

# Appendix A: Application Form for Grant Requests for All Categories

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Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

**Name of Local Government:** Grayson County

**Category of Grant Being Applied for (check one):**

Capacity Building/Planning

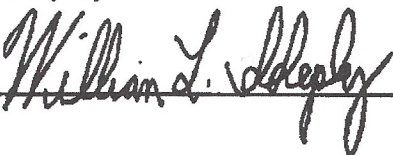
Project

Study

**NFIP/DCR Community Identification Number (CID):** 510243

**If a state or federally recognized Indian tribe, Name of tribe** N/A

**Name of Authorized Official:** William Shepley

**Signature of Authorized Official:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address (1):** 129 Davis Street

**City:** Independence    **State:** VA    **Zip:** 24348

**Telephone Number:** (276) 773-2471    **Cell Phone Number:** (276) 768-7968

**Email Address:** wshepley@graysoncountyva.gov

**Contact Person (if different from authorized official):** Paul Hoyle

**Mailing Address (1): 122 Davis Street**

**Mailing Address (2): PO Box 217**

**City: Independence State: VA Zip: 24348**

**Telephone Number: (276) 773-2471 x157 Cell Phone Number: (276) 768-6244**

**Email Address: phoyle@graysoncountyva.gov**

Is the proposal in this application intended to benefit a low-income geographic area as defined in the Part 1 Definitions? Yes  No

**Categories (select applicable project):**

**Project Grants (Check All that Apply)**

- Acquisition of property (or interests therein) and/or structures for purposes of allowing floodwater inundation, strategic retreat of existing land uses from areas vulnerable to flooding; the conservation or enhancement of natural flood resilience resources; or acquisition of structures, provided the acquired property will be protected in perpetuity from further development.
- Wetland restoration.
- Floodplain restoration.
- Construction of swales and settling ponds.
- Living shorelines and vegetated buffers.
- Structural floodwalls, levees, berms, flood gates, structural conveyances.
- Storm water system upgrades.
- Medium and large scale Low Impact Development (LID) in urban areas.
- Permanent conservation of undeveloped lands identified as having flood resilience value by *ConserveVirginia* Floodplain and Flooding Resilience layer or a similar data driven analytic tool.
- Dam restoration or removal.
- Stream bank restoration or stabilization.
- Restoration of floodplains to natural and beneficial function.
- Developing flood warning and response systems, which may include gauge installation, to notify residents of potential emergency flooding events.

### **Study Grants (Check All that Apply)**

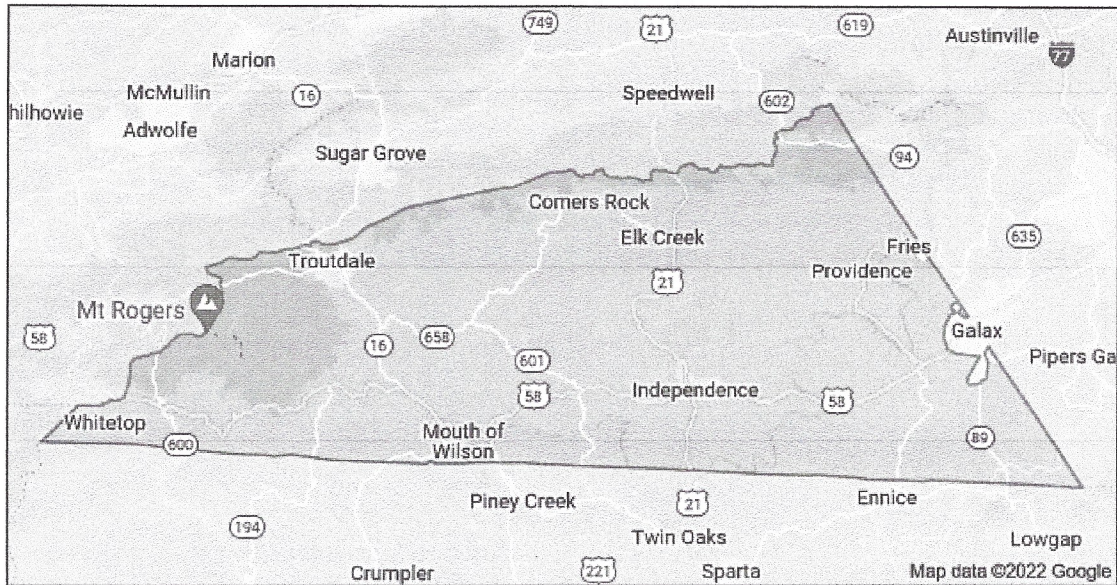
- Studies to aid in updating floodplain ordinances to maintain compliance with the NFIP or to incorporate higher standards that may reduce the risk of flood damage. This must include establishing processes for implementing the ordinance, including but not limited to, permitting, record retention, violations, and variances. This may include revising a floodplain ordinance when the community is getting new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), updating a floodplain ordinance to include floodplain setbacks or freeboard, or correcting issues identified in a Corrective Action Plan.
- Revising other land use ordinances to incorporate flood protection and mitigation goals, standards and practices.
- Conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains. Applicants who create new maps must apply for a Letter of Map Revision or a Physical Map Revision through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For example, a local government might conduct a hydrologic and hydraulic study for an area that had not been studied because the watershed is less than one square mile. Modeling the floodplain in an area that has numerous letters of map change that suggest the current map might not be fully accurate or doing a detailed flood study for an A Zone is another example.
- Studies and Data Collection of Statewide and Regional Significance.
- Revisions to existing resilience plans and modifications to existing comprehensive and hazard.
- Other relevant flood prevention and protection project or study.

