

## **Definitions**

### *Resilience*

Resilience refers to the capacity of a community to prevent, withstand, respond to and recover from extreme weather events. This includes plans, approaches and resources that help communities mitigate and adapt to issues of climate change by integrating economic, social, and environmental aspects of resilience building and prioritizing racial equity as a necessary outcome.

### *Influence Building*

Defined as an organization, its associated leadership, and its target community's ability to create and advance policies, plans and initiatives that benefit the community they serve.

### *Community Education*

Community education includes all organization-led and partnership initiatives to educate residents about climate change, what it means to be a resilient community, and how that is related to challenges and issues your community is facing. Education activities should educate residents about your project and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the climate resilience work in your community as it relates to your PRC project and more broadly. Community education actions can include but not be limited to: community meetings, design workshops, town halls, presentations, the development and dissemination of promotional materials, and collateral, etc.

### *Infrastructure Improvements*

We are seeking organizations that will develop and maintain accessible, quality infrastructure improvements on public spaces and on private property to the degree there is a broader community benefit as a result of such improvements and the improvements are made available for teaching and education opportunities and to highlight the work of the PRC.. Examples include the installation of green stormwater infrastructure (reuse and to mitigate flooding), clean energy and other renewable energy solutions. Beautification investments are allowed to compliment resilience infrastructure. Examples of spaces and structures include, but are not limited to: parks and open space, vacant land, community centers and faith-based institutions.

### *Leadership of Color*

This RFP defines leadership of color as an organization where at least 50percent of the leaders and staff with decision-making power are people of color that are representative of the community being served. For our purposes, leadership of color includes a mix of individuals serving as Board Members, Executive Director, CEO, and Department Heads (i.e., Communications, Finance, Programming).

### *Racial Equity*

Racial equity describes (1) an outcome that is achieved when race is no longer a predictor of climate risk, community vulnerability, health disparities, economic outcomes and access, and barriers to employment and education and other quality of life indicators; and (2) a process that

ensures those most impacted  
by structural racism have full access to and involvement in the planning and implementation of

community projects, institutional policies, and environmental practices that impact their lives. A racially equitable process also works toward long-term sustainability grounded by a community that can fully participate in and benefit from the economic, educational and employment opportunities of the new green economy.

### *Community-Based Organizations*

Non-profit organizations that are either 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3) and that are working on equitable community develop and that committed to improving the climate resilience and driving racial equity in their local, urban community. The organization should be based in the community-served and have strong connections with local residents, other community organizations, small locally owned businesses and other community stakeholders. Its leadership and staff should include residents of said community and/or have deep connection to and experience with like communities in other urban settings. Additionally, local residents should be involved in identifying priorities, implementing projects, and evaluating results for the organization.

### *Economic Opportunity*

Economic opportunity refers to a PRC project that fosters the ability of residents and others that meet the similar demographic of neighborhood residents and community stakeholders to access the educational, employment and financial resources needed (1) to attain individual economic stability and mobility, and (2) sustain the economic health and power of their local community. Examples of economic opportunity strategies include, but are not limited to: high quality job training that leads to employment opportunities, procurement and contracting activities, education about job and training opportunities in the “climate, sustainability, environmental” sectors, etc.

### *Gentrification*

We define gentrification as a process of development that focuses on creating housing, commercial and mixed-use properties that serve wealthy residents from outside of the community, while simultaneously pushing out or displacing longtime residents due to unaffordability, lack of access and discrimination. (See: displacement definition)

### *Displacement*

Displacement occurs when any household is forced to move from its residence or unable to move into a residence due to changes in conditions to their housing or neighborhood that are outside of their control. It also includes “optional displacement” - which describes conditions where residents choose to move in order to access quality education and a safer residence that doesn’t exist in their current community. These conditions can include changes associated with gentrification such as increased housing costs and rising area median income. (See: gentrification definition)

### *Capacity-Building*

Capacity-building includes the support ISC will provide to strengthen partner organizations

and their leaderships' ability to catalyze sustainable, urban climate resilience strategies.  
Under this grant,

capacity-building includes financial support, strategic and technical assistance, peer-learning and networking, and other needed resources as determined by the PRC partner and ISC.

### *Cultural Competence*

Cultural competence is a framework used to build trust, respect, diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice through an acknowledgement and understanding of cultural differences. We understand that cultural competence requires co-learning with and from the communities in which we work, introspection, critical self-reflection, and humility in that we do not have all of the answers.

Cultural competence does not assume that culture is monolithic, but rather encourages a life-long process of growth and learning through power-balanced relationships that ensure the voices, experiences, and needs of historically marginalized people are met.

## **RFP Informational Webinar**

An informational webinar on the Partnership for Resilient Communities RFP will be held on July 2, 2019 at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. This webinar is an opportunity to learn more about the Partnership for Resilient Communities and key elements of the RFP, and ask questions during our interactive Q&A. The webinar is capped at 1,000 registrants. We encourage participants to register and login to the webinar early, and watch together with colleagues, if possible. A recording of the webinar will be sent to all registrants. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

## **For Additional Information**

Any questions regarding this request for proposals and the Partnership for Resilient Communities will be answered after our informational webinar on July 2nd. After the webinar please contact Camille Johnson at [cjohnson@sustain.org](mailto:cjohnson@sustain.org) for additional information or questions.