

Call for Climate Resilience Partners

The City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability is creating a **Citywide Community Resilience Plan**—a roadmap to help Philadelphia and its residents prepare for and respond to climate impacts such as hotter summers, increased flooding, and stronger storms. This plan will guide future policies and programs, identify funding opportunities, shape neighborhood-level resilience strategies, and influence city decision-making.

This plan will center on **community-level impacts**. To ensure the plan is shaped by those most affected, the City is seeking **18 community-based organizations** (one from each planning district) to participate. Their leadership and insight will be central to the success of this plan, as we recognize that this cannot happen without you all.

Call release date:	July 25, 2025
Questions due: <i>Please refer to the Frequently asked Questions document prior to question submission</i>	August 15, 2025
Answers posted:	August 22, 2025
Application due:	September 3, 2025
Applicant Notification:	September 15, 2025
Kick-off Meeting:	September 29, 2025
Program Term:	September 2025 - July 2026

Each selected organization will be considered a **Climate Resilience Partner**, and will nominate a **Partner Ambassador**, who will serve as the main participant and point of contact for a **10-month Climate Resilience Partner Program**. The selected Partner organization will receive funding, and the Ambassador must either be an employee of the organization or be compensated for their time by the organization for acting in this capacity.

Philadelphia is especially vulnerable to climate impacts due to its location, history of development, and high poverty rates. Flooding is a major concern, as the city sits between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers and experiences severe storms and hurricanes. Rising temperatures and the urban heat island effect increase health risks, particularly in underserved, densely populated areas. These challenges highlight the need for a strong, coordinated climate resilience strategy. Partner Organizations that work directly with communities most impacted by climate change are essential to developing meaningful, locally grounded solutions.

Project Overview

Climate Resilience Partner program runs for approximately **10 months***

Climate Resilience Partner organizations will receive **\$10,000**

Additional program benefits will include:

- Connection to additional resources and networking with resource providers.
- Opportunities to bring forward community-specific resilience concerns and issues to City leadership
- Participation in training sessions such as Climate Change 101 and professional facilitation training, provided by Creative Praxis.
- Co-create a resilience toolkit to be shared with the community.
- Be directly involved in the drafting of the city's resilience plan, which will inform policy and programs.
- Connect with other community-based organizations and the Office of Sustainability.
- Increase community connections and breadth of community knowledge.
- Workforce development, networking, and resume-building opportunities.

* The work described in this Call for Climate Resilience Partners is considered phase one of this project. Some frontline communities will receive a six-month extension for the phase two Ambassador program. These communities will be determined during phase one. Additional compensation will be provided to phase two climate resilience Partners.

Key Definitions

Climate Resilience - Successfully coping with and managing the impacts of climate change while preventing those impacts from growing worse.

Climate Resilience Partner - A community-based organization based within a designated planning district.

Partner Ambassador - One designated person from the above Climate Resilience Partner organization.

Frontline Communities - The communities most vulnerable to and impacted by climate change (extreme heat, floodings, storms, etc).

Organizational Partner and Ambassador Responsibilities

Stage 1: Onboarding, training, and engagement design	Stage 2: Citywide engagement	Stage 3: Developing the toolkit	Stage 4: Sharing the toolkit
Sept-Dec 2025	Jan-April 2026	Mar-May 2026	June-July 2026
Attend and participate in regular meetings and training with the Ambassador cohort. Discuss key climate resilience and environmental justice concepts and terminology including key vulnerabilities and tools available for mitigation and adaptation. Coordinate with other organizations and/or community leaders within the planning district. Bring forward climate resilience issues and concerns. Collaborate on developing community workshops to focus on community-level impacts.	Share information, resources, and promote events. Organize and lead community workshops (in-person & virtual) for your designated planning district. - <u>Identify</u> venue & recommend local food options - <u>Recruit</u> workshop participants - <u>Provide information</u> about accessibility needs of residents (e.g., translation and accessibility) - <u>Lead</u> the workshop with presentations and tools developed in phase 1. Support adjacent planning district workshops as needed.	Participate in workshops to develop the Climate Resilience Toolkit, and training on how to use it. Co-create a Climate Resilience Toolkit based on knowledge gained from citywide engagement. Provide ideas for potential resilience projects in your community.	Guide draft recommendations in the Citywide Climate Resilience Plan Share and promote the Climate Resilience Toolkit with others Provide input on the selection of 6 frontline communities to focus on in a phase two Ambassador program.

