

INCREASING CLIMATE EQUITY WITH A “WHOLE COMMUNITY” APPROACH



- The RAFT: Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool
- Community in the driver's seat; community-driven strategies
- Adapt support to each locality's needs
- No cost to locality (funded by grants)
- 2015 – present; a 3-university partnership

THE RAFT FUNDING

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Virginia Department of Environmental
Quality Coastal Zone Management Program

Jessie Ball duPont Fund (Middle Peninsula &
Northern Neck)

Anonymous funder (E. Shore)

Agua Fund

General staff funding:

- Virginia Sea Grant
- Commonwealth Center for Recurrent
Flooding Resiliency

Virginia
Environmental
Endowment



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

JESSIE BALL
DU PONT
FUND

THE RAFT – PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

2015-16 Research, development of The RAFT

2017-18 3 Pilot Localities (Town, City, County)

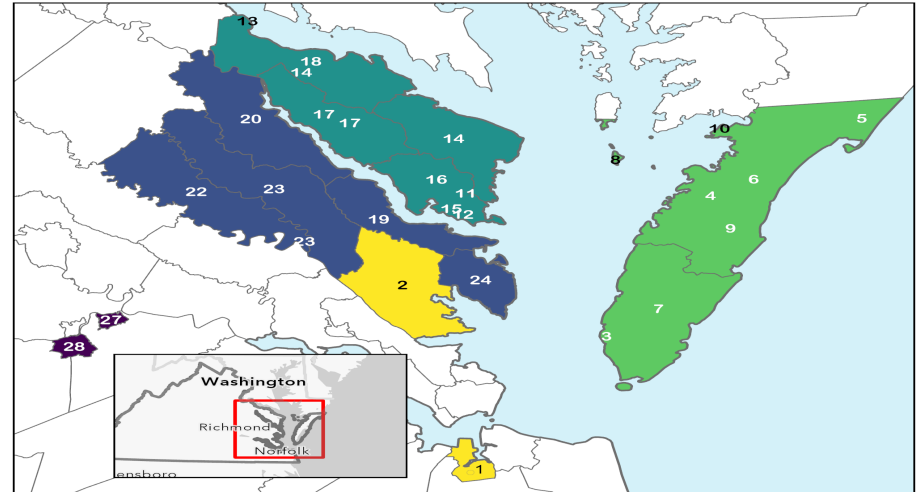
2018-19 Eastern Shore of Virginia – 7 localities

2019-21 Northern Neck – 8 localities

2022-23 Middle Peninsula– 6 localities

➤ **2023-24:** Hopewell and Petersburg

➤ **2024-25:** Southwestern Communities + Virginia Tribes - *Revising the Scorecard*



THE RAFT PROCESS

3 Step Process – A total of 18 months of support:

1. QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- RAFT Resilience Scorecard
- Interviews & Focus Groups with Community Service Providers

2. SETTING PRIORITIES

- Resilience Action Workshop, with Locality Opportunity Lists
- 1-Yr Resilience Action Checklists
- Locality Implementation Teams

3. IMPLEMENTATION

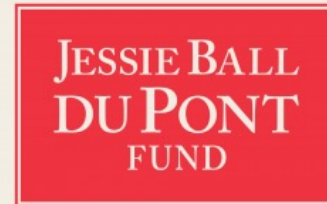
- One Year of Ongoing Support & Assistance
- Schedule & Facilitate Monthly IT Meetings



SUSTAINING COORDINATION: REGIONAL RESILIENCE EQUITY WORKGROUP

REGION

- **10 counties of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula**
- Approximately 30 (12 active) Core Workgroup members



GOAL

- Create a space where groups can collaborate and share info on the issue of resilience for the underserved and vulnerable; identify and resolve gaps

FORMATION

- Launched in January 2023
- Core Workgroup and 6 Subgroups



THE RAFT'S UNIQUE VALUE

Generates *community-wide discussion* about resilience and *common understanding* about risks

Builds a strong **network of support, access and resources** with state agencies, university expertise, NGOs, and service providers

Transcends silos of resilience, locally and regionally, bringing together groups that address different aspects of resilience but have never worked together

Offers the only **structured long-term process for community-based and community-driven holistic resilience planning** in Virginia

Focus on equity throughout the Scorecard, qualitative assessment and year of implementation work

THE RAFT'S FUNDING NEEDS

Regional RAFT work with localities - HRPDC rural & underserved localities

Expansion of the RAFT into SW VA

Continued support for RAFT alumni localities

For all of the above, micro- and mini-grants

General endowment and operational funds

We are totally reliant upon our funders.

The more funding we have, the more communities we can assist and support!

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