### **Capacity Building and Planning Grants**

- Floodplain Staff Capacity.
- X Resilience Plan Development
  - Revisions to existing resilience plans and modifications to existing comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans.
  - Resource assessments, planning, strategies and development.
    - Policy management and/or development.
    - Stakeholder engagement and strategies.



**Location of Project (Include Maps): Grayson County**



**NFIP Community Identification Number (CID#): 510243**

**Is Project Located in an NFIP Participating Community?**     Yes     No

**Is Project Located in a Special Flood Hazard Area?**     Yes     No

**Flood Zone(s) (If Applicable):** As shown on applicable FIRM Panels covering Grayson County

Specific maps and data of Grayson Co. and incorporated areas may be found in the FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY NUMBER 51077CV000A, found at:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iH9cMkPCf31OIGoPOCFBYkJPEXVBxKOr/view?usp=sharing>

**Flood Insurance Rate Map Number(s) (If Applicable):** Multiple FIRM Panels cover Grayson County

**Total Cost of Project:** \$75,565

**Total Amount Requested** \$75,565



## Scope of Work Narrative – Capacity Building and Planning

1. The key resource needed by Grayson County at this time is technical assistance in developing a Resilience Plan as outlined by DCR, and certification of the County's Floodplain Manager. The Plan will help determine knowledge, skills and abilities of existing staff and identify any additional staff and/or resources needed. Grayson will collaborate with regional resources and/or seek external funding in order to meet specific needs that may not be available at the county level. The County Emergency Services Coordinator/Director, Public Service Authority will oversee any policy changes and capacity needs as outlined through the Plan. These two key elements will strengthen Grayson's prevention and response to flooding issues working in tandem with the County's integrated system of tracking and documenting disasters and the ability for FEMA to load relevant parcel zone data for quick reporting.

A link to the County Floodplain Ordinance can be found at this link:

[https://www.graysoncountyva.gov/state-of-virginia-tourism/flood\\_plain\\_ordinance/](https://www.graysoncountyva.gov/state-of-virginia-tourism/flood_plain_ordinance/) [click the box for the document to open]

The 2018 County Comprehensive Plan, <https://www.graysoncountyva.gov/comprehensive-plan1/>, references flooding as a major concern:

- Strategy 8.2: Conduct education and outreach to floodplain property owners.
- The plan discusses flash flooding as an expected hazard of the mountainous topography and abundance of streams, and discusses that, "Flooding has been identified as the number one hazard for Grayson County and is listed as such in the 2018 update." (p. 11-8, County Comprehensive Plan).
- Floodplain development is guided by the Grayson County Floodplain Ordinance as mandated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (p.11-8)

