

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

H43KALPESBP1

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

City of Hampton

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

54-6001336

* c. UEI:

H43KALPESBP1

d. Address:

* Street1:

22 Lincoln Street

Street2:

* City:

Hampton

County/Parish:

* State:

VA: Virginia

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

23669-3522

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Community Development

Division Name:

Resilient Hampton

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr.

* First Name:

Scott

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Smith

Suffix:

Title:

Coastal Resilience Engineer

Organizational Affiliation:

Resilient Hampton

* Telephone Number:

757-771-1107

Fax Number:

* Email:

scott.smith@hampton.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.616

CFDA Title:

Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04

* Title:

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant

3rd

* b. Program/Project

3rd

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

03/01/2025

* b. End Date:

03/01/2028

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	19,998,740.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	19,998,740.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

Mrs.

* First Name:

Mary

Middle Name:

B.

* Last Name:

Bunting

Suffix:

* Title:

City Manager

* Telephone Number:

757-727-6370

Fax Number:

* Email:

mbunting@hampton.gov

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

* Date Signed:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.



Preaward Compliance Review Report for All Applicants and Recipients Requesting EPA Financial Assistance

Note: Read Instructions before completing form.

I. A. Applicant/Recipient (Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code)

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip Code:

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

C. Applicant/Recipient Point of Contact

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Title:

II. Is the applicant currently receiving EPA Assistance? ☐ Yes ☒ No

III. List all pending civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints filed under federal law against the applicant/recipient that allege discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.)

There are no pending lawsuits. The City has two current charges filed against it with the EEOC. One claims disability discrimination and one claims race discrimination. The City disputes both complaints.

IV. List all civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints decided against the applicant/recipient within the last year that alleged discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and enclose a copy of all decisions. Please describe all corrective actions taken. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.)

None

V. List all civil rights compliance reviews of the applicant/recipient conducted under federal nondiscrimination laws by any federal agency within the last two years and enclose a copy of the review and any decisions, orders, or agreements based on the review. Please describe any corrective action taken. (40 C.F.R. § 7.80(c)(3))

None

VI. Is the applicant requesting EPA assistance for new construction? If no, proceed to VII; if yes, answer (a) and/or (b) below.

☒ Yes ☐ No

a. If the grant is for new construction, will all new facilities or alterations to existing facilities be designed and constructed to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities? If yes, proceed to VII; if no, proceed to VI(b).

☒ Yes ☐ No

b. If the grant is for new construction and the new facilities or alterations to existing facilities will not be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, explain how a regulatory exception (40 C.F.R. 7.70) applies.

N/A

- VII. Does the applicant/recipient provide initial and continuing notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its program or activities? (40 C.F.R. 5.140 and 7.95) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- a. Do the methods of notice accommodate those with impaired vision or hearing? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. Is the notice posted in a prominent place in the applicant's/recipient's website, in the offices or facilities or, for education programs and activities, in appropriate periodicals and other written communications? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- c. Does the notice identify a designated civil rights coordinator? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- VIII. Does the applicant/recipient maintain demographic data on the race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability status of the population it serves? (40 C.F.R. 7.85(a)) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- IX. Does the applicant/recipient have a policy/procedure for providing meaningful access to services for persons with limited English proficiency? (Title VI, 40 C.F.R. Part 7, *Lau v Nichols* 414 U.S. (1974)) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- X. If the applicant is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it designated an employee to coordinate its compliance with 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide the name, title, position, mailing address, e-mail address, fax number, and telephone number of the designated coordinator.

Yes. Gabe Diaz, Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Diversity - 22 Lincoln Street Hampton, VA 23669, gabe.diaz@hampton.gov, 757.728.32

- XI. If the applicant is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it adopted grievance procedures that assure the prompt and fair resolution of complaints that allege a violation of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide a legal citation or applicant's/recipient's website address for, or a copy of, the procedures.

Yes. The City has adopted grievance procedures to ensure the prompt and fair resolution of complaints alleging violations of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. See <https://hampton.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/850> (at XIII).

For the Applicant/Recipient

I certify that the statements I have made on this form and all attachments thereto are true, accurate and complete. I acknowledge that any knowingly false or misleading statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under applicable law. I assure that I will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.

A. Signature of Authorized Official

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

B. Title of Authorized Official

City Manager

C. Date

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

I have reviewed the information provided by the applicant/recipient and hereby certify that the applicant/recipient has submitted all preaward compliance information required by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; that based on the information submitted, this application satisfies the preaward provisions of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; and that the applicant has given assurance that it will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.

A. *Signature of Authorized EPA Official

B. Title of Authorized Official

C. Date

General. Recipients of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must comply with the following statutes and regulations.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act goes on to explain that the statute shall not be construed to authorize action with respect to any employment practice of any employer, employment agency, or labor organization (except where the primary objective of the Federal financial assistance is to provide employment). Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act provides that no person in the United States shall on the ground of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such programs or activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall solely by reason of disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited in all such programs or activities. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 provides that no person on the basis of age shall be excluded from participation under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is not covered. Age discrimination in employment is prohibited by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act administered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 provides that no person in the United States on the basis of sex shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such education programs or activities. Note: an education program or activity is not limited to only those conducted by a formal institution. 40 C.F.R. Part 5 implements Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. 40 C.F.R. Part 7 implements Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Items "Applicant" means any entity that files an application or unsolicited proposal or otherwise requests EPA assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25.

"Recipient" means any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organizations, or other entity, or any person to which Federal financial assistance is extended directly or through another recipient, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but excluding the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25.

"Civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints" means any lawsuit or administrative complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability pending or decided against the applicant and/or entity which actually benefits from the grant, but excluding employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. For example, if a city is the named applicant but the grant will actually benefit the Department of Sewage, civil rights lawsuits involving both the city and the Department of Sewage should be listed. "Civil rights compliance review" means: any federal agency-initiated investigation of a particular aspect of the applicant's and/or recipient's programs or activities to determine compliance with the federal non-discrimination laws. Submit this form with the original and required copies of applications, requests for extensions, requests for increase of funds, etc. Updates of information are all that are required after the initial application submission. If any item is not relevant to the project for which assistance is requested, write "NA" for "Not Applicable." In the event applicant is uncertain about how to answer any questions, EPA program officials should be contacted for clarification.

Project Narrative File(s)

* **Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename:** CCG Track 1 Workplan Narrative Hampton.docx.pdf

Add Mandatory Project Narrative File

Delete Mandatory Project Narrative File

View Mandatory Project Narrative File

To add more Project Narrative File attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

Add Optional Project Narrative File

Delete Optional Project Narrative File

View Optional Project Narrative File

Section A. Executive Summary

Application Title: Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy

Lead Applicant: City of Hampton

Statutory Partner to the Lead Applicant: Wetlands Watch

Contacts:

- Scott Smith, City of Hampton Coastal Resilience Engineer
scott.smith@hampton.gov (757)-771-1107
- Mary-Carson Stiff, Executive Director Wetlands Watch,
mc.stiff@wetlandswatch.org, 757-376-1364

Eligibility:

Lead Applicant, The City of Hampton, as defined by the regulations in 2 CFR 200.1, is eligible to enter a Statutory Partnership with the CBO, Wetlands Watch. Statutory Partner, Wetlands Watch, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Norfolk, Virginia.

Climate Action Strategy:

- Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions
- Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience
- Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs
- Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants

Pollution Reduction Strategy:

- Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
- Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience

Grant Award Period and Completion: April 2025 – March 2028

Amount of EPA Funding Requested: \$19,998,740

Target Investment Area: N/A

Disadvantaged Community to benefit from the projects:

Aberdeen Gardens is a historically marginalized, black neighborhood that has yet to see public infrastructure investment that matches the cultural wealth of this legacy community, since it was established in 1934. Aberdeen Gardens, located in Hampton, Virginia, has a population of approximately 2,000 residents. The community is primarily African American, reflecting its historical roots and cultural heritage. The disadvantaged population of Aberdeen Gardens faces significant climate-related challenges, including frequent flooding and heatwaves exacerbated by outdated infrastructure and environmental vulnerabilities. The community is particularly susceptible to these climate impacts due to its socio-economic status, which limits resources for adaptation and resilience. Aging infrastructure and exposure to localized pollution further compound these risks, disproportionately affecting residents who already face economic hardships. These environmental stressors not only threaten daily living conditions but also impact long-term health and safety, underscoring the urgent need for targeted climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Other Sources of Funding: Several sources of funding are available for sustainability of the project (see Attachment G), but no other funding sources would support this collaborative, community-based effort at this scale.

Resubmission Status: N/A

Section B. Project Work Plan

Part 1. Community Driven Investments for Change

1.1 Community Vision Description

Community Description

Aberdeen Gardens, located in Hampton, Virginia, is an historic and culturally significant neighborhood established during the New Deal era. Founded in 1933, this planned community was designed to provide affordable housing for African American families during the Great Depression. Its creation was part of a broader federal effort to offer improved living conditions to workers employed in nearby industries and military installations. Aberdeen Gardens holds a special place in cultural history as it was specifically designed for African American families, marking a significant chapter in the development of the local African American community. The neighborhood has fostered a strong sense of community and pride among its residents, who actively participate in local events and maintain historical traditions. Currently, Aberdeen Gardens faces challenges related to preserving its historic character while addressing infrastructure needs and fostering community cohesion.

Aberdeen Gardens was heavily influenced by Howard's theory on "Garden Cities." The original location of the neighborhood was chosen in part because there was good soil for farming; 158 homes were located on large lots for gardens, each of which included a chicken coop. The spirit of self-sufficiency and good health was a core tenet of the original Aberdeen Gardens community, and the use of community gardens will allow it to get back to the original tenets of subsistence farming that the community was created upon. The neighborhood gardens in the community today restore this historic cultural feature, feed neighborhoods, and bring people together to work on the production of food/fruit, which enhances community cohesion and builds individual and community resilience.

To the north, the neighborhood is bordered by Mercury Boulevard. The east boundary is marked by West Queen Street. The southern boundary extends from Newmarket Creek and includes surrounding residential areas. To the west, the neighborhood is bordered by Twin Oaks Drive. The demographic profile of the City, which is home to 137,217 residents, reflects its historical roots. 48% of residents identify as Black and 64% as people of color. Aberdeen Gardens more specifically has 84% of residents identifying as Black and 94% people of color. 26% are over 65, a notable presence of older adults and retirees. Socioeconomic indicators for Aberdeen Gardens indicate the community is in the 50-80th percentile for low income, with 27% of households reporting under \$50,000 annual income. The City itself is somewhat more varied, but 39% of households are still under \$50,000 annual income (see Attachment D for more details). Educational attainment in the City is diverse, with 36% of residents in the City holding a high school degree or less.

Community Challenges

Aberdeen Gardens faces several significant challenges that impact its community's resilience and overall quality of life. One significant issue is flooding and stormwater management. Hampton Roads is one of the country's most vulnerable regions for flood risk, including storm surge, tidal flooding, rising groundwater tables, and undersized stormwater systems due to historic increases in the rainfall record of about 7% per decade. Hampton Roads also faces the highest level of sea level rise along the Eastern Seaboard. Virginia's Coastal Resilience Master Plan based future sea level rise scenarios on NOAA's Intermediate-High sea level rise curve. Within Aberdeen Gardens, these changes will result in expanded floodplains, with some land being permanently inundated by 2050. Because Newmarket Creek effectively bisects the city and

with high groundwater levels near the creek, the capacity for infiltration is limited. As a result, the primary means of addressing existing flooding, as well as projected increases in stormwater, require creating new means of surface storage. The Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood is located in a low-lying area of Hampton, making it highly susceptible to flooding during heavy rainfall and storms. The existing stormwater infrastructure is outdated and inadequate to manage the increased runoff from more intense and frequent storms, a direct consequence of climate change. This results in frequent flooding of streets and properties, posing risks to homes and disrupting daily life.

The urban heat island effect is another challenge. The concentration of paved surfaces, buildings, and limited green space in Aberdeen Gardens leads to higher temperatures compared to surrounding suburban areas. The lack of adequate tree canopy and green infrastructure exacerbates this effect, contributing to increased energy consumption for cooling and heightening health risks such as heat stress and respiratory problems.

Localized pollution is also a concern. Runoff from impervious surfaces contributes to water pollution in local streams and drainage systems, impacting local wildlife and plant life. Increased precipitation and storm intensity lead to soil erosion in Aberdeen Gardens, affecting local gardens and green spaces. This erosion reduces the effectiveness of these areas in managing stormwater and exacerbates flood risks, while also causing soil degradation that harms vegetation and makes it difficult to maintain community green spaces. Sea level rise poses a threat due to the broader Hampton Roads region's rising sea levels. Further, the creek that flows through Aberdeen Gardens is becoming flooded due to sea level rise, today. This results in increased groundwater levels and potential saltwater intrusion into local water supplies, affecting infrastructure integrity and the local ecosystem. Poor air quality from vehicle emissions and industrial activities also affects residents' health, particularly those with respiratory conditions.

The challenges faced by Aberdeen Gardens, particularly those related to climate change, pollution, and weather-related threats, have profound impacts on its disadvantaged populations. These effects are often more severe for individuals who are acutely exposed to these environmental stressors, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. Flooding and inadequate stormwater management disproportionately affect low-income households and individuals living in the most vulnerable areas of Aberdeen Gardens. Frequent flooding can result in significant property damage, loss of personal belongings, and disruption of daily life. Residents in these situations may lack the financial resources necessary to repair or replace damaged property, leading to further economic instability and a decline in overall quality of life. Additionally, flooding can contribute to health risks such as mold growth and waterborne diseases, which are particularly harmful to those with pre-existing health conditions or limited access to healthcare services. The urban heat island effect is another critical issue, as it exacerbates health risks for disadvantaged populations who often reside in areas with less green space and greater exposure to heat. Increased temperatures can lead to heat stress, dehydration, and other heat-related illnesses, especially among vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and those with chronic health conditions. The lack of access to cooling resources and the rising energy costs for air conditioning further compound these problems for low-income residents.

Localized pollution poses significant health risks as well. Poor air quality and pollution are particularly detrimental to residents with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma. Chronic exposure to pollutants can worsen health outcomes and increase medical expenses, placing an additional financial burden on affected individuals. Water pollution from runoff can contaminate local water supplies, impacting those who rely on these sources for drinking and

daily activities. Soil erosion and degradation impact community gardens and green spaces, which are vital for food security and community well-being. Disadvantaged populations, who often depend on these resources for fresh produce and recreational space, are significantly affected by their loss. Additionally, erosion can undermine property foundations, adding to the economic burden on low-income households. Sea level rise contributes to rising groundwater levels, potential saltwater intrusion, and risks to infrastructure and water supplies in Aberdeen Gardens. Residents along the creek are experiencing flooding of their properties and erosion of their properties, because of sea level rise, today. Disadvantaged communities may face increased risks to their homes and utilities, exacerbating their vulnerabilities related to property and health.

Community Vision

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy (the “Strategy”) is the continuation of years of robust community engagement by the statutory partner that resulted in the Aberdeen Gardens Community Action Plan, a neighborhood-based roadmap for resilience. The Strategy will have a transformative impact on the community, aiming to enhance environmental sustainability, bolster climate resilience, and foster economic growth. Short term, the Strategy addresses immediate pollution and climate risks through projects like the creek restoration, development of community gardens, rain gardens, and the installation of rain barrels, which will help manage stormwater runoff and improve local environmental quality. These initiatives will reduce and prevent localized pollution, and mitigate the effects of flooding and other climate-related challenges. Long term, the Strategy builds resilience to climate change by upgrading infrastructure, preserving historic assets, and creating green spaces that enhance the community’s ability to withstand and adapt to environmental stressors. The focus on workforce development and high-quality job creation through partnerships and funding opportunities will expand economic opportunities for residents, driving local economic growth and stability. The Strategy integrates these efforts to foster a healthier, more connected, and economically vibrant Aberdeen Gardens, ensuring sustainable benefits for current and future generations.

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy strengthens the City by focusing on targeted investments and community engagement to ensure that residents of disadvantaged communities benefit and can build on these investments for future generations. The Strategy addresses specific needs within the community, such as flood risk management and infrastructure improvements. Key projects include the installation of rain gardens to manage stormwater and reduce flooding and to enhance groundwater recharge and mitigate runoff. Additionally, the Strategy proposes creating community gardens and implementing environmental education programs at Aberdeen Elementary School to promote sustainability, provide recreational spaces, and build community resilience.

Active involvement of local residents is a cornerstone of the work conducted and planned in Aberdeen Gardens. Through community meetings, workshops, trainings, and surveys, projects selected from the Community Resilience Action Plan for implementation reflect the community’s needs and preferences, ensuring that elements, such as creek restoration and the introduction of native plant buffers, are both relevant and impactful. This engagement fosters local ownership and long-term commitment to the initiatives. Economic opportunities are a focus of the Strategy, with infrastructure and environmental projects expected to generate employment and training opportunities for residents. For instance, the construction of stormwater inlets and pipes, and the enhancement of walkability and pedestrian safety, are anticipated to provide local jobs and stimulate economic activity. Sustainable development practices are integrated into the Strategy to build long-term resilience against environmental challenges. The inclusion of rain

barrels to manage rainwater collection and runoff, as well as efforts to reforest and plant historic trees, will mitigate climate risks and reduce pollution, benefiting both current and future generations.

