

Regional Coastal Resilience Grant – 2017 Community Projects

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- The NOAA Office of Coastal Management (OCM) awarded a 3-year grant to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance in 2016.
- There are funds in this award to support 10 community pilot projects (\$45,000 per award). Gulf Coast communities were given an opportunity to submit project ideas that address a resilience need or gap identified through a vulnerability assessment such as the Community Resilience Index, which is a popular self-assessment tool in the Gulf region.
- To date, 8 of the 10 community projects have been selected for funding. The list of communities and a brief description of their projects is included below:
 - New Port Richey, Florida: The city identified a need for new equipment to protect the city from flood events. They will use funds to purchase a new pump to help divert water from large retention areas and free other small pumps to help residents with smaller flooding issues.
 - City of Treasure Island, Florida: The city identified a need for adaptation planning to address future storm impacts to the barrier island community and sea level rise. Funds will be used to develop a manual for pre-storm preparation activities as well as a post-disaster recovery plan, develop contracts for storm debris monitoring and removal, and review and recommend development codes to address potential climate change impacts.
 - South Florida Regional Planning Council: This project will focus on Islamorada in the Florida Keys. The community identified a need for high resolution data to look at potential storm surge and sea level rise impacts. They will use LIDAR and storm surge data to redefine the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) for a category 1 storm at current sea levels and two future sea level scenarios. This information will be used to identify assets under current and future risk within the CHHA.
 - City of Ocean Springs, Mississippi: The need for continuity planning rose to the top of the city's Community Resilience Index conversations. Ocean Springs will use funds to support the development of a business continuity plan. They will work with the local Chamber of Commerce to identify standards for business continuity plans and will offer competitive grants to local businesses to share the cost of preparing the plans.
 - Covington, Louisiana: The City of Covington identified a need to accurately notify residents of flash flood events and education them about appropriate flash flood responses. The city will use funds to create a flood preparation and response plan, complete an emergency response exercise based on the plan, provide education materials to residents, and host a workshop to share lessons-learned with neighboring communities. Louisiana Sea Grant and the local CRS users group (FLOAT) are identified as key partners.

- South Padre Island, Texas: The city's vulnerability assessment process identified a need to increase public access to new ecotourism sites, expand public education programming, and convert low-lying vulnerable lands to conservation areas. The city will use grant funds to develop a Master Plan to help identify and preserve aquatic habitats (such as wetlands and mangroves) that provide protection from sea level rise and storm surge.
 - Rockport, Texas: Funds will be used to support the development of a county-wide multi-jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI) plan, which is one of the many activities credited by FEMA's Community Rating System program. Coordinated, county-wide communication was identified as a weakness in the city's Community Resilience Assessment. The City will partner with Texas Sea Grant and Mission-Aransas NERR on this project.
 - Aransas County, Texas: Aransas County would like to participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program. This was identified as a primary opportunity to enhance resilience in the county's Community Resilience Index conversations. Funds will be used to hire support to help collect documentation, assess plans and ordinances, complete the CRS Quick Check, and other activities needed to complete and submit a CRS application. The county will also work with partners at Texas Sea Grant and Mission-Aransas NERR.
- The Coastal Alabama awards are being solicited until June 21, 2017.
http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Alabama-RFP-Only_FINAL.pdf