The 2018 Mount Rogers Hazard Mitigation Plan can be found at this link,

<https://mrpd.org/docs/2018%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Final%20Plan,%202002-06-19.pdf>

2. The overarching goal of the proposed project is for Grayson County to respond appropriately to existing repetitive flooding issues as well as identify and prevent potential flooding issues. The objectives are 1) to engage qualified technical assistance to develop a Resilience Plan encompassing required components as stated by DCR and 2) to provide certification of the County's Floodplain Manager. With these items in place, Grayson intends to implement the Plan and further increase capacity to respond and prevent flooding, and specifically, to apply for future DCR funding for construction of an improved stormwater drainage system in the vicinity of Fries Middle School.

3. The requested funding would be utilized to prepare a Flooding Resilience Plan and certify the County Floodplain Manager, benefitting the County and the incorporated municipalities within. Grayson County has been working with the Town of Fries, in particular, as recurrent flooding over several years has been identified at Fries Middle School. Flash flood damage

incidents have been recorded over several years including a period of four years in which the school was closed due to mold damage, with students transferred to other County schools.

4. Once funding is secured, Grayson will procure professional engineering services for a private firm to prepare the Flooding Resilience Plan and register the Floodplain Manager for certification training. The contract with the consultant would stipulate the timeframe for Plan development. It is anticipated that the required timeframe for plan development would be approximately 6-8 months. Grayson County desires to have the Plan and certification completed in sufficient time to identify and request construction funds for the highest priority need during DCR's 2023 construction funding application cycle.

5. Grayson County will engage the expertise of The Lane Group in developing the Resilience Plan. They have worked with Grayson on related projects and are familiar with the County and the region in addition to providing specific expertise for developing the Plan. The County will rely upon guidance from the Lane Group regarding the best pathway for CFM training and certification as well. We have done preliminary research through the VA and National Floodplain Manager Associations.

6. The expected result of the proposed project is a Resilience Plan as outlined by DCR and may include additional components as deemed necessary and/or relevant, and certification of the Floodplain Manager. Success will be measured by the development of said Plan and the certification process. Additional benefits will be capacity building of the County moving forward, and greater potential for funding to address identified flooding issues.

7. The County Emergency Services Coordinator/Director, Public Service Authority in conjunction with relevant partners, collaborators and consultants, will utilize the Plan as a guide in maintaining capacity going forward.

## **Budget Narrative - Required for All Grant Categories**

- ***Estimated total project cost:***

The total project cost of \$75,565 is composed of:

- The estimated cost of service for a private consultant to prepare the Grayson County Flooding Resilience Plan is \$75,000.
- The estimated cost of Floodplain Manager training and certification is \$565. The County will cover any travel related costs for certification.



- **Amount of funds requested from the Fund:** This is the total amount of any grant assistance sought from the Fund. Include a detailed breakdown of how this funding is proposed to be allocated. At a minimum this should include a breakdown of salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, construction, contracts and other direct costs. Please refer to the match requirements in Part II of this manual. For local governments designated as low-income geographic areas, 100 percent of the estimated total project costs should be included.

Grayson County is requesting a waiver of the 10% match, thereby requesting a total of \$75,565 from DCR for this project.

As Grayson requests a waiver of the full or partial match (as deemed appropriate by DCR), we provide the following context of the County, which includes the towns of Fries (population of 444) , Troutdale (163), and Independence (877). The population of Grayson County is 15,333. About 50% are ages 50 and older, with 24% being 65 and older, many of whom live alone in remote areas. The county's unemployment rate is 5.5% compared to the state average of 4%. Median family income for Grayson County is \$47,900, which is 58% of the median for Virginia, of \$81,947.

According to the 2018 Mt. Rogers Planning District Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Grayson has the lowest median income in the service area. In a comparison with state data, Kids Count (2018) indicates 27.5% of children live in poverty in Grayson County compared to 13.8% for Virginia, and 23% of children in Grayson experience child food insecurity compared to 12.5% for Virginia.