In addition to environmental and economic benefits, the Strategy emphasizes the preservation of Aberdeen Gardens' historical and cultural assets. Securing diverse funding sources and collaborating with local organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions supports the effective implementation of the Strategy. Partnerships with entities such as WW, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and local universities enhance the project's impact and ensure sustained support for the community's needs.

1.2 Selected Strategies - 45 points

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy confronts the climate crisis through a comprehensive and integrated approach aimed at both mitigating current impacts and preparing for future challenges. The Strategy addresses flood risks exacerbated by climate change with a range of strategies designed to manage stormwater and enhance flood resilience. These measures are essential for reducing the frequency and severity of flooding events, which are anticipated to increase due to rising precipitation and sea levels. Infrastructure improvements are another critical component of the plan. By installing rain gardens, the Strategy aims to prevent flood damage and improve overall environmental health. These upgrades not only address immediate flood risks but also contribute to the community's long-term resilience against climate-related challenges. Environmental education and community engagement are central to the Strategy's goals. Initiatives at Aberdeen Elementary School, such as the development of native plant buffers, serve to educate residents, particularly youth, about sustainability and climate adaptation. Community engagement is further supported through workshops, surveys, and meetings that keep residents informed and involved in resilience planning, fostering a shared commitment to climate action. Projects like the restoration of Aberdeen Creek address ecological degradation from urbanization, while efforts to preserve historic sites maintain cultural heritage amidst environmental changes. This dual focus supports long-term resilience by preserving both the ecological and cultural fabric of the community.

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy will safeguard and revitalize the neighborhood through a series of strategic initiatives designed to address environmental and community needs effectively. It includes the installation of stormwater management systems such as rain gardens to capture and filter rainwater, thereby reducing runoff and mitigating flooding. Additionally, new stormwater inlets and pipes will handle excess water, preventing street and property flooding. Creek restoration is another crucial component of the Strategy. Aberdeen Creek will be revitalized by creating a natural walking path, installing vegetated buffers, and adding a trash collection device. These enhancements will improve water quality, restore local ecosystems, and provide a cleaner and more enjoyable space for residents. Community gardens and green spaces are integral to the plan's efforts to support local food security and environmental stewardship. The development of community gardens will not only provide fresh produce but also serve as a venue for community engagement. Rain barrels incorporated into these gardens will promote sustainable water use.

The Strategy's projects will generate job opportunities and contribute to local economic growth. Workforce development initiatives related to green infrastructure and creek restoration will build skills and improve career prospects for residents. Additionally, by enhancing outdoor air quality and reducing flood risks, the Strategy will lead to improved public health and a higher

quality of life for the community. The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy proposes the following EPA Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies:

Climate Action Strategies

Climate Action Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

Gray infrastructure is the more traditional (typically more expensive) water management system that green infrastructure complements and can at times replace. It relies on storm drains, concrete, and pipes to collect and channel stormwater into waterways. It neither reduces the amount of stormwater that reaches waterways nor, for the most part, improves the quality of that runoff. Green infrastructure reins in stormwater runoff, which the EPA describes as “one of the fastest-growing sources of pollution” in the United States. To address flood risks exacerbated by climate change we developed, and are proposing in this grant for funding, a range of nature-based solutions designed to manage stormwater and enhance flood resilience. These measures are essential for reducing the frequency and severity of flooding events, which are anticipated to increase due to rising precipitation and sea levels.

Creek stabilization along Aberdeen Creek will mitigate the adverse effects of urbanization, such as increased runoff, pollution, and habitat degradation, on the waterway. Creek stabilization typically involves using engineered solutions, erosion control measures, and vegetation restoration to maintain the natural flow, water quality, and ecological balance of the creek while minimizing the risk of flooding and damage to nearby infrastructure. This would include the installation of a semipermeable erosion control system, the introduction of native plants that thrive in partial shade and wet environments, and live-staking to establish root systems for soil stabilization. Plants will be selected using guidance from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Native Plant Society.

Stormwater best management practices to “slow” stormwater, such as rain gardens, tree filters, and water harvesting, will be implemented throughout the neighborhood. Relatively small in scale compared to store and drain measures, these practices can have significant impacts when distributed over a large area. These practices capture and infiltrate rain where it falls, delaying the water’s journey to drainage systems and reducing polluted stormwater runoff. Slowing down water in the higher elevation areas of the neighborhood will reduce downstream flooding.

Typically larger in scale, “store” practices, such as creek restoration and planting of street trees, will be implemented in the neighborhood. These practices have significant contributions to stormwater management and the reduction of the heat island effect. By absorbing rainwater and slowing its runoff, trees help prevent flooding, erosion, and overloading of stormwater systems during heavy rainfall. This natural form of water retention and filtration assists in maintaining the ecological balance of urban areas. Simultaneously, street trees offer crucial respite from the urban heat island effect by providing shade, lowering ambient temperatures, and creating a more pedestrian friendly environment.

Strategies to “redirect” water include drainage system improvements. With the adoption of slow and store practices, demand on Hampton’s current drainage system and subsequent discharges to the Creek would be reduced. The drainage system will be modified to redirect stormwater runoff that is not absorbed or stored in the landscape more efficiently.

Another nature-based solution is the establishment of a community garden to honor the community’s tradition of subsistence farming. A site near the intersection of Guthrie Road and Scones Drive has been identified by the community to address the rising levels of food insecurity. Rain barrels incorporated into these gardens will also promote sustainable water use.

Climate Action Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air

Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience

It is a long term goal of the City to establish a Newmarket Creek Loop Trail, a combination of pedestrian pathways, bike trails, and kayak routes that would connect the Newmarket Creek watershed. Intended to be constructed over time, the Loop wraps around the city to create access to the Creek, while serving as an active recreational amenity. The Loop functions as a shared-use trail while connecting to points for direct water access. This Loop Trail is planned to intersect with the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood.

Through this funding, the Implementation Strategy will complete a bicycle and pedestrian master plan for Aberdeen Gardens. The master plan will study 62,200 linear feet of trail and pathways that will be a segment of this Loop Trail to connect Aberdeen Gardens to other neighborhoods to contribute to active and healthy lifestyle choices for residents.

A walkable community offers numerous public health benefits for residents, promoting a healthier, more sustainable, and vibrant way of life. Walkable communities encourage regular physical activity, reducing the risk of obesity and related health issues. Walking in a pedestrian-friendly environment can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Access to green spaces and a sense of community fosters mental well-being. Additionally, infrastructure improvements can result in lower accident rates, as they prioritize pedestrian safety with well-maintained sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures.

Creating a more walkable community can also provide a multitude of climate resilience benefits: improving air and water quality, reducing heat in the summertime, and increasing pedestrian safety. This is also an opportunity to align with the City's efforts to integrate stormwater management into infrastructure, develop more access along natural resources, and connect to the historic assets of the community.

Climate Action Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Buildings

As a planned resettlement community, resilience was the cornerstone of Aberdeen Gardens from its inception, through planning, to its eventual construction. In the 89 years since, the community has shown resilience commensurate with the scale of the vision that conceived it. This is evidenced not only by the persistent sense of pride in community and shared place but also by the fact that 156 of the original 158 homes still remain in occupiable condition. Many of the homestead lots and houses have been altered over time to meet the needs of generations of the community's residents, as such, some of the historic landscapes and architectural characteristics have been lost. Many factors, including absentee property ownership and an aging population, have left much of the housing stock in substandard or declining condition. This includes homes that have lead pipes for their water supply. The Implementation Strategy will replace lead water pipes in the neighborhood. The Joint Committee will help decide which houses from a list that will be identified by the City from Newport News Water Works based on a study that was done to identify non-conforming water connections.

Aberdeen Elementary School will be a major site for energy-efficient, healthy building investments. The site will serve as a cooling center, warming center, point of distribution (POD) for information and supplies following an emergency, and a place for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to go to retrieve supplies to begin assisting neighbors until first responders can arrive (or to assist first responders). Additionally, The City's Emergency Management Team would be working to have supplies brought into the city that could be distributed via large drive through PODs while also replenishing the smaller neighborhood PODs, especially to assist those that may be reliant on public transportation (that may not be

running following an event). Supplies include small weatherization kits with lights, weather stripping, door sweeps, hurricane supplies, food supplies, solar and hand crank radios, first aid kits, infant care, hygiene and medical kits, tools and emergency equipment, traffic management supplies, and more. The trailers are designed to operate year round where grid reliability suffers or where cooling centers will be operating during extreme heat days. During disasters, the trailers will be used for emergency relief and medical station use. The units include battery storage at 40 kW-hours and a 5 kW solar array. The addition of a 200kW generator will allow Aberdeen Elementary School to function effectively during times of emergency and provide a space for residents to charge phones, electronics, and medical devices.

Additionally, an Automated Weather System Spectro Technology AQS integrated air quality monitoring system and a Vaisala WXT536 weather transmitter will be installed at Aberdeen Elementary School. This AQS air quality monitor will measure NO₂, NO, O₃, PM, CO, CO₂, and TVOC and will make real-time data accessible to residents and other stakeholders via the Aeroqual Cloud Software. Many residents are not cognizant of the impact of the traffic, commercial businesses and industry have on air quality or the hazards to health that they present. Through this project the Aberdeen Gardens Community will collaborate with all stakeholders and connect the dots between air quality, environmental justice, climate change, emergency preparedness, health and well-being.

Climate Action Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants

WW will support training and educational initiatives through programs such as the suite of Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification offerings. The CBLP is a credential system for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes. Sustainable landscapes, or green infrastructure practices, are at the cornerstone of Implementation Strategy and their success and maintenance is critical to delivering the stormwater management and water quality benefits intended. Offering the CBLP programs to neighborhood residents will ensure local residents recognize these green infrastructure practices and understand when they need rehabbing or ongoing maintenance to safeguard performance. CBLP Levels 1 and 2 are the foundational training programs that introduce the concepts of green infrastructure and help designers and installers actually place these practices in the ground, in a community. CBLP-A engages youth in grades 9-12 by training a teacher to deliver CBLP curriculum annually in a science-specific program at Kecoughtan High School. The CBLP-Crews certificate is a one-day course on sustainable landscape maintenance for stormwater best management practices (BMPs), designed for crews and crew leaders who maintain stormwater BMPs. The Aberdeen Elementary School and CoH grounds crews are examples of professionals who would benefit from the Crews training.

The CBLP programs offer a regionally respected professional certification for adults seeking project management or implementation training respectively. Scholarships are offered to make participation possible for those most in need of greater opportunity. Scholarships increase the pool of qualified workers that may be hired to implement the green infrastructure project activities described in this proposal from within the community. This educational component aims to build local capacity and prepare the next generation for future involvement in environmental and community projects. WW also includes on-the-job training and recruiting requirements in the City's contractor Request for Proposals (RFPs), as well as preferential hiring of the participants of this program, and residents of the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood, by the contractors that will bid to work on Implementation Strategy. This ensures that contractors

adhere to local workforce development goals and contribute to community capacity building. 85 residents will be able to participate with scholarships in the various CBLP trainings.

Pollution Reduction Strategy

Pollution Reduction Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health

Improvements

The Strategy includes several key activities designed to improve outdoor air quality and generate community health benefits. The plan focuses on several green infrastructure projects aimed at improving air quality. One major initiative is tree planting throughout the community. Trees play a crucial role in absorbing pollutants like carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which helps to clean the air. Additionally, the development of community gardens and the creation of green spaces contribute to reducing the urban heat island effect, which can exacerbate air pollution. The implementation of rain gardens further aids in improving air quality by reducing surface runoff and dust, which can be sources of air pollution. Equipment will be purchased to measure humidity, carbon monoxide, CO₂, and temperature.

Several initiatives within the Implementation Strategy aim to enhance community health by improving environmental conditions and promoting active lifestyles. At Aberdeen Elementary School, the introduction of green sustainability features and outdoor education features is designed to engage students in environmental stewardship and provide hands-on learning opportunities about sustainability and pollution prevention. The establishment of a community garden will offer fresh produce but also encourage physical activity and social interaction among residents, contributing to better mental health and community cohesion. Infrastructure improvements, such as the installation of rain gardens, and upgraded stormwater drainage systems to help manage stormwater effectively. The overall enhancement of public spaces, including upgraded amenities at Linwood Harper Park and Aberdeen Elementary, fosters increased physical activity and recreational opportunities, further benefiting community health.

Pollution Reduction Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience

Hampton boasts 124 miles of navigable waterfront, and is surrounded by water bodies on three sides: the Hampton Roads harbor to the south, Chesapeake Bay to the east, and the Back River/York River to the north. Located where the James, York, Nansemond, and Elizabeth Rivers converge into the Chesapeake Bay, the Hampton Roads region is one of the world's largest natural harbors. Hampton has weathered a number of significant storms over the years – notably Hurricane Isabel in 2003 – the city has the advantage of approaching resilience planning from a post-disaster recovery lens before a disaster occurs.

The Strategy includes several project activities aimed at enhancing clean water infrastructure, reducing pollution exposure, and increasing overall system resilience throughout Aberdeen Gardens. One key initiative is the enhancement of stormwater management through the installation of rain gardens. These features are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff, which helps decrease the amount of pollutants that enter local waterways and improves water quality. By effectively managing runoff, rain gardens reduce the risk of flooding and associated pollution, leading to cleaner water systems in the area. Additionally, the use of rain barrels helps manage water runoff from rooftops and around foundations, reducing local water damage and the potential for pollution from surface runoff.

The existing infrastructure provides an opportunity for a trash collector unit at the head of Aberdeen Creek behind Aberdeen Elementary School. This scope of work proposes to install

three HydroDynamic Separator units on the upstream streets and parking lots. The CDS Hydrodynamic Separators from Contech Engineered Solutions have tentatively been selected based on their reliability and performance, 100% removal of floatable during high flow rates, and their ease of maintenance. Maintenance can be performed with existing equipment owned and operated by the CoH. Green infrastructure projects also play a significant role in the Implementation Strategy. Tree plantings are essential for natural filtration and water absorption. Trees enhance soil stability and water infiltration. These efforts reduce pollution runoff and support a more sustainable water management system.

Floodplain management is addressed through various strategies. These strategies protect properties from flood damage and minimize the spread of contaminants from floodwaters, thereby enhancing community resilience against water-related issues. Infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to stormwater inlets and pipes, are crucial for handling increased water volumes and minimizing pollution risks. Well-maintained infrastructure helps manage stormwater effectively and prevents overflows that could lead to pollution events. The Implementation Strategy will include replacement of lead pipes to potentially 290 homes with lead water services. This will be a huge step in improving community health outcomes. According to the EPA, lead exposure can cause many serious health issues, including irreversible damage to brain development in children. There is no safe level of lead exposure and the most common exposure is through lead pipes.

Community education and engagement are also central to the Implementation Strategy. Environmental education programs at schools aim to raise awareness about pollution prevention and water conservation. Educating residents promotes best practices and reduces pollution sources, fostering greater community involvement in maintaining clean water systems. Together, these projects are designed to significantly reduce pollution exposure, enhance water quality, and build overall resilience in Aberdeen Gardens, addressing both immediate and long-term challenges related to water management and environmental sustainability.

Part 2. Program Management, Capability, and Capacity (35 points total)

2.1 Performance Management Plan and Outputs / Outcomes (6 points):

Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
Installation of Residential Stormwater Solutions: Create 50 rain gardens Deploy 300 rain barrels	Capture and filter rainwater runoff from rooftops and driveways Collect and store rainwater for later use Manage and redirect water away from building foundations to minimize property damage and associated health risks from stagnant water	Reduce flooding and prevent damage Alleviate pressure on local water supplies Increased community awareness about sustainable water management Enhance water quality in local water bodies Reduce pollution-related health problems Improve the overall safety and habitability of homes, particularly benefiting vulnerable residents
Outdoor education features at Aberdeen Elementary School: Create 27,500 SF native plant buffers	Establish native plant buffers to enhance environmental resilience Support local biodiversity Provide educational opportunities Increase environmental awareness and engagement among residents and students	Increase environmental knowledge among residents and students Foster community connections through educational and recreational activities Promote sustained community participation in sustainability practices, leading to healthier local ecosystems and better public health outcomes by fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

Workforce Development: 85 Certifications	Job training opportunities made available to local residents	Economic and financial benefits to low income community residents
Resilience Center: 200KW generator Trailers for emergency relief and medical aid Provide 600 weatherization kits (200/year)	Creates safe location for residents during extreme weather events Breathing Center during low air quality periods Provides off grid power for charging to keep communication during weather events	Increased resilience and safety for community members which improves health outcomes
Infrastructure and Connectivity Improvements: Explore improvements for 62,200 L.F. of sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian pathways that connect key community assets through a bicycle and pedestrian master plan	Safer pedestrian pathways Reduce localized flooding, which improves access to essential services and community amenities	Better connectivity between community assets, encouraging social interaction and accessibility Build a more resilient urban environment, encourage physical activity, and strengthen community connectivity.
Aberdeen Creek Restoration: Restore 2,000 L.F. of eroded creek banks Create 27,500 sq ft vegetated buffers to filter runoff Install 3 CDS Hydrodynamic Separators to remove debris from the creek	Cleaner creek water Improved wildlife habitat Reduced pollution, directly benefiting the health of local aquatic ecosystems and nearby residents.	Contribute to sustainable water management, better wildlife habitats, and reduced environmental degradation, all of which support improved public health and environmental quality
Community Garden and Amenities: 8,000-10,000 sq ft of garden plots for local food production and community engagement Install amenities such as benches, educational signage, and composting facilities Attend 24 civic meetings to provide project updates and host 18 Joint Committee meetings of project leaders	Provide immediate access to healthy food options, helping to address food insecurity and improve nutrition Support garden use and foster community interaction.	Support local food systems by increasing access to fresh produce Strengthen community ties through gardening activities Enhance local knowledge of sustainable practices Contribute to environmental sustainability, thereby bolstering public health and community resilience

Regular community meetings, workshops, trainings, and surveys will provide ongoing input from residents, helping to refine and adapt project activities in response to emerging needs and concerns. This ongoing engagement ensures that the Implementation Strategy remains relevant and effective throughout its implementation. By following this structured approach with defined timeframes, this proposal ensures rigorous tracking and measurement of progress, enabling effective management of the project and achievement of its goals.

