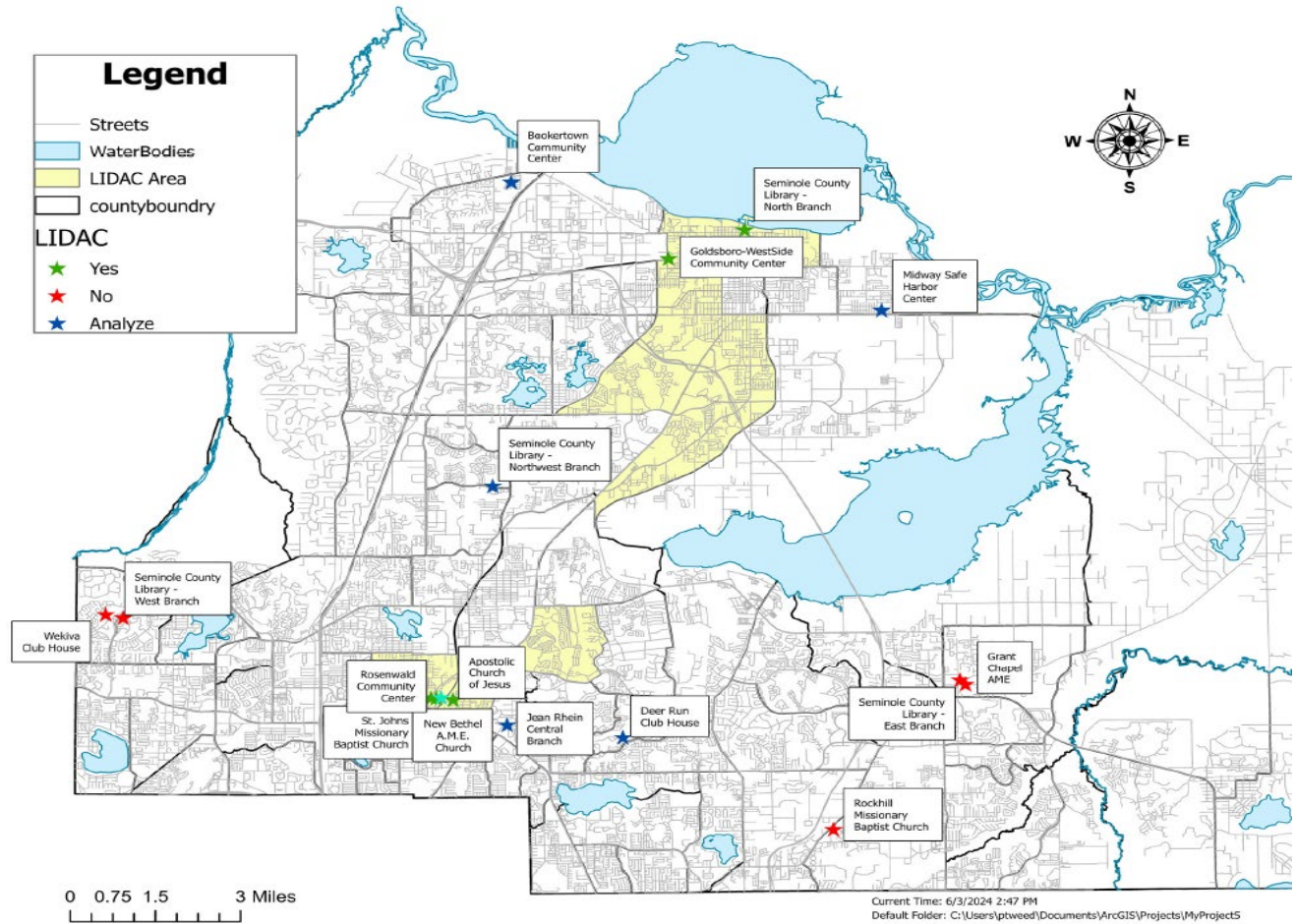
### Expected Outcomes:

- **Enhanced Emergency Response:** Improved capacity of community centers, churches, and county buildings to serve as effective resilience hubs during emergencies.
- **Increased Community Preparedness:** Higher levels of community awareness and readiness for environmental and climate-related threats.
- **Improved Public Health and Safety:** Reduced exposure to health hazards during emergencies through access to safe shelter and essential services.
- **Sustainable Community Strength:** Long-term benefits for residents through continuous engagement, training, and improved infrastructure resilience.

