

**Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County  
Request for Qualifications and Information  
Consulting Services**

**Responses Due November 22, 2022**

**1. Statement of Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Request for Qualifications and Information (RFQ-I) is to obtain information from qualified companies and organizations that provide consulting services to establish local climate resilience and mitigation action strategies that will support flood control, ecosystem resilience, shoreline protection, structural resilience, energy resilience, and other community-based project and programs.
- 1.2 This RFQ-I is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a Request for Proposals (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. Organizations are hereby advised that the Authority will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFQ-I. All costs associated with responding to this RFQ-I will be solely at the organization's expense.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In July 2021 Anne Arundel County and Annapolis, MD passed legislation to establish the Country's first multi-jurisdictional climate resilience financing authority. The Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County will finance projects that support resilience efforts within the County and the City. The Authority's investments and activities will support those projects that directly mitigate climate threats including sea level rise, storm events, and excessive heat, among others.

**3. Proposed Solutions and Approach**

- 3.1 The Authority is seeking innovative approaches to establishing a resilience project portfolio and implementation decision-making process that will advance and incentivize activities across four key themes: transportation resilience (including nature-based solutions to road flooding); shoreline protection on public and private lands; public and private structural resilience; and energy resilience.

The Authority is seeking information regarding specific solutions-oriented project implementation processes including:

- **Establishing a process for continually assessing the risk and vulnerability of local and regional assets to the impacts of climate hazards, including but not limited to flooding, sea level rise, extreme temperatures, and drought.** Though the Authority is not a planning agency, it will work in direct partnership with City and County planning,

public works, and emergency management agencies to identify the most vulnerable infrastructure assets and develop action strategies to mitigate those impacts. A sustainable and dynamic vulnerability assessment process will be essential for guiding long-term investments. Respondents should describe options for how the Authority, in partnership with the City and the County, can economically, efficiently, and sustainably evaluate community risks and vulnerabilities regarding key climate hazards.

- **Creating a resilience project portfolio that protects and enhances the community's critical economic, environmental, and social infrastructure assets.** The Authority will prioritize action and investment within key project and asset categories, including but not necessarily limited to:

*Civic infrastructure, including roads and transportation networks.* Protecting critical assets and civic infrastructure systems will be a primary function of the Authority. This will include mitigating climate impacts on road and transportation infrastructure. More specifically, the project portfolio should include nature-based solutions for mitigating the impacts of systemic flooding catastrophic storm events on vulnerable road networks.

*Shoreline protection.* Anne Arundel County and Annapolis contains more than 500 miles of tidal coastline, thereby making the community uniquely vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise, storm surge, and tidal flooding. The Authority will invest in nature-based solutions that address the most vulnerable shoreline communities and environmental assets.

*Resilience of buildings and structures.* Climate change will affect virtually every aspect of human life, including the buildings where citizens live and work. Climate change will continue to fundamentally alter the environmental conditions in which buildings are designed to function, and the impacts will be acute in coastal communities like Anne Arundel County and Annapolis. The Resilience Authority will invest in projects that improve the resilience of both public and private structures to withstand key climate impacts including flooding, heat, and storm events.

*Resilient energy systems.* The Authority will work in partnership with the County and the City to accelerate the transition to renewable energy across the region. In addition, specific focus and investment will include insuring a reliable and resilient energy system, specifically in the most economically challenged communities. The resilience authority will invest in projects County and City wide that effectively incorporate energy resilience into a broader environmental and civic infrastructure project portfolio.

Respondents should describe how a project portfolio can and should incorporate projects within each of these asset categories. Proposed processes should include a description of how potential projects would be identified, prioritized, and evaluated for implementation. In addition, respondents should describe past experiences and examples of how other jurisdictions across the region and the country have addressed

similar issues. Finally, respondents should describe how it will work in partnership with the Authority to effectively engage Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis staff in developing solutions to resilience needs in the future.

- **Designing and implementing a project selection decision-making process.** It is anticipated that the project portfolio development process will be implemented in two phases. First, the Authority will work with City and County leaders to identify high-priority projects within each of the four asset categories to be implemented in the short-term. Second, the Authority will create a project portfolio development process that will continually assess threats, hazards, and opportunities regarding potential projects in the future. To that end, respondents should describe the potential structure and components of a resilience project decision-making system including but not limited to: project selection and prioritization based on changing climate hazards and ongoing vulnerability analysis; the connection to City and County planning and implementation priorities; potential funding opportunities; the anticipated scale and impact of the project; the expedience and timing of implementation; and, the impact on environmental justice, equity, and traditionally disenfranchised communities.

#### 4. Instructions for Responding

- 4.1 Organizations that are responding to this RFQ-I are requested to email their written responses by November 22, 2022, 2:00PM to Dan Nees, Interim Director, at [dan@throwe-environmental.com](mailto:dan@throwe-environmental.com).
- 4.2 As with any system, power outages or technology problems may arise that are outside the Resilience Authority's control and could impact proposal submission. The Resilience Authority will not be held accountable for such issues that may delay transmission of any submittal.

#### 5. Inquiries

- 5.1 All correspondence and questions related to the RFQ-I should be directed in writing to Dan Nees, Interim Director, at [dan@throwe-environmental.com](mailto:dan@throwe-environmental.com). All written questions must be submitted five working days prior to the due date of November 22, 2022 at 2:00PM.