

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Core Principles



The MVP program has 10 core principles that should be incorporated into MVP Action Grant Applications. Communities should also consider these principles when completing the Planning Grant process. They are:

1. **[Furthering a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts:](#)** Projects funded under this program must address one (or more) priority implementation action(s) identified by the community and documented within the municipality's MVP plan or similar EEA-approved plan.
2. **[Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice \(EJ\) and other priority populations and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability:](#)** Projects funded under this program that increase climate resiliency for Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations and take steps to address the root causes of inequity will be prioritized. Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations are defined in the [2021 EJ Policy](#). Other priority populations are people or communities in addition to mapped EJ populations who may be disproportionately impacted by climate change due to life circumstances that systematically increase their exposure to climate hazards or make it harder to respond. In addition to factors that contribute to EJ status (i.e., income, race, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health status and age shape whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected by climate change. Learn more in the [MVP EJ & Equity toolkit](#).
3. **[Building community capacity for climate resilience:](#)** Projects funded under this program should, where appropriate, include capacity building activities like fostering social and institutional relationships, integrating climate resilience thinking into other planning or policy projects, training community members on climate resilience and equity, or engaging students via new climate resilience curricula.
4. **[Conducting robust community engagement and supporting strong partnerships with EJ and other priority populations:](#)** All Action Grant projects are required to submit a Public Involvement and Community Engagement Plan as part of the application. The community liaison model or other partnership building activities with EJ and other priority populations are strongly encouraged. Learn more in the [MVP EJ & Equity toolkit](#). Tips for conducting virtual and remote engagement can be found [here](#).
5. **[Utilizing climate change data for a proactive solution:](#)** Projects funded under this program should incorporate climate change projections and data (where available). Climate projections should not only be considered for projects with physical assets, but also in planning or policy review, identifying sites for potential land acquisition, training community members in climate resilience and equity, etc. Quantitative climate data can be found on the Resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse resilientma.mass.gov, (which includes the [Resilient MA Maps and Data Center](#) and the [Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool](#)), and/or local-level climate change studies. MVP's definition of data also includes [Traditional Ecological Knowledge \(TEK\)](#) or other qualitative forms of data like storytelling, interviews, or audio-visual documentation.

6. **Employing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** NBS are adaptation measures focused on the protection, restoration, and/or management of ecological systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester carbon. Projects focused on NBS do not have to be strictly infrastructure or implementation-focused. NBS can be incorporated into policy review, regulatory processes, developing community trainings or school curricula, etc. More information on nature-based solutions can be found in the [MVP NBS toolkit](#).
7. **Achieving broad and multiple community benefits:** Projects that maximize climate resilience and provide other co-benefits (e.g., [public health](#), environmental, social, economic, etc.) for many people will receive priority.
8. **Committing to monitoring project success and maintaining the project into the future:** Projects that proactively set in place mechanisms to (1) measure success over time and (2) maintain the installation or process beyond the life of the grant will receive priority.
9. **Utilizing regional solutions for regional benefit:** Projects that provide regional climate resilience benefits are prioritized. Regional partnerships of multiple municipalities are eligible and encouraged under the program, provided that the lead applicant is MVP-designated.
10. **Pursuing innovative, transferable approaches:** Innovative projects that seek to address critical climate related issues with widespread relevance for many communities are encouraged. See MVP [Transferable Tools](#) information page for examples from other MVP action grants.