SEAFARE

Supporting Equitable Access to Funding for Adaptation Resources

Impacts of Climate Change are Unequal

SEAFARE

SEAFARE GOALS

Phase I and II: Identify barriers to accessing coastal climate adaptation funding and ways to remove those barriers to promote equitable and just access to adaptation resources

Phase II: Develop a toolkit with Advisory Committee members, aimed at policy makers and funding program managers, with recommendations to improve funding systems

Phase III: Implement guidance through collaborative work with government and funding agencies in Maryland

All Phases: Foster relationships and knowledge exchange among Advisory Committee members to advance climate adaptation goals

FUNDING SYSTEM	WHAT HAPPENS AT EACH STEP	BARRIERS EXIST ACROSS ALL LEVELS
LEGISLATION	Stipulates the intended funding use and provides key definitions and criteria that are incorporated into solicitations	Historically, legislation has not recognized the needs of environmental justice communities. These communities are often not clearly defined in legislation
FUNDING PROGRAMS	Establish program priorities and provide availability of technical support	Environmental focus in state agency programs outweighs focus on communities' needs, often caused by low representation from frontline communities
SOLICITATIONS	Establish and weigh the criteria used to determine funding allocation	Criteria weighing does not meaningfully reflect community needs. Environmental focus in funding initiatives outweighs focus on community needs
PROPOSAL REVIEW	Reviewer representation and criteria interpretation drive proposal selection	Well resourced communities are better positioned for new funding as they are more likely to meet the solicitation criteria
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	Project outcomes reflect the priorities outlined by the funding system	Environmental justice communities struggle to launch pilot projects and create expertise within their own communities

Barriers to Funding

Initial buckets – identified during Phase 1

- Built in Inequities

- Inconsistent terminology

- Dependence on maladapted legislation and/or capital budgets

Ongoing discussions – what we're diving into – Phase 2

- Local and State bureaucratic process – Baltimore City Example

- Siloed grantmaking within agencies – NOAA and IRA Example

- EJ tools with lacking information (CEJST)

- Inadequate tracking of Justice 40 "Benefits" (related to above)

- Quasi Government Grantmaking (Foundations receiving federal money for grants)

- Review Process (panel make-up, timelines, capacity at agencies)

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"TOOLKIT" DEVELOPMENT

Actionable guidance to increase equitable access to adaptation resources, with recommendations aimed at policymakers

Draft Toolkit Components:

- Preamble and Context

- Definitions

- Issues and Scope

- Resources and Tools

- Capacity Building: How tos

- People and Networks

- Successes and emerging trends (case studies)

Advisory Committee

- Baltimore Office of Sustainability

- National Aquarium

- Mid Atlantic Justice Coalition

- Socially Responsible Agriculture Project

- Centro de Apoyo Familiar

- NOAA

- DIPP

- City of Crisfield

- Patuxent River Keeper

- MDNR

- Ocean Justice Advisory Group

SEAFARE

Systemic change requires intervention at every level

Government priorities need to be informed by the perspectives – and aligned with the priorities of the most socio-economically and climatically vulnerable communities.

Through the SEAFARE project our goal is to ensure that community voices are elevated, and underserved communities have better access to the coastal climate adaptation funding they need.