The CoH and WW have developed a robust approach to program evaluation, integral to ensuring that their project activities are successfully executed, and their goals achieved. Each project activity will be monitored and evaluated based on these outputs and outcomes, ensuring they meet the goals of the Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy. Regular progress reviews, community feedback, and performance assessments will help track achievements, adjust strategies as needed, and deliver lasting benefits to the Aberdeen Gardens community. The evaluation strategy encompasses several key elements, beginning with the use of appropriate evaluation tools. These tools, including community surveys, environmental

monitoring systems, and GIS-based mapping, are chosen to gather comprehensive data on project performance and environmental conditions.

To effectively utilize these tools, the organizations have engaged experienced personnel and consultants with expertise in project assessment. Collaboration with academic institutions such as Hampton University and Old Dominion University provides specialized knowledge in environmental science and engineering. Additionally, professional evaluators from Stokes Environmental Associates and Hazen and Sawyer contribute their experience in environmental restoration and urban resilience. This expert involvement ensures that evaluation activities are conducted with the necessary depth and accuracy.

Continuous monitoring and reporting are central to the evaluation process. Regular progress reports are produced based on data collected from monitoring tools, with key performance indicators (KPIs) established for each project activity. This allows for clear and ongoing measurement of progress. The organizations also implement feedback mechanisms, including surveys, public meetings, and workshops, to gather input from the community. This feedback is crucial for assessing project effectiveness and addressing any concerns or needs from residents. Adaptive management practices are employed to adjust based on evaluation results. If certain measures, such as flood management systems, are found to be less effective than expected, alternative solutions are explored and implemented. This flexible approach ensures that projects remain responsive to real-world conditions and challenges. A comprehensive evaluation is conducted at the project's conclusion to assess overall success. This final evaluation involves analyzing outcomes against the initial goals and objectives, and the results are documented in a report shared with stakeholders. This report not only summarizes the project's achievements but also informs future initiatives, ensuring that lessons learned are applied to enhance future projects. Through these detailed evaluation activities, the City and WW ensure that their projects are managed effectively, with progress rigorously documented and adjusted as necessary. This approach guarantees that project goals are met within the required timeframes and that the community of Aberdeen Gardens benefits from the planned improvements.

2.2 Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan (4 points)

The proposed project activities are strategically designed to align with EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 2 to Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights. By selecting the disadvantaged community of Aberdeen Gardens to accomplish this work, the Implementation Strategy addresses environmental inequities through green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, bicycle and pedestrian paths, resilience upgrades to community facilities, and workforce development. Through community engagement and by continuing and expanding partnerships with local organizations, we ensure that this historically marginalized community is involved in the planning and implementation of the projects.

In alignment with EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 1, the project tackles the climate crisis through a comprehensive and integrated approach aimed at both mitigating current impacts and preparing for future challenges. The Implementation Strategy addresses flood risks exacerbated by climate change with strategies designed to manage stormwater and enhance flood resilience. Key initiatives include implementing natural infrastructure projects such as creek naturalization and tree planting, which help absorb and manage stormwater, and installing grey infrastructure like stormwater inlets and pipes to bolster flood management capabilities.

These efforts support EPA Strategic Plan Goal 4 to ensure clean and healthy air for all by planting trees and native vegetation as they absorb pollutants such as carbon dioxide and

particulate matter to improve air quality for the community. Rain gardens also help manage stormwater runoff, which can carry pollutants that impact air quality.

The project addresses EPA Strategic Plan Goal 5 to ensure clean and safe water through both natural and grey infrastructure to manage stormwater and reduce pollution. Specific projects like the installation of rain gardens and a bioswale are designed to capture and filter rainwater, thereby reducing runoff and preventing pollutants from entering local waterways. This will reduce floodwaters from contaminating properties and local water sources. The Implementation Strategy also proposes stormwater inlets and pipes to manage excess water and prevent street and property flooding, which can contribute to water pollution. The Strategy also includes the restoration of Aberdeen Creek and installing a trash collection device to improve the creek's water quality. The restoration aims to address the impacts of urbanization, such as runoff and pollution, by enhancing the creek's natural filtration capabilities and providing a cleaner, healthier environment for the community. Educational initiatives at local schools will further support these goals by teaching students about water conservation and the importance of maintaining clean water systems. These efforts will serve as a pipeline to getting children into the CBLP offerings at the science focused high school, and spreading awareness about the adult workforce scholarships.

The Project addresses EPA's Goal 6 to Safeguard and Revitalize Communities through the efforts to reduce and manage flood risks and improve air quality. Through these measures, homes are protected, and flood damage is reduced. Community gardens and green spaces will support local food security and serve as venues for community engagement. The Strategy also includes historic tree planting to honor the community's heritage. Upgrades to historic and cultural sites like Aberdeen Elementary School foster a stronger community spirit.

2.3 CBO Experience and Commitment (5 points)

Statutory Partner and Community-Based Organization on this proposal, WW, (WW) boasts a rich history and substantial experience as a CBO, demonstrating a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and community resilience. Their work spans several decades, focusing on wetlands preservation, stormwater management, and green infrastructure solutions, with a specific emphasis on disadvantaged communities and BIPOC residents. Over the years, WW has established itself as a trusted authority in these areas, with a track record of successful projects that address local environmental challenges and improve public health. The organization's involvement in community-based initiatives is extensive. They convened the Joint Committee, a community advisory board that will facilitate community engagement and two-way communication with the residents of the community. This Committee is comprised of Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association (AGHCA), Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition (GACC), and the Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens (HFAG), who will work together to further enhance CoH's capacity by leveraging shared resources and expertise. This entity has a strong track record of community leadership, lead by community members with shared history. WW has led educational programs, community workshops, trainings, and collaborative efforts aimed at solving environmental issues such as stormwater management and wetland preservation. Their projects often include partnerships with municipal agencies, local non-profits, and community groups, highlighting their ability to address specific community needs effectively. WW demonstrates a strong commitment to disadvantaged communities through proactive engagement and long-term relationships. They have built deep connections with local residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders by understanding and addressing

the unique challenges faced by these communities. Their approach involves tailoring initiatives to align with community priorities, ensuring that their work is relevant and impactful.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of WW's strategy. Their partnerships with Joint Committee members to tackle community-specific issues enhance their resource mobilization, local input gathering, and project alignment with community needs. WW also provides capacity-building support to local organizations and communities. They offer training, technical assistance, and resources to help communities manage environmental challenges and build resilience. This role often includes mentorship and support for local leadership, extending their impact beyond project implementation. Ongoing relationships with community members are maintained through regular meetings, public events, and continuous feedback mechanisms. WW actively engages with communities through pop-up events, participation in local gatherings, and outreach efforts to schools and other institutions, demonstrating their commitment to community involvement.

2.4 Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources (15 points)

CoH has substantial organizational experience and capacity relevant to the proposed project. The CoH's Public Works and Community Development Departments manage multiple grant funded projects ranging from \$1M to \$152M annually. CoH has a longstanding history of community involvement and project management within the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood. Their experience includes successfully organizing local events, managing community initiatives, and addressing neighborhood-specific issues. This hands-on experience equipped CoH to engage in significant community engagement and develop a deep understanding of the community's needs, preferences, and dynamics. CoH has been actively engaged in various local projects, demonstrating their ability to manage and execute activities that align with community goals. They have effectively worked with other local organizations and community groups to address challenges and implement solutions. Their organizational capacity is enhanced by their established relationships with local stakeholders, which facilitates collaboration and resource mobilization.

WW brings extensive organizational experience and capacity related to environmental and community-based projects. The organization has a strong track record of working on projects focused on wetlands preservation, stormwater management, and climate resilience. WW's experience includes successfully implementing green infrastructure projects, conducting environmental assessments, and engaging with local communities to address environmental challenges. WW's expertise in managing environmental projects is supported by their technical resources, including tools and technologies for monitoring and evaluation. They have a history of collaborating with various stakeholders, including government agencies, community organizations, and technical experts, to achieve project goals. This experience is complemented by their capacity to provide specialized training and support for project activities. WW's knowledge in environmental conservation and community engagement will be instrumental.

CoH provides essential resources, capacity, and capabilities for the successful execution of the proposed projects. With a deep understanding of the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood and experienced staff, CoH possesses extensive knowledge of its history, community dynamics, and specific needs. This local expertise is crucial for tailoring project activities to effectively address the community's unique challenges and priorities. Additionally, CoH has built a robust network of local contacts, including community members, organizations, and leaders, which is vital for mobilizing support, coordinating activities, and ensuring broad community engagement. CoH's organizational experience includes managing local initiatives and community organizing, demonstrating their ability to oversee and execute project activities effectively. The City's staff

includes experienced individuals skilled in community engagement and project management. Their knowledge and experience will be valuable in overseeing project implementation and ensuring that activities align with the community's needs. Collaborative relationships with other local organizations are primarily through the Joint Committee community advisory board, composed of Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association, Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition, and the Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens, further enhancing CoH's capacity by leveraging shared resources and expertise.

WW brings significant expertise and resources to the project, particularly in the areas of environmental conservation, stormwater management, and green infrastructure. The organization has a proven track record of working on community-based environmental projects, including initiatives related to wetlands preservation, stormwater management, and climate resilience. To ensure effective project management, WW will employ a part-time consultant with subject matter expertise, a year round intern, and additional staff support to complement the staff time of the Executive Director and Collaboratory Program Manager dedicated to this project. These staff will focus on leading community engagement efforts and managing project activities. The staff at CoH's Resilient Hampton Division includes a Resiliency Officer, two Resiliency Specialists, and a Coastal Engineer, all of whom bring technical expertise and experience to the project. The Resilient Hampton Team within CoH is composed of 15 individuals from across City Departments who support Resilient Hampton's work including zoning, emergency management, public works, city attorney, Clean City Commission, neighborhood services, etc. Their skills are essential for implementing and managing complex environmental initiatives. Additionally, WW's collaborative approach with local organizations through the Joint Committee enhances their capacity to manage and execute the project effectively, ensuring alignment with community needs and goals. WW will offer a stipend to the Chair of the Joint Committee to support community outreach efforts and community feedback, while also offering stipends to every member of the Joint Committee to compensate for their time and participation.

Table 2: Milestone Schedule	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Action Plan	2025				2026				2027			
MILESTONES	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	8
Residential Stormwater Solutions												
Rain Barrels												
Rain Gardens												
Parcel Level Solutions Workshop												
PT SME												
Environmental Education and Recreation												
CBLP - Level 1												
CBLP - A												
CBLP - Crews												
Printed Materials												
Environmental Youth Scholarships												
Local Youth Employment Opportunity for Community Engagement												
PT Internship, Meeting Support, iPads												
Infrastructure and Connectivity												
Project 1 -Pipe Upsizing Jody's Way												
Project 2 - Cul-de-sac Flanker Inlets Blazer Ct												
Project 3 - Cul-de-sac Flanker Inlets Randell Ct												

To ensure the effective management of the award funds, we implement several key practices. A detailed project budget will outline all anticipated expenses, with regular monitoring to track spending against this budget. Financial controls will be established to verify that all costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable, including periodic audits and reviews of financial records. Procurement procedures will follow established guidelines to ensure fair and transparent selection of contractors and vendors. This includes aligning procurement activities with funding regulations. A scheduled approach to fund disbursement and expenditure is maintained, ensuring that funds are used in a timely and efficient manner. Thorough documentation of all expenditures and project activities will be maintained throughout the project. Regular financial reports will be provided to funders and stakeholders, including a final financial report upon project completion.

Compliance with all relevant regulations and guidelines will be ensured, with assigned oversight responsibilities to maintain alignment with project goals and funding requirements.

CoH has a strong framework for ensuring financial stability and the ethical management of taxpayer dollars, including rigorous financial controls, oversight mechanisms, and policies aimed at preventing and addressing waste, fraud, and abuse. CoH's financial stability is evidenced by its solid track record in managing grants and other funding sources, underpinned by comprehensive financial records and adherence to generally accepted accounting principles. The organization's financial health is further supported by a history of successful grant management and consistent financial audits, which demonstrate their capacity to handle taxpayer dollars responsibly. To maintain financial integrity, CoH employs several key controls. These include detailed budget monitoring, where all project budgets are regularly tracked and reconciled against actual expenditures to ensure alignment with approved budgets and grant conditions. Additionally, duties related to financial transactions are segregated among staff members to prevent conflicts of interest and reduce the risk of errors or fraud. Regular internal and external audits provide an independent review of financial practices, with findings addressed promptly. CoH also adheres to established financial policies covering expenditures, procurement, and reporting to ensure transparency and compliance with applicable regulations. The organization's capacity to manage taxpayer dollars is bolstered by its experienced financial team, which includes professionals in accounting, financial management, and grant administration. These experts ensure compliance with funding requirements and oversee financial operations. CoH utilizes advanced financial management software to enhance its ability to track expenditures, manage budgets, and produce accurate financial reports, supporting accountability and timely reporting.

In terms of project oversight and risk management, CoH has established robust policies and controls. A dedicated project management team is responsible for overseeing funded projects, ensuring adherence to timelines, budgets, and performance objectives. Regular progress reports are reviewed by senior management and project stakeholders to ensure effective project oversight. Risk management is integral to CoH's approach, involving risk assessments for each project to identify potential issues and develop mitigation strategies. This includes evaluating risks related to financial management, project implementation, and compliance with grant requirements. To prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, CoH has implemented several procedures. These include controls for detecting fraudulent activities, monitoring project expenses for necessity and reasonableness, and ensuring appropriate use of project resources. CoH also provides mechanisms for confidential reporting of concerns related to financial misconduct or ethical violations. This includes a whistleblower policy that protects individuals who report concerns from retaliation and allows for anonymous reporting of issues. A confidential hotline or email address is available for reporting suspected waste, fraud, or abuse, with reports reviewed by a designated committee or external auditor.

2.5 Past Performance (5 points)

CoH and WW have a proven track record of successfully completing and managing assistance agreements, demonstrating their capability to effectively use funds and achieve project outcomes. CoH's Public Works and Community Development Departments manage multiple grant funded projects ranging from \$1M to \$152M annually. Reporting and all compliance mandates have been achieved fully and on time for the following projects:

1. FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program – JBLE – Langley Access Protection Project: \$2,000,000, FY2024, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

2. FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program – Newmarket Creek Flood-Prone Property Acquisition: \$1,383,069.
3. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – The North Armistead Road Raising and Green Infrastructure Project: \$13,179,680, 2022-2025.

WW also has a strong record in managing assistance agreements, including an annual NOAA grant through VA Coastal Zone Management Program (FY16 - NA17NOS419 through FY23 - NA23NOS4190255); NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund – "Building Coastal Resilience in Underserved Communities: A Nature-Based Solution Approach in Southside Norfolk;" a NOAA VA Sea Grant (NA22OAR4170113) "Building a Resilience Workforce by Advancing the Resilient Design and Research Collaborative Laboratory (Collaboratory)"; and a NOAA NC Sea Grant (NA22OAR4170109) "North Carolina Expansion of Community Flood Mapping using Wetland Watch's Sea Level Rise App." WW has conducted numerous Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification (CBLP) trainings, focusing on green infrastructure and stormwater management. Their successful implementation of these training programs reflects their expertise in managing environmental projects. Additionally, they have led various green infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving environmental conditions, such as addressing stormwater issues, enhancing water quality, and reducing heat islands. Their experience with resilience grants further demonstrates their ability to manage funds and implement projects designed to improve community resilience and address environmental challenges.

Part 3. Readiness to Perform, Feasibility, and Sustainability (40 points total)

3.1 Feasibility (9 points)

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy is strategically designed to be effectively completed within the three-year grant period through a well-structured approach and careful planning. The project activities are divided into several phases, each with specific timelines and objectives. The Strategy includes a comprehensive risk assessment and project design phase, which is expected to take around six months. During this period, thorough evaluations of environmental and infrastructural vulnerabilities will be conducted, and community feedback will be gathered. This early phase is crucial for developing a solid foundation for subsequent project activities. Securing funding and partnerships is the next major phase, this involves creating a detailed funding roadmap, applying for grants, and forming strategic partnerships. By engaging with potential funders and partners early, the project aims to secure the necessary resources and mitigate the risk of financial shortfalls.