The Climate Resilience Partners and Partner Ambassadors will work closely with the Project Team throughout the process. The project team includes The Office of Sustainability, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, Hinge Collective (engagement & planning partner), Creative Praxis (facilitation & training partner), and AKRF (engineering partner), and more.

Climate Resilience Partner Organization Eligibility

- A community-based organization with a service boundary located within Philadelphia and works with Philadelphia residents.
- An organization with the ability to reach the most vulnerable communities in the planning district. These are communities most impacted by climate change (extreme heat, floodings, storms etc).

- An organization that can nominate a member of its staff to serve as a Partner Ambassador and commit to supporting the Ambassador's involvement throughout the 10-month program.
- An organization that is interested in participating in the development and implementation of the Community Resilience Plan recommendations
- An organization that is an incorporated legal entity.
- Ineligible applicants to the Climate Resilience Partner Program include organizations that conduct lobbying, political organizations, and individuals. This funding cannot be used for lobbying or to influence elections.

Equity focus

To promote equitable engagement, a focus on working with communities that have historically been excluded from planning discussions is essential. The City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability will prioritize community-based organizations that are led by, made up of, or collaborate with communities such as racial or ethnic minorities, foreign-born individuals, those with limited English skills, low-income households, LGBTQ+ persons, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, like those impacted by the criminal justice system or experiencing homelessness.

Partner Ambassador Qualifications

One dedicated Ambassador from each Climate Resilience Partner will serve as the main participant and point of contact for this program. Ambassadors should have:

- Affiliation with a community-based organization supporting (or interested in supporting) resilience in their community.
- Ability to attend and participate in both virtual and in-person meetings throughout the program (see schedule for dates)
- Expertise in organizing, engaging, and communicating effectively with the planning district served.
- General understanding of environmental and climate justice topics as they relate to their community.
- Ability to represent and understand perspectives beyond their own.
- Where applicable, Ambassador or Partner organizations should be able to perform or facilitate language translations for both written documents and during meetings.

Applicants will be selected based on the following components

- **Climate Resilience Needs:** Priority will be given to community-based organizations serving vulnerable populations and areas with greater climate resilience needs within the planning district.
- **Leadership and Community Organizing Skills:** Applicants should demonstrate strong skills in community engagement, collaboration, outreach, public communication, and meeting facilitation.
- **Community Relationships, Representation, and Equity:** Applicants should demonstrate deep, trusted relationships within their existing communities and a commitment to building new connections across the planning district. Strong candidates will show their ability to represent and engage with a wide range of perspectives, needs, and lived experiences, including those of historically marginalized communities such as minorities, immigrant communities, low-income households, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities. These communities have not only been

excluded from past planning processes but are also among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Applicants should demonstrate experience in inclusive engagement and community-based decision-making that centers equity and accessibility.

- **Responsiveness to Community Needs:** Should demonstrate the ability to address and respond effectively to the needs of the community in adaptable, creative, and mission-driven ways. The organization's founding purpose and ongoing work should reflect a dedication to meaningful change, demonstrated through the impact they've had over time.
- **Capacity:** Applicants should demonstrate the capacity to handle this role, engaging with an entire planning district.

Philadelphia Planning Districts

To determine what planning district you are located in, you can view a map here:

<https://tinyurl.com/PhilaPlanningDistricts>. Select a district and click 'more info' to be directed to a detailed boundary map including street names and landmarks.