A 2020 DHCD Report on Local Vulnerability Analysis ranks Grayson County as third from the bottom in dependence on local tax revenue. Grayson joins Bland County and Galax City in highest percentage of residents working outside of the county/city, with each above 35 percent, which also contributes to decreased spending/revenue in the county of residence.

Within a larger context, the Economic Innovation Group provides a Distressed Communities Index (DCI) which examines economic well-being at the zip code level. With a Distressed Communities Index of 96.1, Grayson County ranks as a highly distressed area. The index looks at indicators such as percent obtaining a high school diploma, the poverty rate, median household income, employment, and housing vacancy. In a comparison with state data, Kids Count (2018) indicates 27.5% of children live in poverty in Grayson County compared to 13.8% for Virginia, and 23% of children in Grayson experience child food insecurity compared to 12.5% for Virginia.

As Va. Tech Economist, Dr. Sheryl Bailey shared, the pandemic delivered "deep blows to minorities, low-wage workers, women, and workers with less than college degree." Workers do not have skills for needed jobs, and workers with lower education are experiencing more impact of COVID. 21% of Grayson residents age 25+ have less than HS graduation compared to 13% in US, and 10.7% age 25+ have a bachelor's degree or more education compared to 30.3%



in US. Small and minority owned businesses are always more vulnerable: about 40% of Grayson's small businesses are owned by women.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) refers to a community's capacity to prepare for and respond to the stress of hazardous events ranging from natural disasters, such as tornadoes or disease outbreaks, to human caused threats, such as toxic chemical spills. The Index examines indicators of 1) socioeconomic status, 2) household composition & disability, 3) minority status and language, and 4) housing type and transportation. Index scores range from 0 (lowest vulnerability) to 1 (highest vulnerability). The Grayson County SVI score of .64 indicates a moderate to high level of vulnerability. Further breakdown of the score indicates that Grayson lies within the second highest tier of overall vulnerability, within the highest tier for socioeconomic status, the second highest tier for household composition/disability, the lowest tier for race/ethnicity/language, and the highest tier for housing/transportation.

Within the context of the recent county budget and particularly with the infusion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, County administration and the Board of Supervisors ranked their top priorities as 1) water and stormwater infrastructure, 2) emergency services, and 3) childcare.

Although the County has experienced repetitive flooding, attempts at addressing the issue have fallen short with lack of required foundational items to secure funding and meeting required match. Having a Resilience Plan in place and a Certified Floodplain Manager will provide the County with a good foundation to move forward. While we are requesting a waiver, Grayson understands and is willing to provide a reasonable match as deemed appropriate by DCR.

- ***Amount of cash funds available:*** This amount, when combined with the amount of funding requested from the Fund, must reflect the total estimated project cost to demonstrate that all necessary funding has been secured to complete the project. Include a description of the source of these funds and evidence of the applicant's ability to obtain these funds to complete the project.

While the County requests a full or partial waiver of the 10% match for Capacity Building and Planning Grants, Grayson County commits to paying the full 10% of the total estimated project cost, which would equate to \$7,556.

# Appendix D: Scoring Criteria for Capacity Building & Planning

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

<b>Applicant Name:</b>		<b>Grayson County</b>	
<b>Eligibility Information</b>			
Criterion	Description	Check One	
<b>1. Is the applicant a local government (including counties, cities, towns, municipal corporations, authorities, districts, commissions, or political subdivisions created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, or any combination of these)?</b>			
XX Yes	Eligible for consideration		
No	Not eligible for consideration		
<b>2. Does the local government have an approved resilience plan and has provided a copy or link to the plan with this application?</b>			
Yes	Eligible for consideration under all categories		
XX No	Eligible for consideration for studies, capacity building, and planning only		
<b>3. If the applicant is <u>not</u> a town, city, or county, are letters of support from all affected local governments included in this application?</b>			
Yes	Eligible for consideration		
No	Not eligible for consideration		
<b>4. Has this or any portion of this project been included in any application or program previously funded by the Department?</b>			
Yes	Not eligible for consideration		
XX No	Eligible for consideration		
<b>5. Has the applicant provided evidence of an ability to provide the required matching funds?</b>			
XX Yes	Eligible for consideration		
No	Not eligible for consideration		
N/A	Match not required		