The implementation of infrastructure improvements will involve executing natural and grey infrastructure projects such as installing rain gardens, stormwater inlets and pipes, and developing a community garden. A phased approach to implementation of these improvements will help manage the complexity of these projects and ensure that they are carried out efficiently. Regular progress monitoring and adaptive management strategies will be used to address any issues that arise. Community engagement and education will be an ongoing activity throughout the grant period. This includes hosting community meetings, trainings, and workshops. Continuous engagement is essential for aligning the projects with local needs and ensuring strong community support. Thorough monitoring and evaluation will assess the impact of the projects and make necessary adjustments. This ensures tracking progress and meeting objectives.

Several risks could potentially impact the successful completion of the projects. These include funding shortfalls, community resistance, unforeseen environmental challenges, and coordination issues with partners. To mitigate these risks, the plan includes strategies such as

securing diversified funding sources, maintaining strong community engagement, employing flexible project designs, and establishing clear communication channels with partners.

3.3 Sustainability (5 points)

CoH and WW are committed to ensuring the sustainability of their projects beyond the three-year grant term by leveraging funding and resources from various sources. WW, with its deep connections and commitment to the community, will also leverage its extensive network and experience in green infrastructure and stormwater management. The organization plans to use its track record of successful project implementation and funding acquisition to attract further resources. This includes pursuing additional grants, collaborating with other organizations, and exploring public-private partnerships to ensure continued support for the projects.

CoH and WW will establish routine operations and maintenance schedules to keep the infrastructure functional and safe. This involves regular inspections, repairs, and updates, managed by dedicated staff or specialized contractors. The infrastructure will be integrated into the CoH's existing maintenance programs. For instance, the Resilience Hub will be maintained by the City's Emergency Management team, and Public Works will oversee stormwater and pedestrian infrastructure upkeep. Training programs will be implemented to build local capacity, providing community members and local organizations with the skills needed for ongoing maintenance. Community involvement will be a cornerstone of the sustainability strategy. CoH and WW will continue to engage residents through regular meetings, feedback sessions, and volunteer opportunities. This engagement ensures that community members are actively involved in maintenance efforts and have a stake in the project's success. Volunteer programs will be established to include residents in activities such as clean-ups, planting sessions, and educational workshops on green infrastructure maintenance. To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the maintenance activities, CoH and WW will implement a system for tracking the performance and condition of the infrastructure. Key indicators, such as water quality and stormwater management effectiveness, will be monitored. Regular evaluations will be conducted to assess maintenance efforts and identify improvements. Results will be reported to stakeholders, including the community and funding agencies, to ensure transparency and accountability. Potential solutions to address operations and maintenance include:

- Empower citizens to maintain personal property by providing information and educational materials.
- Expand operations and maintenance programs for existing infrastructure.
- Integrate energy-saving measures and low-maintenance materials and systems when repairing or replacing buildings, infrastructure, or making other public improvements.
- Expand monitoring networks (for tides, groundwater, water quality, etc.) as needed and Expand programs for stormwater treatment and water quality improvement.

Leveraging other Sources of Funding

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy is a continuation of a partnership between the CoH, Old Dominion University, Hampton University, WW, and local community partners. In 2015, these partners explored design solutions in the Chesterfield Heights neighborhood of Norfolk, creating the seeds of what became the \$112 million dollar Ohio Creek Watershed Project. This collaborative process, called the Collaboratory, has been repeated throughout tidewater Virginia. There is a robust ongoing effort to secure sustained funding for these efforts and scaling them. These are fully detailed in Attachment G. The CoH and WW will also leverage additional funding sources to support their projects. These include a

new property owner eligible grant program for residents of the neighborhood that will fund the use, design, and implementation of rain barrels and rain gardens, through a selection process administered through the Joint Committee and the Resilient and Innovative Neighbor (RAIN) Program, offering up to \$1,000 for rain garden installation and other green infrastructure. The Driveway Grant program assists residents with limited means to install driveways, while NFWF Small Watershed Grants support runoff management through green infrastructure practices. Other potential funding sources include the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant, which provides up to \$1,000,000 for tree planting projects to improve water quality, and Community Grants from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, which support environmental stewardship and wellness initiatives. The Community Flood Preparedness Fund could be applied to projects that reduce flood impacts, and the Renew America's Schools Program offers funding for upgrades that promote healthier learning environments. The Citizen Monitoring Grant allows for water quality assessments and educational opportunities, and the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund provides matching grants for water quality improvements and stream restoration. Federal grant programs include the Virginia Department of Health Lead Elimination Awareness Program, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program, and DOT Safe Streets for All.

3.4 Program Budget Description (8 points) (\$19,998,740 with \$0 IDC)

- Personnel and Fringe (\$0). Lead Applicant will fund all staffing responsibilities from matching funds. Staff have been identified in the organizational structure and throughout the workplan.
- Supplies (\$23,000). Include two tablets for outreach activities that require collection of survey data and an intake form. The 32G Apple IPAD was selected for durability and multiple connectivity options. Priced at 800 per unit. The remaining supplies include emergency supplies such as water and shelf stable food for the resilience hub.
- Equipment (\$120,000). Air Quality Monitoring Equipment was estimated based upon the Specto Technology AQS, with Vaisala WXT530 weather Transmitter and Aeroqual cloud based digital data management platform. This combined system provides a comprehensive sampling system and real time connectivity. AQS air quality monitors will measure NO₂, NO, O₃, PM, CO, CO₂, and TVOC and will make real-time data accessible to residents and other stakeholders via the Aeroqual Cloud Software. A Generator rate for 200kW will provide emergency power during grid instability.
- Contractual (\$4,228,000). We will competitively bid on all contracts. These contracts are essential for ensuring designs meet all standards and to ensure project management is developed to account for construction projections. A contractor will also be brought in to administer and conduct inspection checks on all construction projects and infrastructure investments. A final construction administrator and inspector will be acquired for the Aberdeen Creek Restoration. Our internal staff do not have the depth of expertise to track construction and environmental studies, necessitating outside expertise.
- Construction (\$13,632,500). The majority of funds requested are for construction, pre construction planning and design, and administration of construction. Material construction costs are broken into three categories with stormwater and creek restoration as priorities. The remaining funds will be allocated to the Resilience Hub, including indoor and outdoor improvements.
- Other (\$1,995,240). The entirety of the Other category fund request is for WW. They will oversee, assess, and maintain many of the green infrastructure, outreach, education, and resilience programming.



EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

OMB Number: 2030-0020
Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

Authorized Representative: *Original awards and amendments will be sent to this individual for review and acceptance, unless otherwise indicated.*

Name:	Prefix: Mrs.	First Name: Mary	Middle Name: B.
	Last Name: Bunting	Suffix:	
Title:	City Manager		
Complete Address:			
Street1:	22 Lincoln Street		
Street2:			
City:	Hampton	State:	VA: Virginia
Zip / Postal Code:	23669	Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number:	757-727-6370	Fax Number:	
E-mail Address:	mbunting@hampton.gov		

Payee: *Individual authorized to accept payments.*

Name:	Prefix: Mr.	First Name: Karl	Middle Name:
	Last Name: Daughtrey	Suffix:	
Title:	Director of Finance		
Complete Address:			
Street1:	22 Lincoln Street		
Street2:			
City:	Hampton	State:	VA: Virginia
Zip / Postal Code:	23669	Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number:	757-727-6314	Fax Number:	
E-mail Address:	kdaughtrey@hampton.gov		

Administrative Contact: *Individual from Sponsored Programs Office to contact concerning administrative matters (i.e., indirect cost rate computation, rebudgeting requests etc).*

Name:	Prefix:	First Name:	Middle Name:
	Last Name:	Suffix:	
Title:			
Complete Address:			
Street1:			
Street2:			
City:		State:	
Zip / Postal Code:		Country:	
Phone Number:		Fax Number:	
E-mail Address:			

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Project Manager: *Individual responsible for the technical completion of the proposed work.*

Name: Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:
Last Name: Suffix:
Title:

Complete Address:

Street1:
Street2:
City: State:
Zip / Postal Code: Country:
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Aberdeen Gardens Community Change Grant	616.66	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. Totals		\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 150px;"> Aberdeen Gardens Community Change Grant </div>				
a. Personnel	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
b. Fringe Benefits	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
c. Travel	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
d. Equipment	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="120,000.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="120,000.00"/>
e. Supplies	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="23,000.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="23,000.00"/>
f. Contractual	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="1,268,400.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="1,268,400.00"/>
g. Construction	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="4,089,750.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="4,089,750.00"/>
h. Other	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="666,410.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="666,410.00"/>
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>
j. Indirect Charges	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>
7. Program Income	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program		(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS
8.	Aberdeen Gardens Community Change Grant	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
9.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)		\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="1,500,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="2,000,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="2,000,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="667,560.00"/>
14. Non-Federal	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ <input type="text" value="6,167,560.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="1,500,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="2,000,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="2,000,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="667,560.00"/>

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program		FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
		(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	Aberdeen Gardens Community Change Grant	\$ <input type="text" value="9,594,665.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="4,236,515.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
17.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
19.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)		\$ <input type="text" value="9,594,665.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="4,236,515.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION	
21. Direct Charges: <input type="text" value="\$19,998,740"/>	22. Indirect Charges: <input type="text" value="0"/>
23. Remarks: <input type="text" value="We have elected to pay for all indirect costs and all personnel costs through external funding."/>	

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Other Attachment File(s)

* Mandatory Other Attachment Filename: Final CCG Aberdeen Budget for Upload to Grantsgov.

Add Mandatory Other Attachment

Delete Mandatory Other Attachment

View Mandatory Other Attachment

To add more "Other Attachment" attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

Add Optional Other Attachment

Delete Optional Other Attachment

View Optional Other Attachment

The following attachment is not included in the view since it is not a read-only PDF file.

Upon submission, this file will be transmitted to the Grantor without any data loss.

Final CCG Aberdeen Budget for Upload to Grantsgov.xlsx

Budget Category	Description	Unit Cost or Annual Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
<u>Personnel-Salaries</u>						
Vice President	10%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Officer	100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff3	100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff4	100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
		Subtotal Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Fringe Benefits</u>						
Vice President	Fringe is inclusive of health insurance, worker comp, and PTO	30%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Officer	Fringe is inclusive of health insurance, worker comp, and PTO	30%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff3	Fringe is inclusive of health insurance, worker comp, and PTO	30%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff4	Fringe is inclusive of health insurance, worker comp, and PTO	30%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
		Subtotal Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Supplies</u>						
Resilience Hub	Supplies for resilience Hub (Bottle water,get list from EM)	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$23,000
		Supplies Subtotal	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$23,000
<u>Contractual</u>						
Design - Infrastructure and Connectivity	Design Consultant to design, prepare construction Documentation (20% of the Construction Costs)	\$1,510,000	\$453,000	\$755,000	\$302,000	\$1,510,000
Design - Aberdeen Creek Restoration	Design Consultant to design, prepare construction Documentation (20% of the Construction Costs)	\$906,000	\$271,800	\$453,000	\$181,200	\$906,000

Budget Category	Description	Unit Cost or Annual Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Construction Administration & Inspection - Infrastructure and Connectivity	Construction Administration and Inspection consultant to administer construction (15% of the Construction Costs)	\$1,132,500	\$339,750	\$566,250	\$226,500	\$1,132,500
Construction Administration & Inspection - Aberdeen Creek Restoration	Construction Administration and Inspection consultant to administer construction (15% of the Construction Costs)	\$679,500	\$203,850	\$339,750	\$135,900	\$679,500
		Subtotal Contractual	\$1,268,400	\$2,114,000	\$845,600	\$4,228,000
<u>Construction</u>						
Construction Costs - Infrastructure and Connectivity	Stormwater improvements to reduce street flooding and enhance connectivity during storm events	\$7,550,000	\$2,265,000	\$3,775,000	\$1,510,000	\$7,550,000
Construction Costs - Aberdeen Creek Restoration	Restoration of the Northern Portion of Aberdeen Creek including adding Hydrodynamic Separators for litter control.	\$4,530,000	\$1,359,000	\$2,265,000	\$906,000	\$4,530,000
Construction Costs - Community Resilience	Tree Planting, Street Light LED Conversion, Water Service Line Replacement, Cool Pave Street Treatment, Generator pad and wiring for School	\$1,552,500	\$465,750	\$776,250	\$310,500	\$1,552,500
		Subtotal Construction	\$4,089,750	\$6,816,250	\$2,726,500	\$13,632,500
<u>Equipment</u>						
Air Quality Monitoring Equipment	Specto Technology AQS, with Vaisala WXT530 weather Transmitter and Aeroqual cloud based digital data management platform	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
Generator	200kW Diesel Generator	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000

Budget Category	Description	Unit Cost or Annual Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
		Subtotal Equipment	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
<u>Travel</u>						
<i>Mileage</i>	Based upon the IRS Standard rate of \$0.67/mile. Estimate for travel is based upon existing program costs and extrapolation of those costs for the additional outreach and engagement activities. Three staff are anticipated to drive 2000 miles per year to reach rural communities in the target region.	\$0.67				\$0
<i>per Diem</i>	NA					\$0
<i>Flights</i>	NA					\$0
<i>Car rental</i>	NA					\$0
		Subtotal Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Other</u>						
Sub-award1	Wetland Watch PM - Personnel Costs	\$497,500	\$166,165	\$165,668	\$165,668	\$497,500
	Wetland Watch PM - Residential Stormwater Solutions	\$950,000	\$317,300	\$316,350	\$316,350	\$950,000
	Wetland Watch PM - Environmental Education, Recreation and Engagement	\$136,400	\$45,558	\$45,421	\$45,421	\$136,400
	Wetland Watch PM - Aberdeen Creek Restoration	\$2,500	\$835	\$833	\$833	\$2,500
	Wetland Watch PM - Community Gardens and Amenities	\$50,000	\$16,700	\$16,650	\$16,650	\$50,000
	Wetland Watch PM - Community Resilience	\$177,600	\$59,318	\$59,141	\$59,141	\$177,600
	Wetland Watch PM - Indirect Cost at 10%		\$60,534	\$60,353	\$60,353	\$181,240
		Other Subtotal	\$666,410	\$664,415	\$664,415	\$1,995,240
		Total Direct Costs	\$6,167,560	\$9,594,665	\$4,236,515	\$19,998,740
		Modified Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Budget Category	Description	Unit Cost or Annual Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Indirect Costs	The de minimis rate of 10% or your negotiated rate is used on allowable direct costs	10%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL REQUEST		\$6,167,560	\$9,594,665	\$4,236,515	\$19,998,740
	Maximum Request					\$20,000,000
	Difference					\$1,260

STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
between
THE CITY OF HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
and
WETLANDS WATCH

This Statutory Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") by and between the CITY OF HAMPTON, VIRGINIA, a municipal corporation of the Commonwealth of Virginia ("Lead Applicant"), and WETLANDS WATCH, a Virginia nonstock corporation ("Statutory Partner") and together with Lead Applicant, the "Partners") dated July 31, 2024 ("Effective Date") is being created to identify the roles and responsibilities of the Partners supporting the Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Action Plan (the "Project").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the relationship between the Partners has been established and this Agreement entered into in connection with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program ("CCGP") and the related Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") requiring a Statutory Partnership Agreement for grant eligibility;

WHEREAS, the Partners wish to agree to certain terms and conditions that will govern the roles and responsibilities of the Partners in connection with the Project;

WHEREAS, the Project is a strategic initiative designed to enhance the environmental and climate resilience of Aberdeen Gardens, a historic community in Hampton, Virginia. This plan leverages a collaborative effort involving local residents, academic institutions, civic organizations, Wetlands Watch, and the City of Hampton. Our objective is to address the unique needs of this disadvantaged community by implementing multifaceted, community-driven projects;

WHEREAS, Partners agree the purpose of this Agreement ("Purpose") is limited to pursuance of a Grant under the EPA's CCGP and the related NOFO and the implementation of the Project following receipt of any such Grant, and that Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner are entering into this Agreement to establish a framework for the parties to collaborate in connection with Lead Applicant seeking, obtaining, receiving, administering and implementing a Community Change Grant, to support the mission and purpose of Lead Applicant and its efforts to advance the Project;

WHEREAS, Partners intend to work together along with other collaborating partners (to be named in the CCGP Application, the "Collaborating Entities") to apply for a Community Change Grant to fund the Project; and

WHEREAS, in the event that the Partners are successful in receiving a CCG Award for the Project, they intend to work together with the Collaborating Entities to reach the successful implementation of the Project within three years of the CCG Award date.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises set forth above and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

Background

The Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") created the CCGP. The EPA administers the CCGP pursuant to Section 138 of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), codified at 42 U.S.C. § 7438. Under this program, EPA was provided \$2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues, and \$200 million for technical assistance related to these

grants. (EPA CCGP NOFO, 5 (Feb. 12, 2024).) The CCGP NOFO requires entities applying for CCGP grants to enter into a Statutory Partnership Agreement, consisting of a Lead Applicant and a Statutory Partner. A Statutory Partnership agreement must meet specified criteria, as defined in Appendix B to the NOFO. The Partners have entered into this Agreement to seek a CCGP grant to deliver on the Project.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises and the covenants and agreements set forth below, the Partners agree as follows:

1. Certain Defined Terms. As used in the Agreement, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

“Agreement” has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

“Collaborating Entity” means an eligible CBO, federally recognized tribe, local government, institution of higher education, state government, territorial government, or qualifying international organization, excluding for-profit firms, individual consultants, and commercial service providers, that receives a subaward from the Lead Applicant.

