

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program – Guidance for Land Trusts

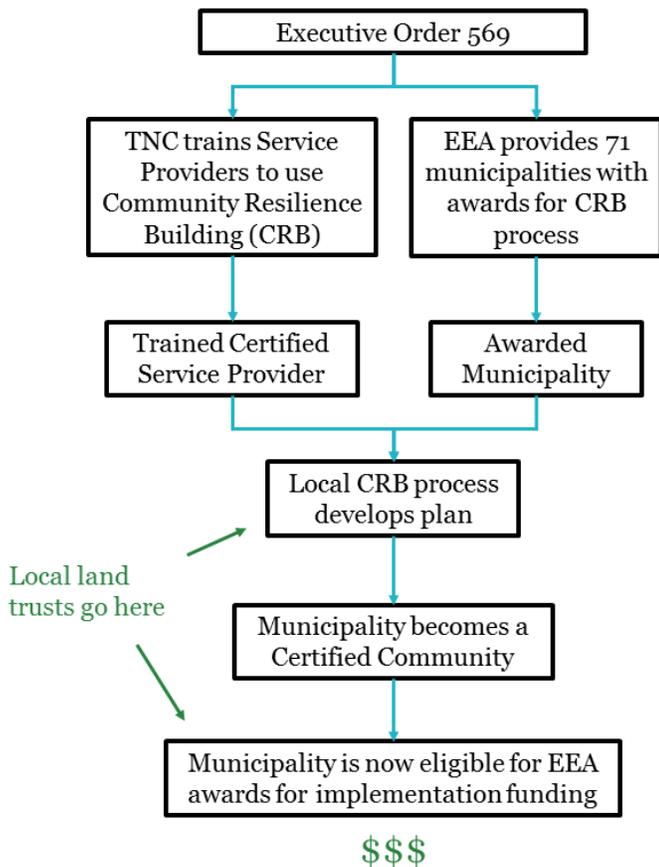
Nature-Based Solutions incorporate natural systems and features, mimic natural processes, and/or work in tandem with gray infrastructure to mitigate damage from natural hazards like *flooding, erosion, drought, and heat islands*. Almost everything a local conservation organization does can be categorized as a nature-based solution. For more information, as well as case studies and examples, visit the *Naturally Resilient Communities* page at nrnsolutions.org.

Background

In September 2016 Governor Baker established the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) through Executive Order 569 and it has already awarded over \$1 million in funding to 20% of the municipalities in the Commonwealth to undergo a stakeholder-based planning process called **Community Resilience Building (CRB)**. Through CRB, in each community a core team performs a climate change vulnerability assessment and designs an adaptation/resiliency plan with the help of a larger advisory team over the course of two workshops led by trained service providers. *Communities that develop plans through CRB receive favorable consideration for state conservation funding.*

There are four components of the MVP program in which local land trust involvement provides opportunities (below) to participate in the process and promote nature-based solutions.

The back of this document contains a list and map of MVP communities. We strongly encourage reaching out to your municipal officials (planning, conservation, health and safety) and becoming involved in the process.



Suggestions for Community Involvement

- (i) **CRB workshop planning:** Local conservation groups know best what a community's natural assets for and vulnerabilities to climate change-associated risks are, and what actions need to be taken to improve their resilience. Joining a municipality's core team is the best way to ensure that nature-based solutions will be emphasized in the planning process, but joining an advisory team can help too.
- (ii) **CRB workshop attendance:** The two workshops will comprise up to 40-50 people and contain a breakout sessions in which groups of 6-8 people come up with adaptation priorities that will be reconciled to create a summary to guide the post-workshop planning process. Therefore, local groups should provide a minimum of 5 attendees to ensure adequate environmental stakeholder representation.
- (iii) **Implementation process:** Undertaking CRB workshops gives municipalities favorable consideration for various sources of EEA funding. Land trusts can help municipalities apply for funding and implement their nature-based solutions, and so should emphasize collaboration beyond the workshops.
- (iv) **Recruit and sign-up:** If your community has not already signed up, please encourage them to do so for subsequent MVP grant awards.