Capacity Building and Planning Eligible for Consideration		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Applicant Name:	Grayson County		
Scoring Information			
Criterion	Point Value	Points Awarded	
<b>6. Eligible Capacity Building and Planning Activities (Select all that apply)</b>			
Revisions to existing resilience plans and modifications to existing comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans.	55		
Development of a new resilience plan. XX	55		
Resource assessments, planning, strategies and development.	45		
Policy management and/or development.	40		
Stakeholder engagement and strategies.	25		
Goal planning, implementation and evaluation.	25		
Long term maintenance strategy.	25		
Other proposals that will significantly improve protection from flooding on a statewide or regional basis.	15		
<b>7. Is the area within the local government to which the grant is targeted socially vulnerable? (Based on ADAPT VA's Social Vulnerability Index Score.)</b>			
Very High Social Vulnerability (More than 1.5)	15		
High Social Vulnerability (1.0 to 1.5)	12		
Moderate Social Vulnerability (0.0 to 1.0) XX	8		
Low Social Vulnerability (-1.0 to 0.0)	0		
Very Low Social Vulnerability (Less than -1.0)	0		
<b>8. Is the proposed activity part of an effort to join or remedy the community's probation or suspension from the NFIP?</b>			
Yes	10		
No XX	0		
<b>9. Is the proposed project in a low-income geographic area as defined in this manual?</b>			
Yes XX	10		
No	0		
<b>10. Does this project provide "community scale" benefits?</b>			
Yes XX	20		
No			
<b>Total Points</b>			



# Appendix D: Checklist All Categories

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

Scope of Work Narrative	
Supporting Documentation	Included
Detailed map of the project area(s) (Projects/Studies)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
FIRMette of the project area(s) (Projects/Studies)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Historic flood damage data and/or images (Projects/Studies)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
A link to or a copy of the current floodplain ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Non-Fund financed maintenance and management plan for project extending a minimum of 5 years from project close	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
A link to or a copy of the current hazard mitigation plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
A link to or a copy of the current comprehensive plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Social vulnerability index score(s) for the project area from <a href="#">ADAPT VA's Virginia Vulnerability Viewer</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
If applicant is not a town, city, or county, letters of support from affected communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Completed Scoring Criteria Sheet in Appendix B, C, or D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Budget Narrative	
Supporting Documentation	Included
Authorization to request funding from the Fund from governing body or chief executive of the local government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Signed pledge agreement from each contributing organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A



**Grayson County Chief Executive Officer**  
**William L. Shepley, County Administrator**

Phone (276) 773-2471  
(276) 236-8149  
Fax: (276) 773-3673

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129 Davis Street  
P.O. Box 217  
Independence, Virginia 24348

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Program

April 8, 2022

Re: Support Letter – DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with DCR's requirement of a 10% match for Planning and Capacity Building Grants, the sum of \$7,556 is hereby authorized in covering the full match of the total estimated cost of \$75,565 for the purposes of 1) a private consultant to prepare the Grayson County Flooding Resilience Plan and, 2) fees to certify the County's Floodplain Manager. The intent for this capacity building is for Grayson County to utilize these components to identify and request construction funds for the highest priority needs during DCR's 2023 construction funding application cycle, and other appropriate venues. While Grayson requests a waiver of the full or partial match, the County acknowledges that it is one among many applications and requests and is willing to provide a reasonable match as deemed appropriate by DCR.

Sincerely,

  
William L. Shepley  
County Administrator



CFPF, rr <cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov>

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## DCR CFPF Proposal Submission - Grayson County

1 message

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**Deb J** <ak4hdeb@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 3:39 PM

To: cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov, Linda Osborne <losborne@graysoncountyva.gov>, Leesa Gayheart <lgayheart@graysoncountyva.gov>

Hello, please find attached Grayson County's proposal submission for DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund, Capacity Building and Planning Grant.

Thank you for consideration,  
Deb Jones  
Grants Consultant for Grayson County

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 **CID510243\_GraysonCounty\_CFPF.pdf**  
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