“Community-Based Nonprofit Organization” or “CBO” means a nonprofit organization that supports and/or represents a community and/or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders as defined in 2 C.F.R. § 200.1.

“Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program” means the IRA-created program to award grants to disadvantaged communities to address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues.

“Lead Applicant” means the City of Hampton, Virginia.

“NOFO” means EPA’s Notice of Funding Opportunity issued November 21, 2023 and modified on December 21, 2023 and February 12, 2024 for the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program.

“Partners” has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

“Project” has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

“Purpose” has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

“Statutory Partner” means Wetlands Watch.

“Statutory Partnership” means a partnership between two CBOs, or between a CBO and a federally recognized tribe, local government, or an institution of higher learning.

2. Names and Addresses of the Partners

The names and addresses of the Partners are:

Lead Applicant:

The City of Hampton, Virginia
Attn: City Manager
22 Lincoln Street, 8th Floor
Hampton, Virginia 23669

Statutory Partner:

Wetlands Watch
2601 Granby Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23517

3. CCGP

3.1. Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner shall abide by all applicable rules, regulations, and requirements of the CCGP. Failure of Lead Applicant or Statutory Partner to do so shall result in the termination of this Agreement. Should such termination result from Statutory Partner's failure to comply with applicable CCGP requirements, Statutory Partner shall immediately repay to Lead Applicant and/or EPA all grant funds Statutory Partner received in connection with the CCGP that were spent in connection with such noncompliance, together with any interest or penalties that may be assessed as a result of Statutory Partner's failure to comply with applicable requirements. For the sake of clarification, any grant funds spent by Statutory Partner in good faith compliance with the applicable CCGP requirements, and which further the purpose of the CCGP grant, shall not be subject to any claim for repayment, unless so required by or according to guidance from the EPA.

3.2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner shall abide by all federal requirements pertaining to the administration of 42 U.S.C. § 7438, as it may be amended from time to time. At the request of Lead Applicant or EPA, Statutory Partner shall certify in writing to EPA that Statutory Partner has complied in all aspects with the CCGP requirements as they relate to the Project (as defined above), and such certification shall be signed by an officer of Statutory Partner.

3.3. Lead Applicant intends to apply for a grant from the CCGP to support the Project. Lead Applicant agrees to coordinate with the Statutory Partner during the negotiation of a grant agreement between the EPA and the Lead Applicant, and allow the Statutory Partner to review associated grant agreement documents that will be executed to secure the CCGP grant and with which Statutory Partner will be bound to comply.

3.4. Upon receipt of any grant funding, Partners agree to work in good faith to negotiate and agree on a project development agreement to further memorialize these terms in a definitive agreement establishing specific obligations, liabilities and responsibilities of the parties beyond the general principles established in this Agreement.

4. General Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Lead Applicant. Lead Applicant shall be responsible for the receipt of federal funds from EPA and for the proper expenditure of these funds and shall bear liability for unallowable costs and responsible for the overall management, performance, oversight, and reporting responsibilities under the grant, and for making a subaward to the Statutory Partner. This may include, but is not limited to, any of the following tasks and duties as required:

4.1.1. Acting as a pass-through agent to provide CCGP funds to Statutory Partner and Collaborating Entities in the form of a subgrant ("Subaward");

4.1.2. Monitoring compliance with the CCGP and CCGP rules, including, but not limited to, procurement in accordance with federal requirements and performance by Statutory Partner of ongoing obligations with CCGP funds in active use in the location specified by the CCGP grant agreement; and

4.1.3. Assisting EPA in various other administrative tasks which may be required by the CCGP.

4.1.4. Lead Applicant and government agency on this proposal, City of Hampton implements infrastructure, connectivity, and restoration projects to support the citizens of Hampton. Their experience includes successfully organizing local events, managing community initiatives, and addressing neighborhood-specific issues. Various Departments and Divisions within the City will oversee nature based and infrastructural stormwater, emergency management, and resilience building strategies and report results to stakeholders.

4.2. Statutory Partner. Statutory Partner shall coordinate with and support Lead Applicant as necessary to ensure compliance with requirements of the CCGP. Such coordination may include, but is not limited to, any of the following tasks:

4.2.1. Complying with any and all requirements of the CCGP;

4.2.2. Maintaining any equipment purchased with CCGP funding;

4.2.3. Providing EPA and Lead Applicant with such information and certifications about the operations, performance, and location of equipment purchased or improved with CCGP funding as may be requested from time to time.

4.2.4. Accountability to Lead Applicant for proper use of EPA funding.

4.2.5. Providing organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed projects or similar activities (*e.g.*, experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application).

4.2.6. Providing resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (*e.g.*, a project manager and other key personnel), expertise, qualifications, and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the remaining award period.

4.2.7. Utilizing cost effectiveness of the budget in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs to the greatest extent practicable).

4.2.8. Proposing a reasonable budget and allowability of the costs for each component / activity of the Project and their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner to comply with the remaining project period limitation.

4.2.9. Creating a milestone schedule for the proposed projects including breakout of the project activities into phases and timeframes for completion of tasks, and the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable.

4.2.10. Ensuring legal and financial controls in place, and ensuring capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently as well as the policies and controls for project oversight

and program risk. This includes the extent and quality to which the application includes controls to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections).

4.2.11. Statutory Partner and Community-Based Organization on this proposal, Wetlands Watch, provides capacity-building support to local organizations and communities. They offer training, technical assistance, and resources to help communities manage environmental challenges and build resilience. Relationships with community members are maintained through regular meetings, public events, and continuous feedback mechanisms.

5. Partnership Policies on Sustainability, Equal Opportunity, and Prevailing Wage

5.1. Sustainability. Partners commit to supporting common sense policies and initiatives that support sustainable development, environmental conservation, and community resilience at the local, regional, and state levels in order to support the goals and objectives of creating a more livable and environmentally sustainable community for all of its constituents, including those of the Lead Applicant.

5.2. Equal Opportunity. Partners shall comply with all federal and state equal opportunity-related laws, including specifically all Virginia equal employment opportunity requirements.

5.3. Minority and Local Preference. To the extent permissible under Federal Law and consistent with Federal procurement requirements, the Partners agree to implement hiring and contracting practices that give preference to minority and local individuals and firms. These practices include, but are not limited to, the following:

5.3.1. Minority Preference.

5.3.1.1. The Partners shall make a concerted effort to recruit, hire, and retain employees and contractors from minority communities. This includes outreach to minority-focused community organizations, job fairs, labor unions and educational institutions, within the Greater Aberdeen community and beyond.

5.3.1.2. The Partners shall provide regular reports to each other detailing the efforts made and the success in hiring and engaging minority individuals and firms.

5.3.2. Local Preference.

5.3.2.1. The Partners shall prioritize hiring residents from the community impacted by the grant to the maximum extent feasible.

5.3.2.2. Job postings for positions and contracts related to the Project shall be advertised within the impacted community, including during Joint Committee meetings and civic association meetings, and in community centers, local newspapers, and local online job boards.

5.3.2.3. The Partners shall collaborate with local employment agencies and workforce development programs to identify and hire qualified candidates from the impacted community.

5.4. Prevailing Wage. Partners shall pay or cause to be paid to all applicable workers employed by it or its contractors performing the work on the Project no less than the highest applicable prevailing rates of wages, as provided in the statutes and regulations applicable to public work

and shall comply with any federal requirements related to prevailing wage and apprenticeship hiring that may be required in order to maximize the uptake and leverage of the Inflation Reduction Act, including Elective Pay provisions for clean energy components of the Project.

6. Dispute Resolution

6.1. To the extent of any disputes arise between the Partners, the Partners agree to the following dispute escalation ladder: (i) negotiations between the City's Director of the Community Development Department and Wetland Watch's Collaboratory Program Manager for 30-days; (ii) negotiations between the City Manager and Wetland Watch's Executive Director; (iii) mediation with an independent third-party mediator mutually agreed upon by the Partners; and (iv) only after (i), (ii), and (iii) have been exhausted, then either party may exercise its rights as afforded under applicable law.

7. Policies and Procedures for Replacing Statutory Partner

7.1. Should Lead Applicant need to replace Wetlands Watch as the Statutory Partner in the Partnership, and Lead Applicant will ensure the replacement Statutory Partner has the comparable expertise, experience, knowledge, and qualifications of the replaced Statutory Partner to ensure successful grant completion within three years. Replacement would not be necessary so long as the Statutory Partner is in existence and in compliance with CCGP requirements; however, replacement could become necessary should the Statutory Partner cease to exist, determine it is unable to comply with the CCGP requirements, or fail to comply with CCGP requirements. Should the Statutory Partner determine it is unable to comply with the CCGP grant requirements, the Statutory Partner shall provide written notice to the Lead Applicant as soon as reasonably possible so that Lead Applicant may identify an appropriate replacement. To ensure the replacement Statutory Partner meets these requirements, Lead Applicant will form a Search Committee and review interested parties based on how well the replacement Statutory Partner will meet the criteria listed in Section 4.2.

7.2. Replacement will be completed with the prior approval by an authorized EPA official pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.308(c)(6).

8. Subaward

8.1. The Partnership agrees, if the CCG Application is selected for award, to enter a subaward that complies with the subaward requirements in the grant regulations at 2 C.F.R. § 200.331 and in EPA's Subaward Policy and related guidance and that contains terms and conditions including those above.

9. Termination

9.1. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall remain in force and effect until the terms and conditions of any CCGP grant funding received by Statutory Partner, including, but not limited to, ongoing compliance obligations under the CCGP rules, expire.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. Assignment. Neither this Agreement, nor any rights, nor any duties, nor any obligations described in this Agreement, shall be assigned or subcontracted by Company without the prior written consent of Lead Applicant or EPA, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the event that Lead Applicant or EPA approve an assignment, each and all of the terms

and conditions of this Agreement shall extend to the benefit of the successors and assigns of Statutory Partner.

10.2. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia as to all matters, including but not limited to matters of validity, construction, effect and performance.

10.3. Forum and Venue. All actions regarding this Agreement shall have proper forum and venue in a court of competent subject matter jurisdiction in the City of Hampton, Virginia].

10.4. Entire Agreement. This Agreement and any documents referred to herein constitute the complete understanding of the parties and merge and supersede any and all other discussions, agreements and understandings, either oral or written, between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

10.5. Severability. Whenever possible, each provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted in such a manner as to be effective and valid under applicable law, but if any provision of this Agreement is held to be prohibited by or invalid under applicable law, such provision shall be ineffective only to the extent of such prohibition or invalidity, without invalidating the remainder of such provisions of this Agreement.

10.6. Remedies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if and to the extent repayment of grant funds is affirmatively waived by EPA, Statutory Partner shall not be required to repay amounts covered by such a waiver

10.7. Liability of Members to Third Parties; No Fiduciary Duties; Reliance by Third-Party Creditors.

10.7.1. Except as otherwise provided, neither Partner shall be liable for any debt, obligation or liability of the other Partner.

10.7.2. The Partners hereby agree that this Agreement is not intended to, and does not, create or impose any duty except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement on Partners or any affiliates, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, members, agents or employees and does not establish a separate formal legal entity under applicable law.

10.7.3. This Agreement is entered into among the Partners for their exclusive benefit and the benefit of their respective successors and permitted assigns for the Purpose set forth in the Preamble. This Agreement is expressly not intended for the benefit of any creditor of either Partner that is a party to this Agreement. Except and only to the extent provided by applicable statute, no such creditor or third party shall have any rights under this Agreement or any agreement between the Partners with respect to any contributions or otherwise.

10.8. EPA Involvement. The EPA is not a party to this Agreement.

[SIGNATURES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has duly executed this Agreement (or caused this Agreement to be executed on its behalf by its duly authorized officer or representative) as of the date first above written.

LEAD APPLICANT

City of Hampton, Virginia

BY: Mary B. Bunney

PRINT NAME: Mary B. Bunney

TITLE: City Manager

DATE: 7/31/24

**CITY OF HAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

Date: July 30, 2024

Name: [Signature]

Title: Deputy City Attorney

[SIGNATURES CONTINUE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.]

STATUTORY PARTNER
Wetlands Watch

BY: Mary Carson A. Stiff

PRINT NAME: Mary-Carson Stiff

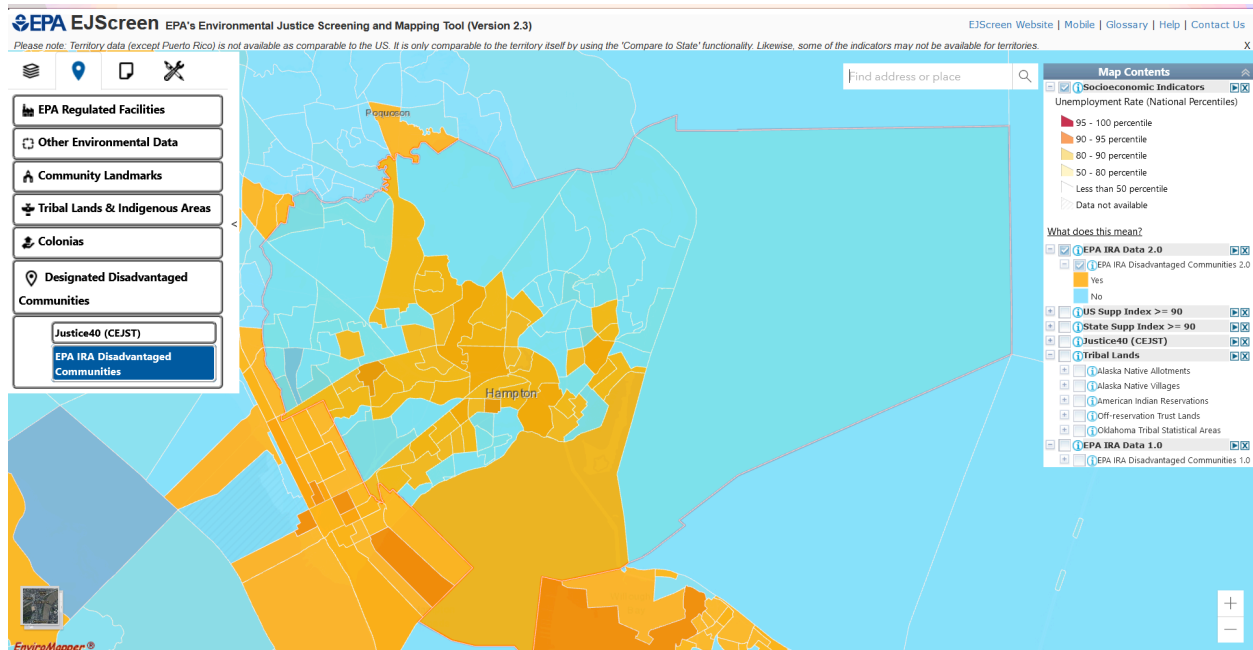
TITLE: Executive Director

DATE: 7/31/24

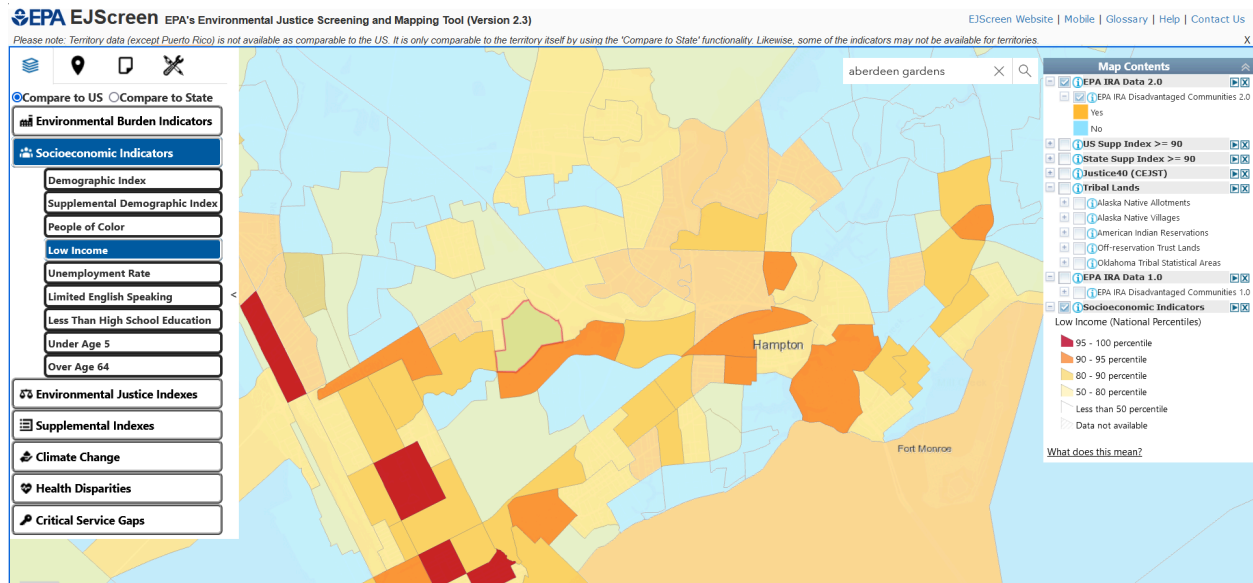
[END OF SIGNATURES.]