### Potential Locations

The provided list of locations for the Community Resilience Hubs project includes the following:

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Site	LIDAC
Apostolic_Church_of_Jesus-East_Altamonte	Yes
St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church	Yes
New Bethel A.M.E. Church	Yes
Rosenwald Community Center	Yes
Goldsboro-WestSide Community Center	Yes
Seminole County Library - North Branch	Yes
Midway Safe Harbor Center	Analyze
Deer Run Club House	Analyze
Jean Rhein Central Branch	Analyze
Seminole County Library - Northwest Branch	Analyze
Bookertown Community Center	Analyze
Rockhill Missionary Baptist Church	No
Grant Chapel A.M.E.	No
Wekiva Club House	No
Seminole County Library - East Branch	No
Seminole County Library - West Branch	No

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These locations will be strengthened to serve as Community Resilience Hubs, ensuring they remain operable and effective in providing essential services during emergencies.

### Project Approach

To ensure the project work is well-organized and prioritizes based on the criticality and complexity, the projects can be categorized into three tiers:

#### Tier 1 Projects

**Description:** These are essential projects focused on maintaining or improving the core infrastructure of the buildings and facilities. They are typically high-priority due to their direct impact on the safety, security, and efficiency of the buildings.

**Examples:**

- **Roof Replacement:** Ensuring the structural integrity and weatherproofing of buildings.
- **HVAC Systems:** Upgrading or installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to improve air quality and energy efficiency.
- **Windows and Doors:** Replacing or upgrading to enhance security, insulation, and aesthetics.
- **Insulation:** Improving thermal performance to reduce energy consumption and increase comfort.

#### Tier 2 Projects

**Description:** These projects address secondary but important issues that can significantly affect operations and resilience. They tend to be more situational and might be critical in specific contexts.

**Examples:**

- **Generators:** Installing backup power sources to ensure continuity of operations during power outages.
- **Flooding Remediation:** Implementing measures to prevent or mitigate flood damage, such as drainage systems, barriers, and waterproofing.

#### Tier 3 Projects

**Description:** These are advanced or specialized projects that focus on innovation, sustainability, and additional resilience. They are typically less urgent but can provide significant long-term benefits.

**Examples:**

- **COWS (Cell on Wheels):** Deployable mobile cellular sites to provide temporary network coverage, often used during large events or emergencies.
- **Floating Solar:** Implementing solar panels on water bodies to generate renewable energy without occupying land space, offering both energy generation and environmental benefits.

### Implementation Approach

1. **Site Surveys:** Conduct comprehensive surveys to identify specific needs and conditions at each site. This includes assessing the current state of infrastructure, environmental factors, and any immediate concerns.

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2. **Prioritization:** Based on the surveys, prioritize projects within each tier considering factors such as urgency, impact, cost, and feasibility.
3. **Planning:** Develop detailed plans for each project, including timelines, resources required, potential challenges, and mitigation strategies.
4. **Execution:** Implement the projects according to the developed plans, ensuring proper coordination and oversight to address any issues that arise.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously monitor progress and evaluate the outcomes to ensure that the projects meet their objectives and deliver the expected benefits.

By organizing the projects into these tiers and following a structured implementation approach, it will be possible to effectively address the identified areas of focus and achieve the desired improvements in infrastructure and resilience.

### Estimated Budget

The estimated budget for the "Strengthening Community Resilience Hubs in Seminole County" project is detailed below, prioritizing various construction locations and outlining the associated budget estimates for different project activities.

#### Construction Locations and Estimates

1. **Churches of Altamonte:** \$3,000,000
2. **New Community Center at Rosenwald:** \$1,000,000
3. **Sites at Seminole County Public Schools:** \$6,000,000
4. **Libraries in Seminole County:** \$2,000,000
5. **Churches and Community Centers throughout the County:** \$2,000,000
6. **Sites in Sanford:** \$2,000,000
7. **Other:** (No estimate provided)
  - **CAPEX SubTotal:** \$16,000,000

#### Budget Estimates for Project Activities

- **Construction:** \$16,000,000
- **Outreach:** \$2,000,000
- **Construction Management:** \$1,000,000
- **Grants Management:** \$750,000
- **RPC Program Report:** \$250,000
  - **Grand Total:** \$20,000,000

This budget will support the establishment and enhancement of resilience hubs at various critical locations within Seminole County, ensuring these hubs are adequately equipped and prepared to serve the community during emergencies. The project encompasses a comprehensive approach, including construction, outreach, and management, to maximize the impact and sustainability of these resilience hubs.

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#### Conclusion:

The proposed project aims to significantly bolster the resilience and adaptive capacities of disadvantaged communities in Seminole County. By hardening key community facilities and ensuring their operability during emergencies, we will provide critical support to residents, reduce health risks, and foster a safer, more resilient community. The collaboration between Seminole County Government, community leaders, regional planning experts, and solar energy specialists will ensure the successful implementation and sustained impact of these resilience hubs.