Attachment D: Project Area Map

City of Hampton EJ Screen IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map



Income levels in the City of Hampton and Aberdeen Gardens





Legend

Study Area

Proposed Infrastructure Types

Gray

Green

Flooding Extents: Existing

> 0.25 ft

Flooding Extents: After Improvements

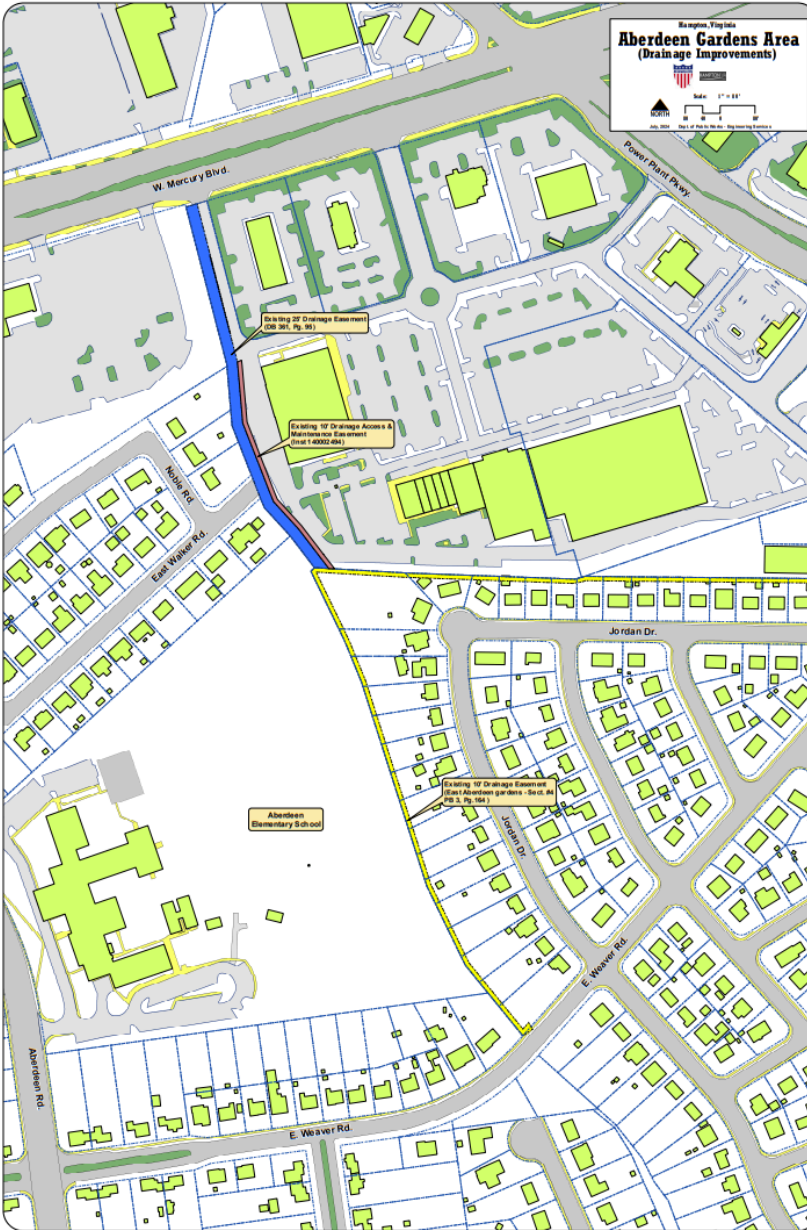
> 0.25 ft



Left: Land Surface Temperature
Credit: Waggonner & Ball

100° F
75° F

Right: Tree Canopy, 2015
Credit: Waggonner & Ball



The proposed Aberdeen Creek Improvements will be within easements or on City Property, the provided map shows the locations of the easement sites.

Aberdeen Gardens, located in Hampton, Virginia, is an historic and culturally significant neighborhood established during the New Deal era. Founded in 1933, this planned community was designed to provide affordable housing for African American families during the Great Depression. Its creation was part of a broader federal effort to offer improved living conditions to workers employed in nearby industries and military installations. The neighborhood is renowned for its distinctive architectural style, which includes Colonial Revival and Mission Revival designs. Many of the homes feature traditional elements such as brick facades, large front porches, and well-landscaped yards. The thoughtful layout of Aberdeen Gardens includes wide

streets and green spaces, reflecting principles of community and neighborliness. This planning has contributed to its designation as a historic site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Aberdeen Gardens holds a special place in cultural history as it was specifically designed for African American families, marking a significant chapter in the development of the local African American community. The neighborhood has fostered a strong sense of community and pride among its residents, who actively participate in local events and maintain historical traditions. Many original homes from the 1930s remain well-preserved, contributing to the neighborhood's historic charm. Currently, Aberdeen Gardens faces challenges related to preserving its historic character while addressing infrastructure needs and fostering community cohesion. Organizations leading this proposal are actively involved in restoration projects and community engagement efforts to maintain the neighborhood's heritage and vitality.

Aberdeen Gardens was heavily influenced by Ebenezer Howard's theory on "Garden Cities." The original location of the neighborhood was chosen in part because there was good soil for farming, and each of the original 158 homes were located on large lots for gardens, each of which included a chicken coop. Many residents have recounted stories of harvesting and sharing produce amongst neighbors. The spirit of self-sufficiency and good health was a core tenet of the original Aberdeen Gardens community, and the use of community gardens will allow it to get back to the original tenets of subsistence farming that the community was created upon. The neighborhood gardens in the community today restore this historic cultural feature, feed neighborhoods, and bring people together to work on the production of food/fruit, which enhances community cohesion and builds individual and community resilience.

Aberdeen Gardens is defined by specific geographic boundaries. To the north, the neighborhood is bordered by Mercury Boulevard. The east boundary is marked by West Queen Street, providing access to different parts of Hampton. The southern boundary extends from Newmarket Creek and includes surrounding residential areas. To the west, the neighborhood is bordered by Twin Oaks Drive and adjacent residential neighborhoods. Aberdeen Gardens covers the 23666-zip code. Aberdeen Gardens also encompasses census tract 104.

The demographic profile of the City, which is home to 137,217 residents, reflects its historical roots. 48% of residents identify as Black and 64% as people of color. Aberdeen Gardens more specifically has 84% of residents identifying as Black and 94% people of color. 26% are over 65, a notable presence of older adults and retirees. Many families have lived in Aberdeen Gardens for generations, contributing to its deep-rooted history. At the same time, younger families and individuals are also part of the community, adding to its dynamic and evolving nature. Socioeconomic indicators for Aberdeen Gardens indicate the community is in the 50-80th percentile for low income, with 27% of households reporting under \$50,000 annual income. The City itself is somewhat more varied, but 39% of households are still under \$50,000 annual income (see Attachment D for more details). Aberdeen Gardens has faced economic pressures historically, but ongoing efforts to enhance local infrastructure and services aim to address these issues and improve the overall economic conditions. Educational attainment in the City is diverse, with 36% of residents in the City holding a high school degree or less. Community involvement is a strong feature of Aberdeen Gardens. Residents are actively engaged in local organizations and events, showcasing the neighborhood's sense of pride and commitment. Various local groups work diligently to preserve the area's history while promoting future growth and development.

Aberdeen Gardens is home to several vital assets that enrich its community and heritage. The Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum preserves the area's history. Linwood "Butch" Harper Park

serves as a central public space for community gatherings and recreational activities, with plans for new amenities to enhance its role. Aberdeen Elementary School offers opportunities for resilience building and environmental education. Local churches, such as Mount Olive Baptist and Little Zion Baptist, are key community centers affected by flooding, highlighting the need for resilience measures. The Aberdeen Association, Inc. building, now a barbershop, and the Tucker Family Cemetery are integral to the community's cultural and historical identity.

Attachment E: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan

Past Community Outreach and Engagement Conducted

The Lead Applicant on this proposal, The City of Hampton (CoH), has focused on Historic Aberdeen Gardens for over 30 years, recognizing it as one of the City's registered neighborhoods. CoH has supported Aberdeen Gardens through capacity building and neighborhood grants. The City's Registered Neighborhoods (RNO) program invites organizations to participate in workshops free of charge, with a City staff person serving as a liaison to connect them to City resources. The Statutory Partner, Wetlands Watch, works closely with other community partners of the Joint Committee, which is comprised of Aberdeen Gardens Historic & Civic Association (AGHCA), the Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens (HFAG), and the Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition (GACC). Together, they have utilized this support to renovate property and create a museum, with the City playing a supporting role in these efforts. The City of Hampton (CoH) also attends Joint Committee meetings.

Wetlands Watch initiated community resilience work around 2021 with a grant to develop the Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Action Plan. In conjunction with the development of the Community Resilience Action Plan, published in 2023, CoH contracted Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) to identify infrastructure projects based on a drainage study inspired by the Plan's priorities. Hazen remains actively involved in community engagement related to these projects. A joint steering group, comprising CoH, Wetlands Watch (WW), Hazen, AGHCA, GACC, and HFAG, has been meeting regularly since the initiation of the Resilience Action Plan process.

CoH and Statutory Partner, WW, have had a significant impact on the strategy selection and project implementation approach detailed in the application through their extensive past engagement with the Aberdeen Gardens community. Their past engagement has shaped project selection by providing valuable insights into the community's needs and priorities. CoH and WW's work has underscored the importance of addressing local concerns, such as drainage issues, historical preservation, and resilience against the impacts of climate change. This community input has directly influenced the selection of strategies included in this grant application that are responsive to these priorities and align with the community's long-term goals. The collaborative nature of CoH and WW's engagement, including their work with the AGHCA, GACC and the HFAG, has fostered a comprehensive strategy selection process. Involvement from multiple organizations has ensured that the chosen strategies address both environmental and historical aspects of the community, reflecting a holistic approach. WW's focus on historical resilience has highlighted the need to balance historical preservation with modern resilience strategies. This dual focus has influenced the selection of strategies that cater to both historical and contemporary needs, ensuring that the community's legacy is preserved while addressing current challenges.

In terms of project selection and implementation, CoH and WW's engagement efforts have led to the identification of key projects aligned with the community's needs. For example, CoH's drainage study, conducted in collaboration with Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen), identified projects aimed at addressing specific issues such as flooding and infrastructure improvements. These projects have been shaped by community feedback to ensure their relevance and impact. CoH and WW have employed a variety of outreach and engagement methods to involve the community in the project selection and implementation process. These methods include regular community meetings, surveys to gather opinions and preferences, collaborative workshops with organizations like GACC and HFAG, and educational initiatives to raise awareness about

resilience and environmental issues. These efforts have helped build community support and understanding.

Recognizing the diversity within Aberdeen Gardens, CoH and WW have tailored their approaches to address the specific needs and concerns of different neighborhoods and groups. Outreach efforts have been focused on historically underserved areas and groups with particular interests in environmental or historical preservation.

Below find a timeline of the past engagement of the collaborative's efforts.

- Monthly Community Organization Meetings: Starting in 2022 and continuing to the present day, both the Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association and the Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition have held monthly meetings at Aberdeen Elementary. These meetings serve as a platform to provide updates on project status, conduct surveys, and engage with community members regarding their flood concerns. These gatherings have been attended by notable figures such as Senator Mamie Locke and Councilman Chris Bowman.
- Premiere of "The Aberdeen Gardens 158: Built by Us, For Us": In 2022, the premiere of the documentary detailing the history of the Aberdeen Gardens community was held. The event provided an opportunity to highlight the community's rich history and showcase the documentary's content.
- 2022 Trunk or Treat Halloween Event: The annual Trunk or Treat event at Bethel Baptist Church saw participation from the team, where they distributed candy and over 200 flyers detailing the Action Plan. This event was part of ongoing efforts to increase community awareness and engagement.
- Wetlands Watch Community Fish Fry: A Community Fish Fry was organized with the Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition in 2022 to share information and conduct a community mapping event. This event was attended by Congressman Bobby Scott, Former Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilman Chris Bowman, and Councilwoman Eleanor Brown.
- 2023 Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference: At the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference, held annually, a presentation was made to connect with additional academic programs and further support work in Aberdeen Gardens.
- 2023 Tour of the Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum: In 2023, a tour of the Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum was conducted to meet with neighborhood elders, gain a deeper understanding of the community's history, and explore options to enhance the capacity of the Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association (AGHCA).
- 2023 Environment Virginia Symposium: A presentation was made at the Environment Virginia Symposium to introduce the Community Resilience Action Plan to potential funders for additional project development.
- 25th Annual Aberdeen Gardens Black History Breakfast: The 25th Anniversary of the Aberdeen Gardens Black History Breakfast was celebrated in 2023. Discussions with the President of Hampton University explored opportunities for increased student support.
- 2023 HATCH Michael Harper Youthfest: The annual Youthfest included outreach activities for children, a demonstration rain garden, and an interactive coloring activity to explore environmental education at Aberdeen Elementary. The event was attended by Congressman Bobby Scott, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Delegate Jeion Ward, and Councilman Chris Bowman.

- Climigration Network Panel: Information on community outreach was shared on a national panel discussing best practices for engaging and compensating community members for their time.
- 26th Annual Aberdeen Gardens Black History Breakfast: The 26th Anniversary of the Aberdeen Gardens Black History Breakfast was celebrated in 2024. A donation was made to the Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association. The event was attended by Congressman Bobby Scott and Councilman Chris Bowman.
- 2024 Tour of the Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum: A revisit to the Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum was conducted with new staff members to familiarize them with neighborhood elders and deepen their understanding of the community's history.
- “Implementing Climate Adaptation Infrastructure Projects In Aberdeen Gardens”: A summary of the project was prepared for Congressman Bobby Scott, whose office instructed the project team to submit for a congressional earmark of \$2.5M.
- “Enhancing Community Resilience in Hampton’s Historic Aberdeen Gardens” Newsletter Article: A newsletter article was written by Wetlands Watch’s Collaboratory Program Manager, Jelani Sparrow, after his first two months managing community engagement in Aberdeen Gardens.
- 2024 Youthfest Resilience Flood Exhibit: The 2024 Youthfest featured a Resilience Flood Exhibit showcasing how rain barrels, rain gardens, and other parcel-level stormwater solutions can mitigate flooding. Sponsored by Wetlands Watch, Resilient Hampton, and the City of Hampton’s Clean City Commission, the exhibit was attended by Councilman Chris Bowman, Councilman Steven Brown, Mayor Donnie Tuck, and Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray.

Community Engagement Plan Implementation

The City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch employ several community engagement methods to ensure the successful implementation of The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy. These methods are designed to address potential barriers, involve essential stakeholders, and support the strategy’s overall effectiveness. Both organizations host and attend meetings and workshops to keep residents informed about the project, gather their feedback, foster ongoing dialogue, and support community events. Specifically, during the course of the grant period, WW will attend 24 meetings of the civic associations (AGHCA and GACC) and will hold at least 18 Joint Committee meetings. Resilient Hampton sends a monthly newsletter with project updates. These gatherings are essential for building trust within the community, addressing concerns, and integrating local input into project planning and execution. In addition to meetings, surveys are distributed to collect residents' opinions and preferences regarding proposed projects, ensuring that the initiatives are tailored to meet the community’s needs and are likely to be well-received. WW surveyed the residents on their priority projects and that prioritization feedback is incorporated into the project selection tool developed by Hazen that informed this grant application. The Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association also collaborates with local groups, including churches and schools, to enhance community involvement. As a component of the Aberdeen Gardens Historic District, Aberdeen Elementary is a significant cultural asset of the community. It is also an ideal location to implement many of the ideas discussed within the Community Resilience Action Plan as a common meeting space. Butch Harper park also abuts the Elementary School, providing an additional open space for potential projects. The Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition has

expressed a goal of connecting the neighborhood youth to the agricultural roots of the neighborhood.

The broader outreach activities that the City of Hampton typically conducts, such as

- Community bike rides
- Creek clean-up days
- StoryMaps. A feature of ArcGIS map-making software, StoryMap is a platform for digital storytelling that formats graphics into an interactive experience. Typically, a StoryMap would be part of a website such as the City's Resilient Hampton page (<https://hampton.gov/resilienthampton>). We will have a public information portal online as well.
- Broadsheets. Referencing historic printed media, broadsheets are on large format, folded newsprint that creates a direct and tactile experience for the reader. They function as a mini-newspaper, with more graphics. Broadsheets can be part of a series; each issue focuses on specific content to tell a larger story. Generally, these would be available as a free takeaway at community events.
- Toolkit cards. A set of small cards that show examples of resilient design is a portable and flexible format to quickly generate conversations about what pilot projects look like and how they work. Cards can be laid out and grouped together.
- Creative engagement. Creative engagement goes beyond conventional maps, drawings, and presentations to get stakeholders directly involved in activities, encouraging questions and opportunities for feedback. For example, offering tours of project sites - before, during, and after construction - can help community members tangibly envision the work, at an actual place in their city.

Mitigating Barriers

The City of Hampton has a dedicated Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office and Resilience Specialist with a specialty in engagement. Wetlands Watch is hiring a dedicated staff person to manage project engagement. Zoom options for meetings allow for some technology to accommodate various disabilities. In order to allow accessibility for all physical abilities prospective meeting locations are compliant with the American Disabilities Act. Meetings are open to children, eliminating the need and cost of childcare. Furthermore, so parents can fully engage during meetings, coloring books and crayons are provided by CoH. The West Hampton Community Center provides technology access to all clients, removing the access to technology barrier. Refreshments will be provided, and will be time of day appropriate, for example breakfasts in the morning, lunch items in the afternoons. The collaboration will hold meetings weekdays and weekends to accommodate varying schedules. Lastly, participant compensation provided for Joint Committee members and a community champion is employed through the proposed collaboration.

Government Involvement

The involvement of governmental stakeholders is crucial for the success of the strategy. A strong history of collaboration with local government officials and agencies, such as the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation by the City's Resilient Hampton Team, provides necessary technical expertise and funding opportunities, such as the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. Engaging with state agencies and elected officials ensures that the projects comply with regulations and policies, facilitating smoother approval processes and integration

into broader community plans. Building strong partnerships with these stakeholders helps align the community resilience efforts with city-wide goals and secures the political and financial support needed for effective implementation.

Collaborative Governance Structure

The roles and responsibilities for implementing, managing, and overseeing the Aberdeen Gardens initiative are distributed among several key stakeholders, including the City of Hampton (CoH), Wetlands Watch (WW), other partner organizations, and community residents or community-selected representatives. As Lead Applicant, CoH plays a central role in the project's implementation and management within the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood. CoH will provide logistical and administrative support for the project. This includes arranging venues for meetings, distributing materials, and coordinating volunteer efforts. They also handle administrative tasks such as documentation and record-keeping related to project activities and interactions with the community. CoH will be responsible for reporting project progress to stakeholders. They provide updates on community engagement outcomes, project milestones, and any issues that arise. Additionally, CoH collects and relays feedback from the community to ensure that the project continues to align with local needs and expectations.

Statutory Partner, WW, plays a crucial role in the project's implementation and management, assuming several key responsibilities. As a primary host organization, WW collaborates closely with all other partnering organizations on this initiative. In this capacity, WW organizes and facilitates various meetings, including Joint Committee sessions and other community engagement events. This hosting role is essential for ensuring that all participating organizations work together effectively and that project activities align with the community's needs. In addition to hosting, WW is responsible for leading community engagement efforts within the Aberdeen Gardens area. WW engages with the community through direct communication, informational sessions, and surveys to gather valuable input. The goal is to foster strong relationships with residents and encourage their active participation throughout the project.

To ensure effective management and coordination of the project, WW will hire a part-time consultant or project manager who will focus specifically on the Aberdeen Gardens initiative. This individual will be responsible for overseeing community engagement activities and coordinating with key personnel such as the Executive Director and Collaboratory Program Manager, whose time will be funded through the grant. The consultant or project manager will play a critical role in managing day-to-day project operations and ensuring that all project milestones are met. WW also plays a significant role in coordination among the three community organizations involved in the project. Given the overlap in interests and activities, WW is tasked with addressing any conflicts and ensuring smooth collaboration between the organizations to facilitate effective project implementation. Compensating community members for their involvement is another important responsibility of WW. This includes providing payments to participants in the Joint Committee and other community roles, as well as compensating a designated community champion who will lead and advocate for the project. Reporting and compliance are also key aspects of WW's role. The organization is required to report to the City on funding expenditures and project progress. This involves providing detailed accounts of how grant funds are utilized, the outcomes of community engagement efforts, and overall progress. These reports ensure transparency and accountability, maintaining trust and support from funding bodies and stakeholders.

Wetlands Watch supports training and educational initiatives through programs such as the suite of Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification offerings. The CBLP is a credential system for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes. Sustainable landscapes, or green infrastructure practices, are at the cornerstone of this project and their success and maintenance is critical to delivering the stormwater management and water quality benefits intended. By offering the CBLP programs to neighborhood residents will ensure people in place recognize these green infrastructure practices and understand when they need rehabbing or ongoing maintenance to safeguard performance. CBLP Levels 1 and 2 are the foundational training programs that introduce the concepts of green infrastructure and help designers and installers actually place these practices in the ground, in a community. CBLP-A engages youth in grades 9-12 by training a teacher to deliver CBLP-A curriculum annually in a science-specific program at Kecoughtan High School. The CBLP-Crews certificate is a one-day course on sustainable landscape maintenance for stormwater best management practices (BMPs), designed for crews and crew leaders who maintain stormwater BMPs. The Aberdeen Elementary School and City of Hampton grounds crews are examples of professionals who would benefit from the Crews training. The CBLP Crews and CBLP programs offer a regionally respected professional certification for adults seeking project management or implementation training respectively. Scholarships are offered to make participation possible for those most in need of greater opportunity. Scholarships increase the pool of qualified workers that may be hired to implement the green infrastructure project activities described in this proposal from within the community. This educational component aims to build local capacity and prepare the next generation for future involvement in environmental issues.

Finally, WW, together with community-selected representatives, is involved in overseeing the implementation of project activities. They ensure that the project remains on track, meets its objectives, and addresses any issues that may arise during the implementation phase. Overall, Wetlands Watch's roles and responsibilities encompass hosting, community engagement, consulting and project management, mediation, compensation, reporting, workforce development, and oversight, all of which are critical to the successful execution of the project within the Aberdeen Gardens community.

Other partner organizations include the Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association (AGHCA), Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition (GACC) and the Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens (HFAG). AGHCA, GACC and HFAG serve as hosts and Joint Committee members, contributing to overall project coordination and community engagement efforts alongside WW and CoH. As key host organizations, AGHCA and GACC will help coordinate efforts among various stakeholders, HFAG. With its deep-rooted presence in the Aberdeen Gardens area, AGHCA and GACC mobilize local residents to participate in project activities and disseminate important information about the project. Their established networks and local knowledge are invaluable for reaching diverse segments of the community and encouraging active participation. Community residents and community-selected representatives will play an active role in the project. They will be involved in the Joint Committee and other community meetings, where they will oversee project activities and ensure alignment with local needs and priorities. These representatives will engage in regular meetings to discuss project implementation and provide feedback based on community input. The Joint Committee, which includes representatives from AGHCA, WW, CoH, GACC, HFAG, and other stakeholders, have been meeting monthly and will continue to meet at least bi-monthly to review project progress, address emerging issues, and ensure effective implementation. In addition to these committee

meetings, WW will attend civic league meetings and key community events, such as Youth Fest, and host other community meetings to facilitate broader community involvement and gather feedback.

Should any collaborating entity need to be replaced in the Partnership, the remaining entity will ensure the replacement has the comparable expertise, experience, knowledge, and qualifications of the replaced partner to ensure successful grant completion within three years. A process for replacing any collaborating entity is detailed in the Partnership Agreement. Replacement will be completed with the prior approval by an authorized EPA official pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.308(c)(6). See Statutory Partnership Agreement for details.

Attachment F: Community Strength Plan

Maximizing Economic Benefits of Projects

Business Opportunities

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy is designed to deliver significant economic benefits to individuals in Aberdeen Gardens through various strategic approaches. The strategy supports local businesses by prioritizing the use of local contractors and service providers for project implementation. This approach helps to circulate funding within the community, reinforcing local economic resilience. The strategy is also intended to stimulate the local economy by fostering small business growth and entrepreneurship. For example, the community garden project is designed to support local farmers' markets and small-scale agricultural ventures, thereby encouraging economic activity within the neighborhood. Improvements to public spaces and infrastructure, such as Aberdeen Creek Restoration, are expected to attract visitors and potential investors, further boosting local commerce. With 48 cents of every dollar in Hampton's economy associated with government work, securing existing military and government assets is critical in the short-term, as is long-term diversification of industries and economic opportunities.

These projects were identified and prioritized by community members through the Resilience Action Plan and Hazen's drainage study. RFPs for contractors will include requirements to offer on-the-job training and recruitment of community members. The City's policy to contribute to the establishment, preservation, and strengthening of businesses owned by minorities and to encourage their participation in City procurement activities will be adhered to. Additional policies include:

- VPPA, §2.2-4301 requires that City contracts be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder as defined in the Glossary of this manual.
- Employment Discrimination Prohibited: VPPA, §2.2-4311 prohibits employment discrimination by contractors hired by the City and requires that every City contract over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) include the language to this effect.
- Bid Requirements for Construction Contracts: The City of Hampton Minority and Woman Owned Business Program Plan sets forth the requirements for minority-owned business opportunities in construction contracts.
- Contracts for Goods and/or Services: The City of Hampton Minority and Woman Owned Business Program Plan sets forth the requirements to ensure minority-owned business opportunities for goods or services contracts.
- Contracts for Professional and Other Than Professional Services Procured by Competitive Negotiations: The City of Hampton Minority and Woman Owned Business Program Plan sets forth the requirements which provide minority-owned business opportunities for service contracts.

The City posts all contracts to eVA and the City Website. eVA is a digital posting service making opportunities available throughout the commonwealth, providing opportunities to contractors across the Commonwealth. The Small Business Office within the City of Hampton (CoH) is available for consultation.

Job Opportunities

One of the primary ways this strategy provides economic advantages is by creating job opportunities and supporting workforce development. The infrastructure projects outlined, such as the installation of stormwater management systems and permeable pavements, are expected to generate immediate employment opportunities while offering long-term career prospects in environmental management and construction sectors. The City and Wetlands Watch will work with contractors to notify the community regarding job and hiring opportunities. Contractors will be encouraged to post job opportunities on their websites. Job opportunities will be relayed to various community groups to make residents aware of opportunities. These positions will pay prevailing wage rates, as required by CAA § 314 and the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

To facilitate the employment and retention of workers from disadvantaged communities on these projects, a multifaceted approach is required, encompassing targeted recruitment, job training, supportive work environments, and community engagement. Targeted recruitment strategies will be employed, collaborating with local community organizations, job placement agencies, and vocational schools to connect with potential workers. Job openings will be advertised through community centers, local churches, and social media channels that reach underrepresented groups.

Specialized training programs tailored to the specific needs of the projects—such as stormwater management, garden installation, and infrastructure improvements—will be provided through CBLP scholarships. Partnering with local educational institutions and vocational training centers can offer certifications in relevant fields, such as environmental management and construction. Additionally, creating apprenticeship and internship opportunities, including some hosted by Wetlands Watch, will allow local residents to gain hands-on experience and build their skills, with clear pathways for transitioning into permanent roles. RFPs will be issued, allowing community organizations to apply, and the Wetlands Watch will hire a community champion to facilitate engagement and support.

For the installation of residential stormwater solutions, local workers can be trained to install rain gardens and rain barrels with a focus on skill certification and career advancement. CBLP workforce development initiatives offer certifications and job training related to environmental and construction fields, ensuring local workers gain valuable skills. For resilience center enhancements, local workers can be employed to upgrade facilities and distribute weatherization kits, with ongoing support and career development opportunities. Infrastructure improvements, such as constructing pedestrian pathways, should involve local workers, offering training in infrastructure development and safety. In the Aberdeen Creek restoration project, local residents can be hired and trained to restore creek banks and install trash collection devices, focusing on environmental management skills. Lastly, community garden development can engage local workers in gardening and landscaping activities, providing them with relevant training.

Financial Savings

In the United States, more than 30,000 properties in 2017 had been flooded an average of five times each (with some homes getting inundated 30-plus times). And those figures will likely rise as climate change takes its toll. The EPA estimates that annual flood damages, due in part to runoff, will increase by \$750 million by century's end. Many of the residents within the 100-year FEMA special flood hazard area reported significant increases in their flood insurance premiums over time. The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy addresses

financial relief for residents by implementing flood risk management measures. Projects such as rain gardens and creek restoration are designed to reduce the economic burden of flooding by preventing property damage. These measures offer immediate financial relief and contribute to long-term economic stability by reducing maintenance and repair expenses for homeowners. Implementation of these projects will reduce flood risk, potentially increasing home values and decreasing flood insurance rates.

The community was designed as a New Deal (Subsistence Homestead Project) homestead settlement in partnership with Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute), to be an African American community designed and built by the community. Potential reductions in electrical bills and alternate forms of transportation to work, security during extreme weather, reduced claims for flood damages, reduced CBLP training fees, and improved social determinants of health will contribute to overall financial savings. Job creation, targeted on-the-job training, and discounted CBLP training will support local economic development.

In the short term, local residents will benefit directly from job creation and resource access. Immediate employment opportunities will arise from tasks such as installing stormwater solutions and restoring creek banks, providing both income and job security. Training programs will prepare workers for these roles, with additional positions available as projects advance. Residents will also gain access to resources like weatherization kits and community gardens. Weatherization kits will enhance home energy efficiency, reducing heating and cooling costs, while community gardens will offer fresh produce, addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating. To ensure the long-term preservation of these economic benefits, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch are committed to maintaining and expanding workforce development initiatives. Continued partnerships with educational institutions and vocational training programs will ensure a steady supply of skilled workers, supporting long-term economic stability through ongoing and future projects.

Infrastructure maintenance will be a priority, with regular upkeep and upgrades funded by city budgets. This approach will ensure that improvements such as sidewalks, pedestrian pathways, and stormwater management systems remain effective and continue to benefit residents. Additionally, improved infrastructure and environmental sustainability efforts are expected to boost property values, contributing to residents' economic security and equity. Sustained community engagement will be supported through ongoing educational programs and public events. By involving residents in decision-making and promoting a culture of environmental responsibility, the projects will encourage long-term participation in sustainability practices. The resilience center will continue to offer resources and support during extreme weather events, contributing to the community's long-term safety and resilience. Furthermore, the restoration of Aberdeen Creek and the development of native plant buffers will enhance local biodiversity and environmental quality. Long-term monitoring and maintenance will ensure these projects continue to support healthy ecosystems and provide lasting environmental benefits.

Displacement Avoidance

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy includes several measures to mitigate potential risks associated with its proposed projects, benefiting residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and other community members. These measures are designed to address both near-term and long-term risks while managing rising costs and minimizing impacts on existing groups. The plan on which this strategy is based begins with a comprehensive risk assessment to identify environmental and infrastructure vulnerabilities in Aberdeen Gardens.

This assessment informs the design and implementation of projects such as residential stormwater solutions, including rain gardens, stormwater inlets and pipes, which aim to reduce flooding and improve water quality. Additionally, the strategy incorporates flood-proofing measures like rain barrels to further protect properties from flood damage.

To manage potential impacts, the strategy emphasizes adaptive measures and a phased implementation strategy. This approach allows for adjustments based on feedback and evolving conditions, ensuring that the projects remain effective and beneficial over time. Extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change, often lead to population displacement, which compromises human security. Environment-induced displacement occurs as climate extremes, population pressures, and socio-economic conditions converge. Large-scale, catastrophic floods can force people to move suddenly for survival, while recurrent flooding from tidal influences and precipitation imposes repetitive financial strain on residents to repair and replace property and vehicles. As climate change increases flooding and heat in the Aberdeen Gardens area, the risk of displacement due to extreme weather events could rise.

Displacement is not expected for the completion of these projects. The improvements are not expected to alter the neighborhood's composition, due in part to the community's involvement in prioritizing projects, its historical significance as an African American community established during FDR's presidency, and ongoing investment by the City through the RNO program for the past 30 years. The City's existing Neighborhood Drainage Improvement Program (NDIP) involves assessing neighborhood support, which is a standard aspect of City work. Aberdeen has undergone resilience planning, is part of the Newmarket Creek watershed plan, and benefits from the Hazen drainage study, all of which guide this work.

The majority of the proposed work will not cause displacement of residents during construction; however, there may be temporary inconveniences such as blocked driveways or road closures lasting several hours. For any water outages exceeding 24 hours, the contractor will coordinate with the City and residents at least 72 hours in advance. Clean bottled water will be provided at a rate of 5 gallons per person for each 8-hour period water service is interrupted. For outages extending beyond 48 hours, the contractor will also provide lodging and meals for affected occupants. To ensure effective implementation and community engagement, the strategy includes the formation of a Joint Committee comprising members from three active community organizations. This committee will play a key role in attending community events and engaging with the school system to gather input and keep residents informed. Regular updates and opportunities for feedback will help address concerns and adjust the strategy as needed to mitigate any unforeseen issues, ensuring the projects meet the needs of the community and enhance overall resilience.

Attachment G: Readiness Approach

Upon receiving an award, or generally no later than 120 days after the award date, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch are committed to ensuring that the projects will be completed within the statutory three-year grant period. This commitment is based on thorough project planning, design, and compliance with necessary approvals and requirements. The planning and design phases for the projects are well-advanced, having been extensively developed in the preparatory stages leading up to the grant application. The project designs have been refined with input from various stakeholders, including community members, technical experts, and city officials. This advanced planning includes detailed blueprints, specifications, and timelines, which outline all necessary steps from initial setup to final execution. The design phase has incorporated feedback to ensure that all aspects of the projects are feasible and address the identified community needs effectively. Upon receipt of the award, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will mobilize their resources and staff to commence project activities without delay. Key steps include recruiting and onboarding project personnel, finalizing contractor agreements, and scheduling the start of construction and implementation activities. The projects will be kickstarted with a series of preparatory meetings and coordination with stakeholders to align efforts and ensure smooth execution.

A detailed project timeline has been established, breaking down the entire three-year grant period into phases with specific milestones and deliverables. This timeline includes detailed schedules for project initiation, construction phases, community engagement activities, and final evaluations. Regular progress reviews and milestone assessments will be conducted to ensure that the projects stay on track and within the established timeframe. The City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and make necessary adjustments. This system will include regular reporting to stakeholders, periodic reviews of project performance, and adjustments based on feedback and changing conditions. By maintaining flexibility and responsiveness, the organizations will ensure that any issues are addressed promptly and that the projects meet their objectives within the grant period.

Government Approvals

To ensure that the projects can commence promptly, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch have already initiated the process of obtaining all required approvals, permits, and permissions. This includes securing necessary permits for construction, environmental compliance, and any other regulatory approvals pertinent to the projects. City officials and regulatory bodies are working to expedite these processes and ensure that all requirements are met. This proactive approach aims to prevent delays and ensure that all legal and regulatory conditions are satisfied before project initiation. City of Hampton's officials who are responsible for the permitting process are aware of this proposed initiative and prepared to collaborate with those responsible for this work to expedite the necessary permits when applicable. The City of Hampton also owns and runs the Hampton City School District and has collaborated with the appropriate officials to ensure access to the necessary schools will be allowable.

Several elements of this project implementation most notably the Infrastructure and Connectivity, Aberdeen Creek Restoration and the Community Resilience elements will require engineered design and internal City review and permitting. Several will require State Land disturbing permits and the work in the Creek will require USACE permits to work within wetlands. The local permitting is part of the project development process and the majority of the

projects will be designed and approved within 120-180 days. The USACE permit will require 6-9 months to attain. A master project schedule is provided that shows the design permitting and construction timeline.

Federal Requirements for Construction Projects

Following the grant award, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will implement robust systems to ensure compliance with key federal requirements, including the Clean Air Act (CAA) § 314, the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts prevailing wage requirements, the Build America Buy America domestic preference requirement, and other cross-cutting statutory and Executive Order requirements applicable to federally funded construction projects. Through its procurement process, the City of Hampton has established several on-call consultants and contractors who have been procured in accordance with State and federal procurement guidelines. Project specifications will explicitly incorporate the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts prevailing wage requirements, the Build America Buy America Act domestic preference requirement, and other relevant statutory and Executive Order requirements. The City, which receives funding annually from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is well-versed in federal requirements. The City Attorney's Office, Procurement Office, and Public Works Engineering Department are experienced in managing federal compliance issues.

Wetlands Watch will complement these efforts by providing technical assistance and oversight to ensure that environmental and regulatory compliance measures are met. They will support the development and implementation of procedures for accurate reporting and documentation required under the Clean Air Act and other applicable environmental statutes. Additionally, Wetlands Watch will assist in ensuring that all contractors and vendors adhere to domestic preference requirements and provide necessary training and resources for compliance management.

Both entities will establish a joint compliance committee to oversee adherence to these requirements, conducting regular audits and reviews to ensure full compliance. This committee will maintain up-to-date records, provide training for staff and contractors, and promptly address any compliance issues. By leveraging these systems and expertise, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will effectively manage the complex regulatory landscape associated with federally funded construction projects, ensuring all statutory and Executive Order requirements are met and maintaining project integrity.

Alignment with Existing Plans

The proposed infrastructure improvements are within existing easements City Right of way or City controlled property. Members of the Community Development Department (which includes Planning and Zoning) are included in the project development. The project aligns with the following:

- City of Hampton's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan to ensure adequate incorporation of the Aberdeen Garden's community and its unique history and needs.
- Back River/Lake Shores Watershed Plan: This Watershed Management Plan was commissioned by Hampton's Public Works Department to identify opportunities to reduce flooding and improve water quality throughout the Back River watershed.

- Living with Water Hampton: A Holistic Approach to Addressing Sea Level Rise and Resiliency is a city-wide plan that establishes guiding principles, values and goals for the City's resiliency efforts.
- Resilient Hampton: Newmarket Creek Pilot Project Water Plan The Newmarket Creek Water Plan prioritizes and recommends projects within the Newmarket Creek Watershed, and acts as a pilot for Phase I of the Living with Water Plan.
- Virginia Coastal Master Plan: provides a comprehensive framework for enhancing the resilience of Virginia's coastal communities to climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise and flooding. It focuses on protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems, upgrading infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development through a collaborative approach with state, local, and community stakeholders.

Site Control

The majority of the improvements will be made on City Property or Right of Ways, the Aberdeen Creek Improvements will be within easements or on City Property. (Image 4 within Attachment D shows in detail the easement locations for Aberdeen Creek)

Operations and Maintenance

The City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch (WW) are dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of their projects beyond the three-year grant term by tapping into a variety of funding and resources. WW will leverage its deep connections and extensive experience in green infrastructure and stormwater management to attract additional support. This includes pursuing further grants, collaborating with other organizations, and exploring public-private partnerships. By drawing on their successful track record of project implementation and funding acquisition, they aim to secure continued backing for their initiatives.

In terms of operational and maintenance strategies, both the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will establish routine maintenance schedules to ensure that infrastructure remains functional and safe.

The majority of the improvements, including those within the City's right-of-way, such as drainage enhancements, will be integrated into the City's stormwater inventory. Stormwater maintenance is funded through a Stormwater Utility Fee, ensuring ongoing support for these activities. Additionally, the Weather Station and Air Quality Monitoring Station will also be assimilated into this inventory. The walking path, a key element of the project, will be maintained by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services, which is funded through the Capital Improvement Program. This will involve regular inspections, repairs, and updates managed by dedicated staff or specialized contractors.

Community engagement will be central to the sustainability strategy. The City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will actively involve residents through regular meetings, feedback sessions, and volunteer opportunities, ensuring that community members are engaged in maintenance efforts and invested in the project's success. Volunteer programs will include activities such as clean-ups, planting sessions, and educational workshops focused on green infrastructure maintenance.

To effectively monitor and evaluate maintenance activities, the City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will implement a system to track the performance and condition of the infrastructure. Key indicators, such as water quality and stormwater management effectiveness, will be monitored, with regular evaluations conducted to assess maintenance efforts and identify

areas for improvement. Results will be reported to stakeholders, including the community and funding agencies, to ensure transparency and accountability.

Addressing operations and maintenance challenges will involve several strategies. These include empowering citizens to maintain their personal property through educational materials, expanding maintenance programs for existing infrastructure, and integrating energy-saving measures and low-maintenance materials into repairs and replacements. The City will also expand monitoring networks for various environmental factors and enhance programs for stormwater treatment and water quality improvement. Additionally, they will evaluate the benefits and costs of dredging at various locations, informing citizens of decisions and proposing alternative solutions for flood management where necessary.

The Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Implementation Strategy is a continuation of a partnership between the City of Hampton, Old Dominion University, Hampton University, Wetlands Watch, and local community partners. In 2015, these partners explored design solutions in the Chesterfield Heights neighborhood of Norfolk, creating the seeds of what became the \$112 million dollar Ohio Creek Watershed Project. This collaborative process, called the Collaboratory, has been repeated throughout tidewater Virginia. The City of Hampton and Wetlands Watch will also leverage additional funding sources to support their projects. These include the Resilient and Innovative Neighbor (RAIN) Program, offering up to \$1,000 for rain garden installation and other green infrastructure. The Driveway Grant program assists residents with limited means to install driveways, while NFWF Small Watershed Grants support runoff management through green infrastructure practices. Other potential funding sources include the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant, which provides up to \$1,000,000 for tree planting projects to improve water quality, and Community Grants from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, which support environmental stewardship and wellness initiatives. The Community Flood Preparedness Fund could be applied to projects that reduce flood impacts, and the Renew America's Schools Program offers funding for upgrades that promote healthier learning environments. The Citizen Monitoring Grant allows for water quality assessments and educational opportunities, and the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund provides matching grants for water quality improvements and stream restoration. Federal grant programs include the Virginia Department of Health Lead Elimination Awareness Program, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program, and DOT Safe Streets for All, to which applications will be submitted.

Compliance Plan

Summary

In conjunction with the Community Development Department, the City's Finance Director, will ensure that the grant funds will be expended in a timely and effective manner. The City has a multi-layer internal control process to ensure that grants are managed to ensure program compliance. First grants are managed in a separate fund so that grant funds are not commingled with other city funding. Once the grant is awarded, it is appropriated by the City Council which triggers the Finance Department's ability to create a new grant in the Grants Fund. The grant budget is loaded in the same expenditure categories as those approved by the grant award.

Once the grant is created and the budget is loaded, the program managers and their designees are given access to the grant in the accounting system. No other departments or employees are granted access to post transactions against a grant. In addition to managing grants at the budgetary level, Departments are required to adhere to the City's procurement policy which requires a purchase order to be generated. Similar to expenses, purchase orders also require 3 levels of approval.

Community Change Grant Provisions

The Compliance Plan for the Community Change Grant, spearheaded by the City and supported by Wetlands Watch, is designed to ensure adherence to the grant's terms and conditions outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). It encompasses various regulatory requirements, including financial management under 2 CFR § 200.302(b), internal controls as per 2 CFR § 200.303, and pass-through entity responsibilities according to 2 CFR § 200.332. Additionally, it mandates compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act when applicable, along with adherence to the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) concerning labor and wages. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act for relevant projects and mandates the completion of Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) at least annually and as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The plan also underscores the importance of retaining financial records, supporting documents, and statistical records for a minimum of three years after the performance period concludes. Moreover, it ensures that assessment and reporting activities align with the Justice40 outcomes and objectives. Additionally, when the budget for any given year exceeds the \$750,000 expense threshold, the City will procure a Single Audit Report from an independent auditor to ensure financial accountability and transparency. Overall, this comprehensive Compliance Plan aims to uphold regulatory standards, promote transparency, and facilitate effective monitoring and reporting of grant activities.

Internal Controls

Key internal control mechanisms used to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and integrity of financial processes are presented below.

Segregation of Duties: Different individuals are responsible for various tasks within the financial processes, such as approving invoices, entering data into New World, reconciling bank statements, and authorizing payments. This segregation process helps prevent errors and fraud by requiring multiple individuals to complete critical steps in each process. For example, all purchase orders and invoices have a final approval by the Finance Department's procurement and general accounting team.

Authorization and Approval: All financial transactions, including purchases, payroll changes, credit card usage, and check payments, require appropriate authorization and approval from designated personnel. **Documentation and Recordkeeping:** Adequate documentation is required for each financial transaction, such as purchase orders, packing slips, invoices, Payment Authorization Forms (PAFs), and receipts. All expense documentation is maintained in the City's record keeping system, LaserFiche. Proper recordkeeping ensures transparency, accountability, and easy auditability of financial activities.

Physical Controls: Physical controls, such as dual signatures for all checks (Authorized signers include the City Treasurer and Finance Director). Check stock is maintained in a locked room with limited access. These controls reduce the risk of theft or misuse of organizational funds.

Reconciliation and Review: The City's Treasurer performs monthly bank reconciliations. Credit card statements and transactions are reviewed and reconciled monthly. The City's accounting system automatically disburses payments for all invoices that are past due or due 2 weeks in the future, eliminating the risk of unpaid invoices. Invoice batches are also monitored daily.

Budgetary Controls: The City's budget is prepared collaboratively and approved by the City Council in advance of each fiscal year. System controls are in place to ensure that budgetary compliance is maintained. The Budget Division, a function of the City Manager's office, also monitoring actual expenditures against budgeted amounts helps identify variances and ensures financial resources are allocated effectively and in accordance with organizational priorities.

Compliance Monitoring: Compliance with internal policies and external regulations is monitored through various processes, such as ensuring payables are kept at 30 days or less, using credit cards for authorized expenditures only, and maintaining documentation as required by grantors or contracts.

Training and Awareness: Employees involved in financial processes receive appropriate training and guidance to understand their roles and responsibilities. Clear policies and procedures are communicated to ensure adherence to internal controls and foster a culture of accountability and integrity.

Procurement Policy

The City's Procurement Policy is designed to ensure fairness, efficiency, and compliance with applicable regulations. The policy aims to procure supplies, services, and construction efficiently and at the most favorable prices while promoting competition and maintaining integrity in the procurement process. Key elements of the policy include the establishment of procurement standards compliant with relevant regulations, including 2 CFR 200.318-200.326. The policy applies to all procurement activities undertaken by the City, ensuring consistency and adherence to established guidelines.

Procurement authority and administration are decentralized for purchases under \$10,000. All purchase orders issued at the individual department level are required to have two (2) or three (3) quotes based on the amount of the purchase. All purchases \$10,000 and over are centralized in the Consolidated Procurement department. Purchase orders \$10,000 or over are approved by the Chief Procurement Officer or designee. The Chief Procurement Officer or designee issues operational procedures to implement the policy, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and

compliance with regulations. The policy outlines various procurement methods based on the nature and value of goods or services, including small purchase procedures for amounts under \$30,000 and sealed bids for amounts \$30,000 and over. Small purchase procedure requires competition (at least two (2) quotes) on all purchases where a purchase order is issued. Procedures for soliciting bids, evaluating proposals, and awarding contracts are clearly defined to ensure transparency and fairness in the procurement process.

Ethical considerations, conflict of interest guidelines, and prohibitions against gratuities, kickbacks, and contingent fees are outlined to prevent unethical conduct and ensure integrity in contracting. Competition is sought, no matter the amount of the purchase.

Further, Procurement Policy outlines the criteria for selecting responsible contractors and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations. Before awarding a contract, the City determines if the contractor is a responsive and responsible bidder. If a prospective contractor is found to be irresponsible or unresponsive, a written determination is prepared and included in the contract file, and the contractor is informed of the reasons for the determination pursuant to the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

The City is prohibited from contracting with parties that are federally suspended or debarred, or whose principals are suspended or disbarred. To ensure compliance, the City verifies the status of the contractor utilizing the SAM.gov and Virginia debarment list on the Electronic Virginia (“eVA”) website. The buyer is responsible for reviewing the list and documenting compliance in the contract folder. Interested businesses have the opportunity to be notified of the solicitation via Electronic Virginia (eVA), the Commonwealth of Virginia’s procurement website. All vendors who are self-registered for the NIGP code being utilized will automatically receive notice of the solicitation via the eVA system. The solicitation is also posted on the eVA website and www.hampton.gov/bids as well as publication in two local newspapers. This ensures a competitive environment and notification of the solicitation to the public. All solicitations including construction are awarded on a fixed price and certain methods such as cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost and percentage of construction costs are not utilized. Contracts include clauses defining the rights and responsibilities of the parties and may include options for additional quantities or performance periods, provided they meet specific criteria.

Contract administration is essential to ensure contractors perform in accordance with their contracts. Operational procedures contain guidelines for inspecting supplies, services, or construction contracts, and costs are allowable only if consistent with the cost principles outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 31.2. Additionally, contracts include clauses required by federal statutes, executive orders, and their implementing regulations.

Cash Management Policy and Procedures For Federal Grants and Contracts

The City receives external funding from grants, with the largest funding source being the State of Virginia, which includes Federal Government pass-through grants. As a policy, the City does not request advance payment on grants. If advance payments are provided (ex: American Rescue Plan monies), they are accounted for as an unearned revenue liability until expenses are generated. For reimbursement requests, we always complete a review and reconciliation of grant activity for the time intervals required by the grant. For example, we complete quarterly SF-425 reports for many of our grants, prior to requesting reimbursement. The SF-425 reports are reviewed and approved by the Finance Director. The process ensures compliance with Federal regulations, including those from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The

requirements for cash management are contained in OMB's 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards § 200.305 Payment.

The City routinely procures an auditor to develop a Single Audit Report, and that report is included in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Over the last three years, no significant findings have been identified.

Allowability of Costs – Federal Programs

The City's Procurement Policy emphasizes the necessity for aligning expenditures with approved budgeted items and grants. Any deviations from the approved budget and grant application require prior approval from the state. The Community Development Department Director plays a crucial role in reviewing proposed costs submitted via a Financial Reimbursement Request Memo to ensure they are allowable uses of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on goods or services.

All costs incurred must meet the standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, which includes general guidelines and specific rules for various types of items. When determining the allowability of costs, factors such as necessity, reasonableness, allocability, consistency, and conformity to limitations or exclusions set forth in Part 200 or the terms and conditions of the federal award must be considered. Additionally, costs must be adequately documented and calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), with assistance from the City's Finance Department.

Costs must also be necessary for the proper and efficient performance of the federal award program, as demonstrated by their alignment with identified needs, program goals, and objectives. Allocability to the federal award is essential, meaning that the goods or services involved must be chargeable or assignable to the federal award based on the relative benefit received. Furthermore, costs must be consistent with policies and procedures applied uniformly to both federally financed and other activities of the City.

Subpart E of Part 200 specifies principles for establishing the allowability of 55 specific cost items, commonly referred to as Selected Items of Cost. These principles apply whether a particular item of cost is treated as a direct cost or an indirect (F&A) cost. Personnel responsible for spending federal grant funds must be familiar with and refer to these selected items of the cost section to ensure compliance with allowability requirements.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: MAY 24 2006

WETLANDS WATCH INC
477 VIKING DR STE 170
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452-7356

Employer Identification Number:
54-2005763
DLN:
17053091870036
Contact Person:
SHAREN J LOCKLEAR ID# 31209
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated November 2001, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity, rather than as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period.

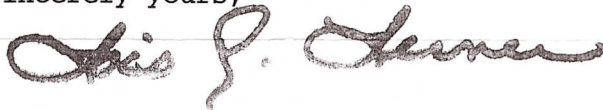
Based on the information you submitted, you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter. Since your exempt status was not under consideration, you continue to be classified as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at www.irs.gov.

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements