



# **\$1M LISC & RISE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF UNDERSERVED COASTAL  
COMMUNITIES BY ADDRESSING CORE VULNERABILITIES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 06, JUNE, 2024 2PM EST  
ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO [INFO@RISERESILIENCE.ORG](mailto:INFO@RISERESILIENCE.ORG)





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# Overview

Coastal communities in the U.S., where more than 128 million people currently live, play a crucial role in our nation’s economy. They support about 66 million jobs, create \$3.4 trillion in wages, and contribute nearly 45% of the nation’s GDP. However, these areas are also grappling with amplified economic, social, and environmental challenges due to urbanization and climate change. The heaviest burden often falls on underserved and marginalized residents, who are disproportionately exposed to flooding and urban heat islands, along with the compounding threats of job insecurity, insufficient or outdated housing, limited availability of healthy food and transportation options and inaccessibility to healthcare. All of these factors combined create a greater negative impact on their health, well-being and livelihood.

A community’s ability to prepare for and recover from various stressors, known as resilience, is inversely proportional to its vulnerability. This means that communities with higher vulnerability levels have lower resilience, making it more difficult for them to handle such stressors. To be truly resilient, a community needs more than just a strong emergency response system. It also requires a robust health infrastructure, economic and job security, affordable housing, and strategies to tackle environmental hazards.

LISC Hampton Roads and RISE, supported by Sentara Health, are launching the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge to identify the core social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities faced by underserved coastal communities and develop practical solutions to address those needs.

# Challenge Goal

The goal of the Challenge is to find solutions that make measurable, positive impacts on multifaceted vulnerabilities and enhance resilience in underserved communities. Submissions should not only be effective, but also come with a practical implementation plan, ready for real-world application and scalability.

We’re offering a total of \$1 million in catalytic funding and support for winners to test and grow their solutions in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia, make a tangible change, and shape a resilient future where it’s most needed.







# Suggested Topic Areas for Solutions

Below are some suggested topics and solution areas. Submissions will be considered in areas other than those described below if the achievement of the Challenge Goal can be demonstrably met. Applicants can contact the organizers to check if their topic is relevant and suitable. All projects must be implemented in the [Hampton Roads region of Virginia including the Eastern Shore](#).

## Health, Wellness and Safety

### Overview

In underserved communities, especially in coastal areas facing environmental threats, access to both physical and behavioral healthcare is critical. People in these areas often have difficulty finding quality health services, healthy food, and stable employment. According to county health rankings by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, about 80% of a person's health is influenced by factors like income, education, and neighborhood conditions. These circumstances shape health behaviors and contribute to major health problems, resulting in higher disease rates and lower life expectancy.

LISC Hampton Roads, RISE and Sentara are dedicated to fostering healthier communities and enhancing the quality of life for those in need in Virginia. Independently and together, Sentara and LISC Hampton Roads have developed various programs aimed at making significant strides towards this objective. We welcome innovative solutions that can be applied and commercialized with demonstrated potential for social and economic impact. These solutions should focus on health, wellness and safety in the following key areas, and may include work to expand the reach and adoption of these programs either actively supporting or in alignment with the objectives and programs of LISC Hampton Roads and Sentara.

### Suggested Areas for Solutions

**Mobile Health Clinics:** Clinics, equipped with essential medical equipment and staffed by healthcare professionals, that can travel to underserved areas, providing basic healthcare services directly to residents.

**Home Healthcare Services:** New programs and models that offer access to quality, affordable in-home healthcare services.

**Affordable Childcare Programs:** New models to reduce barriers to affordable, reliable after-school and summer childcare.

**Innovative Insurance Models:** New insurance models that are affordable for low-income families, offering basic health coverage and promoting preventive care.

**Food Insecurity:** Improve food security and access to healthy foods, including meal planning and delivery services.





## Enhance Sentara's Existing Programs

Sentara Health is committed to creating healthier communities. We are looking for new ideas and solutions that will support this goal and are in alignment with existing programs. Sentara community goals, focus areas, programs, and reports can be found on its [website](#). Interested applicants may propose:

- Providing processes to expand the reach of these programs in conjunction with Sentara
- Additional services that will enhance and increase the adoption and effectiveness of these programs in conjunction with Sentara
- Different approaches that may enhance the effectiveness of Sentara's programs

## Affordable Housing

### Overview

Affordable housing is a critical issue in communities where high living costs outpace residents' incomes. In these areas, a shortage of affordable housing can lead to overcrowding and, in some cases, homelessness. Moreover, the lack of affordable housing options may compel residents living far from where they work, creating significant transportation barriers. Compounding this issue is the prevalence of the "Not in My Back Yard" mentality, where local communities resist new developments due to concerns over changing neighborhood dynamics and potential decreases in property values. This reluctance, coupled with inadequate local investment, ineffective housing policies, reluctance and rising property values due to urban development, creates substantial barriers to progress. In coastal underserved communities, environmental threats add an extra layer of challenge, disproportionately impacting the economically and socially vulnerable. This multifaceted crisis affects not just financial stability but also health, employment, and educational opportunities.

We are looking for solutions that will increase the availability, affordability, and access to climate-resilient housing in urban environments. Focus will be on those pilots that can demonstrate how a community can be transformed by an infusion of affordable housing in particular addressing the aspects:

### Suggested Areas for Solutions

- **Expedited Construction:** Proposals should introduce cost-effective methods for quick construction or repair of affordable, climate-resilient homes. These may be single- or multi-family dwellings. How does this affect a community's SVI/CJEST?
- **Repurpose Housing Inventory:** Creative ideas for transforming existing buildings or lots into affordable climate-resilient housing options.
- **Improved Access for Homeowners and Renters:** New processes or models that enhance access to affordable housing, offering more choices and stability to residents.
- **New Financing:** Financial innovations that increase access to housing and ensure long-term affordability.







## Economic & Job Security

### Overview

Understanding the crucial role of economic and job security in community resilience is essential. A 2021 study showed that across the US, 1.8% of full-time, year-round workers experienced poverty compared to 12.2 percent of part-time workers and 30 percent of the unemployed. Stable jobs and economies enable communities to withstand shocks and stresses like financial crises or natural disasters, enhance individual well-being and offer social cohesion.

We're looking for new, innovative ideas that strengthen economic and job security and availability, contributing to the creation of vibrant, sustainable communities. Below are some suggested areas to consider:

### Suggested Areas for Solutions

#### *Job Security*

- **Skills Development, Training, and Placement:** Hands-on job skills pipeline programs along with digital skills training and localized career transition and reskilling services for workers at all career stages including high school diplomas, community college, vocational training. Submitters should provide the plan to get applicants in to train and get them jobs.
- **Employment Support and Accessibility:** Tailored, community-based job matching services and affordable remote work solutions. Support for employers and entrepreneurs as they shift to skills-based hiring, as well as enhancing support for employees such as childcare, transportation and housing.
- **Innovative Work Models:** New economy structures with support networks (e.g., gig economy).

#### *Economic Security*

- **Business Development and Entrepreneurship:** Targeted programs that assist individuals in communities to start and scale small, local businesses. This can include microfinancing options and business development training.
- **Financial Literacy and Management:** Tailored financial literacy programs and tools in disadvantaged communities, focusing on managing limited resources, debt management, and savings strategies.
- **Community Investment and Profit-Sharing:** Community-owned cooperative businesses or collectives that can provide local employment and keep profits within the community.

### Enhance LISC Programs

LISC is committed to the development and improvement of communities around the country. We are looking for new ideas and solutions that will support this goal and are in alignment with LISC's existing programs. LISC Hampton Roads' programs can be found on its [website](#). Interested applicants may propose:

- Providing processes to expand the reach of these programs in conjunction with LISC Hampton Roads (and LISC National if applicable).
- Additional services that will enhance and increase adoption and effective news of these programs in conjunction with LISC Hampton Roads (and LISC National if applicable).
- Different approaches which may enhance the effectiveness of LISC's programs





## Environmental Resilience

### Overview

Coastal communities are often the first to experience the direct impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, bigger and more intense storms, and coastal erosion. Historically, underserved communities have been disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change.

Enhancing environmental resilience in these areas is not just about protecting the environment; it's about safeguarding the health, livelihoods, and future of the communities living there, which in turn makes these communities withstand climate-related impacts.

We are looking for proposals that not only address the immediate challenges posed by environmental changes but also contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of these communities. Solutions may range from climate adaptation and sustainable resource management to renewable energy projects and disaster preparedness programs. Below are some suggested topic areas.

### Suggested Areas for Solutions

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response:** Technology-driven solutions for environmental disaster preparedness, such as advanced early warning systems, smart evacuation technologies, and integrated emergency response platforms.
- **Community Environmental Education:** Programs and platforms that offer interactive and engaging educational programs in environmental stewardship and resilience planning, leveraging technology to promote sustainable practices among community members.
- **Development of Green Spaces for Flood and Heat Resilience:** Creation and development of sustainable urban infrastructures, such as smart urban forests, tech-integrated rain gardens, and other green spaces that balance ecology, enhance resilience against extreme weather, and offer recreational benefits.
- **Resilience-based Economic Development and Green Job Creation:** Innovative training in green skills, supporting the growth of eco-friendly local businesses, and creating platforms for job opportunities in the green economy offering more choices and stability to residents.

*Submissions will be considered in areas other than those described above if the achievement of the Challenge goal can be demonstrably met. All projects funded by LISC must be implemented in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia.*





# Incorporating SVI and CEJST Frameworks to Measure Impact

Our Challenge is dedicated to uncovering solutions that significantly impact diverse vulnerabilities and bolster resilience in underserved communities. We seek not just effective solutions but also those with viable implementation strategies, scalability, and real-world applicability. Central to our approach is the use of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to help guide our assessment of submissions and monitor winning pilot projects.

The SVI offers insights into community vulnerabilities through socio-economic, demographic, and housing factors, while the CEJST identifies communities facing economic, health, and environmental challenges. Submissions must incorporate SVI and/or CEJST frameworks to demonstrate how their solutions address specific vulnerabilities in underserved communities.

The SVI and CEJST frameworks are instrumental in our assessment of submissions and subsequent monitoring of pilot projects. The SVI provides insight into a community's vulnerability based on socio-economic, demographic, and housing factors. On the other hand, the CEJST focuses on identifying communities disadvantaged by economic, health, and environmental issues, especially concerning climate and economic justice.

By leveraging these established tools, we can comprehensively evaluate the potential impact of submitted solutions on the multifaceted aspects of community resilience. This holistic approach ensures that our chosen solutions are not only innovative but also directly address the specific and complex challenges faced by underserved communities.

In our submission process, applicants are required to integrate the SVI and/or CEJST frameworks to demonstrate how their solutions address specific vulnerabilities in underserved communities. In Phase 1, applicants must identify relevant SVI themes or CEJST burden areas targeted by their solutions, and then clearly describe the expected impact of implementing their solutions. For finalists selected to move to Phase 2, more detail is required, including applying their solution to a sample census tract using these frameworks, to illustrate measurable enhancements in community resilience. This structured approach ensures that proposed solutions are not only effective but are also implemented in a real-world environment ensuring applicability and scalability, tailored to the unique challenges identified by SVI and CEJST metrics. (Please refer to Appendix 2 for more details.)







## CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

The [Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) uses U.S. Census data to determine the relative social vulnerability of every census tract. The tool is used for understanding and addressing the varying capacities of communities to respond to, recover from, and prepare for hazardous events or conditions. It evaluates vulnerability through themes such as socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, and housing/transportation dynamics. The tool is often used in cities' emergency management planning to ensure support for vulnerable neighborhoods.

The SVI is split up into four themes and associated sub-themes as shown in the table below:

Social Vulnerability Index				
Themes	Socioeconomic Status	*Household Characteristics	Racial & Ethnic Minority Status	Housing Type & Transportation
<b>Sub-themes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below 150% Poverty</li> <li>• Unemployed</li> <li>• Housing Cost Burden</li> <li>• No High School Diploma</li> <li>• No Health Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged 65 &amp; Older</li> <li>• Aged 17 &amp; Younger</li> <li>• Civilian with a Disability</li> <li>• Single-Parent Households</li> <li>• English Language Proficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hispanic or Latino (of any race); Black and African American, Not Hispanic or Latino; American Indian and Alaska Native, Not Hispanic or Latino; Asian, Not Hispanic or Latino; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Not Hispanic or Latino; Two or More Races, Not Hispanic or Latino; Other Races, Not Hispanic or Latino</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Unit Structures</li> <li>• Mobile Homes</li> <li>• Crowding</li> <li>• No Vehicle</li> <li>• Group Quarters</li> </ul>





## Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

The [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) is an interactive map identifying disadvantaged communities based on economic, health, and environmental burdens. Communities are classified as disadvantaged if they meet thresholds in at least one of the tool’s categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.

Category	Environmental, climate, or other burdens	Socioeconomic burden
<b>Climate Change</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: agriculture loss rate, building loss rate, population loss rate, flood risk, wildfire risk	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Energy</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: energy cost, PM2.5 in the air	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Health</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: asthma, diabetes, heart disease, low life expectancy	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Housing</b>	Experienced historic underinvestment OR at or above 90th percentile for: housing cost, lack of green space, lack of indoor plumbing, lead paint	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Legacy Pollution</b>	At least one abandoned mine land OR Formerly Used Defense Sites OR at or above 90th percentile for: proximity to hazardous waste facilities, Superfund sites (NPL), Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Transportation</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: diesel particulate matter exposure, transportation barriers, traffic proximity and volume	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Waste and Wastewater</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: underground storage tanks and releases, wastewater discharge	At or above 65th percentile for low income
<b>Workforce Development</b>	At or above 90th percentile for: linguistic isolation, low median income, poverty, unemployment	More than 10% of people ages 25+ with less than a high school diploma





# Using the SVI/CEJST framework in your application

The application process consists of two distinct phases:

## Phase 1: Initial Application Submission

- Complete the online application form and upload the necessary materials.
- In this phase, applicants are required to:
  - **Identify Target Areas/Themes/Burdens:** Select the SVI themes/sub-themes or CEJST burden areas your solution aims to address. (See Appendix 1 for suggested SVI themes/sub-themes and CEJST burdens)
  - **Describe Your Solution's Impact:** Provide a concise yet thorough explanation of how your solution will address and reduce the identified themes/burdens. Emphasis should be placed on clarity and specificity to demonstrate how your solution will make a measurable impact.

## Phase 2: Finalist Selection and Additional Submission

- Finalists will be down selected from the Phase 1 applicants. As a finalist, you will be required to submit further materials, including a presentation, business plan, and workplan.
- In the Phase 2 application, finalists will also apply their solution to a SVI/CEJST sample census tract and:
  - **Illustrate Community Resilience Enhancement:** Demonstrate how your solution will bolster community resilience by selecting a sample census tract (refer to Appendix 2 for details) and quantifying the impact of your solution using a sample tract from SVI, CEJST, or both. This step ensures that your proposal is grounded in measurable outcomes and addresses the needs of the target communities. (See Appendices for more information)
  - **Offer In-Depth Description:** Provide additional details about how your solution will positively alter vulnerability rankings in the selected census tract(s).\*

*\*We are dedicated to providing the necessary support to navigate this phase of the application process. Assistance will be available to finalists who are selected to proceed to Phase 2, through live and recorded webinars, email support, and other resources.*

## Winners will receive access to:

- Up to \$300,000 USD in non-dilutive grant funding
- Real-world pilot sites in greater Hampton Roads, Virginia
- Insights and feedback from pilot partners
- Customized business accelerator curriculum
- Expert mentorship from government, technical and business leaders
- PR opportunities and media visibility
- Introductions to potential investors and customers

Project timelines are anticipated to be up to 12 months. Learn more below about solution and applicant eligibility, work the Challenge award can support, and the two-part application process.





# Funding Eligibility

To be eligible for funding and other resources applicants must:

- Be a U.S. entity that meets the definition of a small business as defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) or be a nonprofit organization. For SBA definitions please see: [https://busfin.uga.edu/procurement/pdf/sba\\_definitions.pdf](https://busfin.uga.edu/procurement/pdf/sba_definitions.pdf)
- Meet the Challenge Goal
- Have a solution at a prototype stage or later
- Deploy and demonstrate benefits of the proposed solution in the Hampton Roads region, Virginia, either by yourselves or by hiring a local partner
- Adhere to applicable rules and regulations
- Be registered with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) and have a SCC number prior to entering into an award contract

# Geographic Eligibility

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed solution may be implemented in and directly benefit the Hampton Roads region, Virginia. If an applicant is not located in Hampton Roads, the solution must be deployed, installed, tested or otherwise demonstrated in the greater region.

The Challenge can only select projects that provide a demonstrable benefit to the greater Hampton Roads region.







# Timeline

DATE	EVENT
<b>June 6, 2024, 2pm ET</b>	Application submission deadline
<b>Every other Thursday between April 15 and June 6, 2024 at 1pm ET</b>	Informational webinars
<b>July 5, 2024</b>	Finalists announced (Finalists will be required to submit additional documentation, including technical details of your solution, a detailed work plan, and financial projections)
<b>July 19, 2024</b>	Deadline to submit the additional documentation if selected as a finalist
<b>August 2, 2024</b>	Shortlisted finalists announced and invited to pitch to the Selection Committee for the grant funding other resources.
<b>Mid-August, 2024</b>	Finalists' pitch presentations to the Selection Committee. Finalists will have 30 minutes to present, with an additional 30 minutes for questions from the Committee.
<b>September 1, 2024</b>	Winners and funding levels announced.
<b>September, 2024</b>	Launch of the Resilience Innovation Accelerator. Launch of project implementation.
<b>December, 2025</b>	Deadline for project implementation and contract closeout.

*\*All dates are subject to change.*



# Selection Process

## Selection Committee Review

Applicants must submit applications **by 2 pm on the 6th of June**. The Selection Committee will select finalists to submit additional documentation, including details of their solution, a workplan (with budget, schedule, milestones and deliverables), and three-year financial projections. The finalists will have 14 calendar days to submit this additional documentation. Once all scores and comments are consolidated, and the technical reviews are complete, the highest scoring finalists will be invited to pitch to the Selection Committee for funding and other resources. After the pitches, the Selection Committee will update all scores and comments and select winners.

## Oral Pitch Presentations

Shortlisted finalists will present their proposed project to the Selection Committee. Finalists will have 30 minutes to present, with an additional 30 minutes for questions and discussion from the Selection Committee. Presentations will take place in person in Hampton Roads, Virginia or virtually. The finalists may receive questions from the Selection Committee in advance to aid their preparation. Travel will be at the finalists' expense.

## RISE Resilience Innovation Accelerator

Winners will receive feedback from the Selection Committee who may recommend making the award (or a portion of the award) contingent upon refinement of a business plan and/or workplan. In such a case, the applicant will be offered to participate in a customized RISE Resilience Innovation Accelerator program (Accelerator) that will assist with addressing the Selection Committee's concerns and recommendations.

Each winner will receive up to **\$10,000 in grant funding** for their participation in the Accelerator and associated deliverables. If the Committee recommends this course and the applicant, for any reason, decides not to participate, the applicant is free to withdraw from the program at that time. Winners are not guaranteed any funding for their pilot projects until they successfully complete the Accelerator (if required by the Selection Committee).

Upon the conclusion of the Accelerator, the Selection Committee will have the option, but is in no way obligated, to negotiate a contract to proceed with a pilot project in response to the Challenge. The final scope of the project will be subject to negotiation based on the findings and refinements from the Accelerator.

As part of the pilot project scope of work implementation, and with support from RISE, Challenge winners will be required to conduct ongoing analysis of their solutions within the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) frameworks. This will allow monitoring and tracking of a solution's implementation and progress toward addressing the identified vulnerabilities and resilience needs of targeted communities.





## Evaluation Process

An application will be evaluated on adherence to these guidelines, including the following criteria and how clearly and completely it provides the information requested.

### Strength of the Solution (50%)

- Need addressed & value proposition and/or how the solution will be sustainable in future implementations
- Innovativeness
- Reduction of Community's SVI and/or CEJST
  - Proposals must outline specific, measurable objectives for the selected census tract, including a realistic timeline for achieving these goals.
- Multi-benefits
  - The extent to which solutions address multiple social and environmental vulnerability indicators.
- Economic benefit
  - The extent to which solution impact translates into economic benefit for community service providers and stakeholders such as hospitals, municipalities and employers. It is essential that your solution demonstrates clear economic advantages for community service providers. This could include job creation, enhancement of property values, or improvements in health outcomes.

### Business Plan (30%)

- Strength of entrepreneurs & management team
- Size of the market and revenue opportunity and/or sustainability and growth of the solution
- Strength of competitive environment
- Marketing, sales, and partners
- Scalability

### Project Work Plan/Approach (20%)

- Relevance to and advancement towards business plan goals
- Clarity of milestones and metrics
- Community engagement
- Feasibility
- Costs and timeline reasonableness





## Award

The total of up to \$1 million in funding is available to support solutions in response to this Challenge. Applicants can apply for up to \$300,000 in grant funding. The award amount will be determined by the Selection Committee and the final scope will be subject to negotiation. The Selection Committee reserves the right to increase or decrease this amount depending on the number of selected projects. The Challenge is looking to fund innovative approaches that can be built into viable and sustainable entities. This means entities that generate revenues through sales of its product and/or attract further investment to grow or develop revenue sources, or some other sustainable alternative. The Challenge intends for its funding to be used to get the winner to that point.

Payments made to grantees under the agreement are made on a reimbursement basis for eligible costs. Grantee must incur costs and request reimbursement for eligible expenses. Reimbursements will be issued only for eligible expenses that are supported by the appropriate documentation and are directly linked to project milestones and deliverables. At a maximum, the grantee will be able to request reimbursement once a month.

All costs charged to the grant shall be supported by properly executed payrolls, time records, invoices, contracts, or vouchers evidencing in proper detail the nature and propriety of the charges. All checks, payrolls, invoices, contracts, vouchers, orders, or other accounting documents pertaining in whole or in part to the grant shall be clearly identified, readily accessible, and separate and distinct from all other such documents.

### **RISE Resilience Innovation Accelerator & Testbed**

In addition to grant funding, Challenge winners will get access to additional resources from the RISE Coastal Resilience Innovation Accelerator & Testbed.

- Customized business accelerator curriculum
- Real-world pilot sites in Hampton Roads, Virginia
- Insights and feedback from pilot partners
- Expert mentorship from government, technical and business leaders
- PR opportunities and media visibility
- Introductions to potential investors and customers





## Eligible Uses and Costs

Support for the Challenge comes from Sentara Health through LISC Hampton Roads. Solutions funded by the Challenge must meet Sentara Health and LISC Hampton Roads funding regulations and requirements. Based on the requirements of these funds, the following uses are examples of eligible funding uses.

- Purchase of fixed assets, working capital, salaries, and technical assistance to businesses.
- Prototype, planning, drafts, versions, and proof-of-concept development created prior to a final product.
- Installation and testing of prototype, or installation of pilots on publicly owned property
- Recruitment and educational activities.
- Creation of plans, reports, or similar deliverables aimed at providing lessons learned, guidance, and best practices.
- Creation and implementation of community engagement plans (subject to approval).
- Acquisition or rental of machinery, equipment or services if integral to the proposed project, program or plan.
- Administrative costs related to servicing or ensuring compliance with award requirements.
- Payments for salaries and support of staff or the contracting of an outside entity to implement any part of the project, program, or a plan.
- Provisions of technical assistance to businesses such as preparation of financial packages, survey, engineering, legal, architectural or other similar assistance if integral to the proposed project, program, or plan.
- Expenses related to business recruitment, marketing, community engagement, promotional activities, and related administrative expenses, including, but not limited to, salaries, travel, office expenses, advertising, legal and related costs.
- For construction projects, applicants will be required to demonstrate that their project is feasible. This is satisfied if a registered professional engineer (or other design professional) certifies that the design meets the appropriate code or industry design and construction standards.

Challenge organizers reserve the right to consider the eligibility of items at their discretion, provided those costs are consistent with the Challenge goals. All costs proposed shall be necessary and reasonable to deliver the solution and are subject to the approval of eligibility and cost reasonableness. RISE may review any proposed costs and provide an eligibility determination to an applicant.

Any equipment purchased with grant funds will have a lien/security interest for the duration of the grant agreement. The equipment must be physically located in Virginia.





# Application Submittal Requirements

## Application Submission

Application process is divided into two phases: Phase 1 application shall be submitted online at xx. Proposals may be started at any time and can be edited until the submission deadline of **xx 2024, at 2:00pm ET**. Timely submission of the proposal is solely the responsibility of the applicant. Proposals received after the specified date and time will not be accepted.

## Phase 1 Application

Phase 1 application includes the following components:

- A. Applicant Background
- B. Solution Overview, including clearly stating which SVI themes/sub-themes and/or CEJST burden areas your solution is addressing and how your solution can make a measurable difference.
- C. Financial Viability/Business Plan
- D. Pilot Site Needs
- E. References

## Application Technical Assistance

We are committed to ensuring you have the necessary guidance and tools to successfully navigate the application. We will answer questions through live and recorded webinars, email and additional resources. Attendance or non-attendance of webinars does not affect entrants' chances of success. Dates for the webinars will be posted on the RISE website.

## Phase 2 Application

Following a review of Phase 1 applications, the Selection Committee will select finalists to submit additional details using an online Phase 2 application. All selected finalists will receive a link to upload additional documentation including:

- A. Detailed/Updated Business Plan
- B. Work Plan/Approach
- C. Quantifying impact of the solution on SVI and CEJST (please see Appendices for more details)
- D. Multi-benefits
- E. Economic benefits





Specifically, the additional documentation should include:

**A. Detailed/Updated Business Plan**

The Business Plan demonstrates what is going to sustain the entity once the project is complete. Applicants must upload the latest version of the Business Plan for their organization. The Business Plan should be a maximum of 15 pages and include all of the below:

1. A statement of the problem you are solving, and a description of your solution
2. A description of the business model(s)
3. A three-year financial projection of revenues and expenses, as well as cash flows
4. Marketing plan for the solution
5. Schedule for the overall business plan
6. Major milestones for the solution beyond the award
7. An organizational chart
8. A description of partnerships with other organizations and individuals
9. Team resumes
10. A description of the market for the solution, customers and beneficiaries
11. Value proposition of the solution to the buyer and rationale for why a buyer would purchase, or how the solution will become sustainable in time.
12. Anticipated market penetration at the end of CY 2024, 2025 and 2026
13. Alternatives to the solution that are currently available in the market
14. Description of active competitors delivering a similar solution
15. A description of obstacles that may be encountered when trying to enter the market with this product/service
16. A description of intellectual property (IP) protection
17. Other key information that is key to understanding the market for the solution and how the team will capitalize on the solution

**B. Work Plan/Approach**

The Project Work Plan will include the following four components:

1. Project Overview Narrative
2. Project Work Plan Narrative by Stage
3. Technical Approach
4. Work Plan Workbook with Budget, Schedule, and Milestones



### **1. Project Overview Narrative**

The Project Overview should include the following in narrative form:

- Overall technical goal(s) and strategies for the project, including an explanation of how the entity is achieving the project goal(s) and will advance the goal(s) outlined in the Business Plan.
- The critical accomplishments, deliverables, or achievement points over the duration of the award.
- Anticipated permit requirements of the locality and other authorizing jurisdictions that will be required for the project.
- Period of performance for the project, as well as a description of current related efforts and work that may extend beyond the expenditure timeline.
- For Construction Projects only: Attach existing feasibility studies or reports. If no existing studies are available, please include a feasibility study in the timeline.

### **2. Project Work Plan Narrative by Stage**

Applicants should break down the proposed project into a series of stages, each with measurable objectives and deliverables to create the project Work Plan narrative. Each stage must advance the effort toward the overall goals in a measurable and meaningful way, clearly demonstrating an advancement of the project. Deliverables can be in the form of physical objects, experiment/test results, analyses, reports, etc.

- Name of stage.
- Description of tasks to be performed.
- Key personnel working on the tasks and description of qualifications of the team (principal, key personnel, subcontractors and consultants) to execute the stage of the Work Plan.
- Milestones of each stage.
- Deliverables/objectives and measurable criteria to determine that the deliverables/objectives have been met/achieved.
- Schedule of each stage.

### **3. Project Work Plan Workbook**

The Project Work Plan Workbook will have the following components (required template will be made available prior to inviting Phase 2 applications):

- Total budget with line items.
- Milestones by quarter through the expenditure period.

### **C. Impact against SVI and/or CEJST Metrics (see Appendices for sample calculations and guidelines)**

- Illustrate Community Resilience Enhancement: Demonstrate how your solution will bolster community resilience. This involves selecting a sample census tract from Hampton Roads (refer to Appendix 2 for details) and quantifying the impact of your solution using either SVI, CEJST, or both. This step ensures that your proposal is grounded in measurable outcomes and addresses the needs of the target communities.
- Provide a Detailed Analysis: Offer an in-depth examination of how your solution can positively alter vulnerability rankings in a specific census tract\* (see Appendix 1 for more detailed information).





## Proprietary Information/Non-Disclosure & IP Ownership

All application materials are considered confidential. Applicants will retain ownership of intellectual property.

## Cost Incurred in Responding

This Challenge does not commit LISC Hampton Roads or RISE to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation thereof, nor to procure or contract for services.

## No Requirement of Award; Non-commitment

Notwithstanding any other provision of this document to the contrary, the Challenge does not commit Challenge organizers to award any funding to any applicant. The Selection Committee reserves the right to reject any and all applications or any portions thereof, at any time, and cancel the Challenge and request new applications under a new Challenge or other vehicle.

## Appeal Process

The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

## Other Terms & Conditions

## Reporting

As a condition of the award, awardees are required to submit a monthly progress report(s) and a final report. Awardees are required to briefly report on outcomes and impact for one year after the period of performance.

## State Corporation Commission Certification

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 2.2-4311.2(b), a proposer organized or authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth is required to include in its proposal the identification number issued to it by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). Any proposer that is not required to be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a foreign business entity under Title 13.1 or Title 50 or as otherwise required by law is required to include in its proposal a statement describing why the proposer is not required to be so authorized.

## Funds Not Disbursed by the Expiration Date

All requests for reimbursement of expended funds pursuant to the Grant Agreement (in furtherance of the Purpose(s) of the Grant) must be received by LISC Hampton Roads no later than 60 days after the Grant end date. Any Grant funds not expended by the Grantee by the Expiration Date shall be automatically reprogrammed by LISC, and shall no longer be available for disbursement to the Grantee; provided, however, that if the Expiration Date is extended, then the funds shall remain available for disbursement until the new Expiration Date.





## Funds Not Disbursed in a Timely Way

Any funds not drawn down in a timely fashion during the term of the Grant may be de-obligated by LISC Hampton Roads in its sole discretion after notice to the Grantee. Such de-obligation shall be effective as to any Grant proceeds not expended by the Grantee prior to the date of receipt of such notice.

## No Disbursement if Non-Compliance

LISC Hampton Roads shall not make any disbursement of the Grant unless on the proposed date of disbursement the Grantee is in full compliance with all these Grant Terms and Conditions set forth in the Grant Agreement. In addition, LISC shall not make any disbursement of the Grant if it will (i) violate any provision of law, regulation or administrative ruling to which LISC is subject, (ii) subject LISC to any tax, penalty, or fine, or (iii) not further the charitable purposes of LISC.

## No Disbursement if Default Exists, or Material Adverse Change Has Occurred

LISC shall not make any disbursement of the Grant if, at the time of the proposed disbursement, the Grantee, or any subsidiary of the Grantee, or any partnership affiliated with the Grantee, is in default under the terms of any LISC financing, whether for the Project or provided by LISC for any other project or purpose. In addition, LISC shall not make any disbursement of the Grant if there has been a material adverse change in the financial or other condition of the Grantee or the Project, including, but not limited to, any adverse change in the Grantee's key personnel working on the Project (with LISC determining, in its reasonable discretion, what constitutes a material adverse change in key personnel).

## Restrictions on Use of the Grant

Under Sections 501 and 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), the Grant may not be used to carry on propaganda, to attempt to influence legislation, or to participate in, intervene in, or attempt to influence the outcome of, political campaigns or elections. Additionally, under the applicable provisions of the Code, LISC funds may only be used in furtherance of LISC's charitable purposes. By countersigning this Agreement and returning it to LISC, the Grantee agrees to (i) not use the Grant for purposes prohibited by the preceding two sentences, (ii) use the Grant in furtherance of the Grantee's charitable purposes (as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and Application For Recognition of Exemption to the IRS), and (iii) promptly reimburse LISC any Grant amounts not used to further charitable purposes.

## Compliance with Laws

In its use of Grant funds provided by LISC, and in its development, marketing, and operation of the Project, the Grantee shall fully comply with all applicable federal, state, local (and any other governmental) laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations, including without limitation anti-discrimination laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations.





## Tax-Exempt Status

The Grantee represents and warrants that its determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) which states that Grantee’s tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code is still in effect as of the date of execution and delivery of the executed Grant Agreement, has not been revoked or modified, and that Grantee has delivered a copy of said letter to LISC. If such determination is revoked or modified, Grantee shall so notify LISC as soon thereafter as possible.

## Review of Operations

LISC may monitor and conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the Grant. Such evaluation may include a visit from LISC personnel to observe the activities funded by the Grant, to discuss said activities with the Grantee’s personnel, and/or to review financial and other records and materials relating to the activities financed or facilitated by the Grant. In addition, upon LISC’s providing of reasonable advance notice, the LISC Principal Contacts shall be permitted to attend at least one Board meeting of the Grantee a year.

## Publicity

The Grantee agrees that LISC may include information regarding the Grant and the Project in its periodic public reports. The Grantee shall also make best efforts to provide LISC with reasonable advance notice of any groundbreaking or ribbon-cutting events for the Project. LISC may refer to the Grant in press releases, and asks that until such a press release is issued, the Grantee not make any public announcement relating to the Grant without first consulting the LISC contact person. A copy of all issued press releases shall be promptly sent to such contact person. In addition, the Grantee agrees to acknowledge receipt of this grant from LISC in relevant and appropriate publications.

## Assignment or Delegation and Subcontracting

The Grant Agreement and the rights and duties under the Grant Agreement must not be assigned, delegated or subcontracted by the Grantee without the prior written consent of LISC, and any purported assignment, delegation or subcontracting of the Grant Agreement without said consent of LISC shall be void. In addition, LISC reserves the right to approve any professionals or consultants hired with funds under this Grant.

## Amendment of Term of Grant

LISC shall consider, but is not obligated to agree to, requests by the Grantee to extend the Expiration Date or make other modifications to the terms of the Grant. Amendments to the Grant shall be made only after (i) LISC’s Principal Contact has received a written request from the Grantee stating the nature of the amendment requested, and (ii) an authorized officer of LISC shall have executed a written agreement describing the terms of the amendment. Note that any change in a line item of the budget in excess of 10% or totaling more than \$1,000 (whichever is greater), shall not be made without an amendment to the Grant Agreement by LISC.



## Certification

Grantee is not now, nor has it ever been, named on (i) the list of Specifically Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons established pursuant to Executive Order 13224 and maintained by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control or any successor agency or other entity, or (ii) any other list of terrorists or terrorist organizations maintained by any agency of the United States or any other governmental authority. The Grantee shall submit such information as LISC may reasonably request to enable LISC to confirm that the Grantee, is not named on any such list.

The Grantee certifies that any consultant or contractor hired under this Grant is not:(i)listed in any sanctions-related list of designated persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") of the U.S. Department of Treasury, the U.S. Department of State or any other applicable authority ("Sanctions Authority"); and(ii)operating, organized or resident in a country, region or territory which is itself the subject or target of any Sanctions ("Sanctioned Country").

The Grantee agrees to maintain documentation on file of the results verifying that the consultant or contractor it retains under this Grant is not listed in any sanctions-related list of designated persons; or operating, organized, or resident in a country, region or territory that is a Sanctioned Country.

## Insurance

The Grantee shall have and maintain in full force and effect during the term of the award agreement such forms of insurance, at such levels as may be determined by the Grantee and LISC to be necessary for specific components of the grant activity(ies) funded by this award.





# Appendix 1:

## Health Wellness and Safety: Suggested SVI/CEJST Burdens Affected<sup>1</sup>

<b>SVI</b>			
Theme:	Socioeconomic Status	Sub-theme:	No health insurance
	Socioeconomic Status		Below 150% poverty
	Household Characteristics		Civilian with a disability
<b>CEJST</b>			
Category:	Health	Burden:	Asthma
	Health		Diabetes
	Health		Heart disease
	Health		Low life expectancy
	Housing		Lack of indoor plumbing
	Legacy pollution		Formerly Used Defense Site/Proximity to hazardous waste facility/ Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites
	Transportation		Transportation barriers
	Waste and wastewater		Underground storage tanks and releases/Wastewater discharge
	Workforce development		Poverty

## Affordable Housing: Suggested SVI/CEJST Burdens Affected<sup>2</sup>

<b>SVI</b>			
Theme:	Socioeconomic Status	Sub-theme:	Housing cost burden
	Socioeconomic Status		Below 150% poverty
	Housing Type & Transportation		Multi-unit structures
	Housing Type & Transportation		Mobile homes
	Housing Type & Transportation		Crowding
	Housing Type & Transportation		Group quarters <sup>3</sup>

1: These are suggested parameters for each topic area. Applicants may be able to include other subthemes or burdens. Applicants need not meet them all – only those that apply to their solution. Also applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. Applicants should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

2: Note that these are suggested parameters. Applicant need not meet them all – only those that apply to their solution. Also applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

3: Group Quarters: *Defined* as: "...college dormitories, farm workers' dormitories, psychiatric institutions, and prisons also present special concerns during evacuation (Vogt 1990; Quarantelli 1980). Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable because of their special and timely needs and because of understaffing in these institutions in emergencies. Moreover, many institutions can be unprepared to quickly remove their entire staff and residents under conditions that require specialized vehicles."



**CEJST**

<p>Category:</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Legacy pollution</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Legacy pollution</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Waste and wastewater</p> <p>Workforce development</p>	<p>Burden:</p> <p>Historic underinvestment</p> <p>Housing cost</p> <p>Lack of green space/lack of indoor plumbing/lead paint</p> <p>Formerly Used Defense Site/Proximity to hazardous waste facility/Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites</p> <p>Low life expectancy</p> <p>Lack of indoor plumbing</p> <p>Formerly Used Defense Site/Proximity to hazardous waste facility/Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites</p> <p>Diesel particulate/Transportation barriers/Traffic proximity and volume</p> <p>Underground storage tanks and releases/Wastewater discharge</p> <p>Poverty</p>
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**Economic and Job Security**  
**Suggested SVI/CEJST Burdens Affected<sup>4</sup>**

**SVI**

<p>Theme:</p> <p>Socioeconomic Status</p> <p>Socioeconomic Status</p> <p>Socioeconomic Status</p> <p>Socioeconomic Status</p> <p>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</p> <p>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</p> <p>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</p> <p>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</p> <p>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</p>	<p>Sub-theme:</p> <p>Housing cost burden</p> <p>Below 150% poverty</p> <p>No high school diploma</p> <p>No health insurance</p> <p>Multi-unit structures</p> <p>No vehicle</p> <p>Mobile homes</p> <p>Crowding</p> <p>Group quarters<sup>5</sup></p>
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1: Note that these are suggested parameters and applicants do not need to meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also, applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

2: Note that these are suggested parameters. Applicant need not meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

3: *Defined* as: "...college dormitories, farm workers' dormitories, psychiatric institutions, and prisons also present special concerns during evacuation (Vogt 1990; Quarantelli 1980). Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable because of their special and timely needs and because of understaffing in these institutions in emergencies. Moreover, many institutions can be unprepared to quickly remove their entire staff and residents under conditions that require specialized vehicles."





**CEJST**

<p>Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Waste and wastewater</li>   <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Workforce development</li> </ul>	<p>Burden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy cost</li> <li>Housing cost</li> <li>Low life expectancy</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Transportation barriers</li> <li>Underground storage tanks and releases/ Wastewater discharge</li> <li>Low median income</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Unemployment</li> </ul>
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**Environmental Resilience**

**Suggested SVI/CEJST Burdens Affected<sup>6</sup>**

**SVI**

<p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socioeconomic Status</li> <li>Socioeconomic Status</li> <li>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</li> <li>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</li> <li>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</li> <li>Housing Type &amp; Transportation</li> </ul>	<p>Sub-theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing cost burden</li> <li>Below 150% poverty</li> <li>Multi-unit structures</li> <li>Mobile homes</li> <li>Crowding</li> <li>Group quarters<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
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**CEJST**

<p>Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Legacy pollution</li> </ul>	<p>Burden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic underinvestment</li> <li>Expected building loss rate</li> <li>Projected flood risk</li> <li>Expected population loss rate</li> <li>Formerly Used Defense Site/ Proximity to hazardous waste facility/ Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites</li> </ul>
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1: Note that these are suggested parameters and applicants do not need to meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also, applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

2: Note that these are suggested parameters. Applicant need not meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

3: *Defined* as: "...college dormitories, farm workers' dormitories, psychiatric institutions, and prisons also present special concerns during evacuation (Vogt 1990; Quarantelli 1980). Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable because of their special and timely needs and because of understaffing in these institutions in emergencies. Moreover, many institutions can be unprepared to quickly remove their entire staff and residents under conditions that require specialized vehicles."



Energy	Energy cost
Health	Low life expectancy
Housing	Lack of indoor plumbing/Lack of green space
Legacy pollution	Formerly Used Defense Site/ Proximity to hazardous waste facility/ Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites
Transportation	Diesel particulate/Transportation barriers/ Traffic proximity and volume
Waste and wastewater	Underground storage tanks and release/ Wastewater discharge
Workforce development	Poverty
Workforce development	Unemployment
Workforce development	Low median income

1: Note that these are suggested parameters and applicants do not need to meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also, applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

2: Note that these are suggested parameters. Applicant need not meet them all - only those that apply to their solution. Also applicants may feel that other SVI/CEJST sub-themes and burdens may be applicable other than those mentioned here. They should include those and explain clearly why they are relevant to their submission.

3: *Defined* as: "...college dormitories, farm workers' dormitories, psychiatric institutions, and prisons also present special concerns during evacuation (Vogt 1990; Quarantelli 1980). Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable because of their special and timely needs and because of understaffing in these institutions in emergencies. Moreover, many institutions can be unprepared to quickly remove their entire staff and residents under conditions that require specialized vehicles."





# Appendix 2:

## Using SVI and CEJST Metrics for Assessing Proposed Solutions

The objective of this Challenge is to identify solutions that positively impact the resilience of underserved communities, demonstrate practical implementation plans, and have potential for real-world application and scalability. To quantitatively assess the impact of a company's solution, we will utilize the structure and methods of the SVI and CEJST metrics.

This Appendix provides illustrative (fictional) examples for each metric, demonstrating what is expected of entrants in their Phase 1 and 2 submissions. If a solution addresses multiple themes/sub-themes/burdens in either or both metrics, entrants should follow the outlined processes for each case. Entrants' responses will be instrumental in building their work plan if selected as winners. Realism and clarity are crucial in constructing these narratives.

### Example of Using SVI Data to Assess an Entrant's Proposed Solution:

**Scenario:**

Company Entrant ABC proposes increasing the number of homes with access to vehicles, believing this will enhance community resilience. The focus is on how this affects the overall SVI of a census tract.

**Solution:**

**Phase 1:**

The entrant identifies the SVI sub-themes affected by its solution and supporting detail about each of the themes and sub-themes selected.

- Theme: Housing & Transportation
  - Sub-theme: No vehicle
  - Reason: SVI identifies this as a component of vulnerability.
- Theme: Socioeconomic Status
  - Sub-theme: Below 150% Poverty
  - Reason: SVI identifies this as a component of vulnerability.
- Theme: Socioeconomic Status
  - Sub-theme: Unemployed
  - Reason: Providing vehicles helps residents secure and maintain employment.

The entrant will also provide detailed explanations of how they will:

- Introduce vehicle access to households lacking it.
- Assist households in using this access to secure and retain jobs, thereby altering SVI theme and subtheme values.



**Phase 2:**

In Phase 2 of the application, if selected, RISE will provide the Entrant with the relevant numerical SVI/CEJST data (as identified in Phase 1) for the Census Tract (selected by the Entrant) who will then apply their solution to the proposed sub-themes for that census tract. For example, RISE provides the Entrant with the following data for the selected Census Tract:

- Number of Households: 150
- Households without Vehicle Access: 50
- Number of Unemployed: 45
- Households under 150% Poverty: 25

The Entrant aims to provide vehicle access to 30 households. In the Phase 2 submission, the entrant will:

- Detail how they will provide vehicle access to the 30 households.
- Explain how they will support and monitor household members in finding and retaining employment (including collaboration with other programs if necessary). Describe the metrics to track program success.

**Example of the Use of CEJST Data to Assess an Entity’s Proposed Solution:**

**Scenario:**

Company Entrant ABC proposes reducing the household energy burden (annual energy costs as a percentage of average annual household income) by 20%. The focus is on how this affects the Energy CEJST value of the census tract.

**Solution:**

**Phase 1:**

The entrant identifies the following CEJST category and burden applicable to its solution:

- Category: Energy
- Burden: Energy cost
- Reason: It is an explicit CEJST burden

The entrant identifies the following CEJST category and burden applicable to its solution:

- How its solution will reduce the energy cost by 20%.
- The implementation plan in communities.





**Phase 2:**

In Phase 2 of the application, RISE will provide the Entrant with the relevant numerical SVI/CEJST data (as identified in Phase 1) for the Census Tract (selected by the Entrant) who will then apply their solution to the proposed burden for that census tract. For example, Census Tract X data includes:

- Number of Households: 150
- Average Energy Cost Burden: 30%

The entrant proposes to reduce the energy burden of this community by 20% to 24% (a 20% reduction from the 30% energy cost burden). The Entrant believes it can achieve this reduction for 20 Households. In the Phase 2 submission, the entrant will:

- Explain in detail the process of providing energy reduction to the 20 households.
- Detail how they will support and monitor the households to realize these savings (including collaboration with other programs if necessary).
- Describe the metrics to track the success of the program.



## Appendix 3: Phase 2 Application

### Sample SVI and CEJST Census Tracts

If you are selected as a finalist, you will be required to demonstrate how your solution will enhance community resilience by choosing one of the sample census tracts below and quantifying the impact of your solution using the SVI, CEJST, or both. This approach ensures that your proposal is anchored in measurable outcomes and relevant to the communities it aims to serve **and** has an implementation plan designed to realize the planned measurable improvements.

The basis of a census tract's SVI or CEJST in any particular area is its ranking against all other census tracts in the State of Virginia. As an example, a census tract has an average household fuel cost burden of 5% of the average income in that tract making this fuel cost higher than 95% of all other census tracts in Virginia (hence it is in the 95th percentile). However if, by implementing a company's solution, the fuel cost could be reduced to 4% of average income in that tract, a re-ranking of this census tract may show that its costs are higher than only 75% of other census tracts (or in the 75 percentile).

In this way, your solution must aim to lower the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) on one or multiple sub themes of the sample census tract and/or reduce the burden in one or multiple categories on the CEJST (e.g., from  $\geq$  90th percentile to  $\geq$  70th percentile). Proposals **must** outline a plan with specific, measurable objectives that contribute to reducing community vulnerability or enhancing resilience, including a realistic timeline for achieving these goals.

### CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

The [Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) uses U.S. Census data to determine the relative social vulnerability of every census tract. The tool is used for understanding and addressing the varying capacities of communities to respond to, recover from, and prepare for hazardous events or conditions. It evaluates vulnerability through themes such as socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, and housing/transportation dynamics. The tool is often used in cities' emergency management planning to ensure support for vulnerable neighborhoods.

### Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

The [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) is an interactive map identifying disadvantaged communities based on economic, health, and environmental burdens. Communities are classified as disadvantaged if they meet thresholds in at least one of the tool's categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.





If your proposal is selected as a winner, you may choose a different census tract to pilot your project, apply your business model and forecast the impact. The progress of your funded program will be monitored based on these metrics (and other performance metrics). For example, if your proposal aims to reduce unemployment in a census tract using the SVI as the metric, you will be expected to apply your business model to that tract and calculate the SVI both before and after your program's implementation. These calculations are not required in phase 2 application, however if you are selected as a winner, as part of your pilot project your scope of work will incorporate.

Results from this process will help you fill in the online submission form.

If your proposal is selected as a winner, you may choose a different census tract to pilot your project, apply your business model and forecast the impact. The progress of your funded program will be monitored based on these metrics (and other performance metrics). For example, if your proposal aims to reduce unemployment in a census tract using the SVI as the metric, you will be expected to apply your business model to that tract and calculate the SVI both before and after your program's implementation.



# SVI Sample Census Tracts

A	
<b>Overall SVI</b>	0.9532
<b>Socioeconomic</b>	0.9204
<b>Household Characteristics</b>	0.8626
<b>Racial &amp; Ethnic Minority Status</b>	0.9312
<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>	0.8981

B	
<b>Overall SVI</b>	0.988
<b>Socioeconomic</b>	0.9556
<b>Household Characteristics</b>	0.9311
<b>Racial &amp; Ethnic Minority Status</b>	0.9686
<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>	0.9421

C	
<b>Overall SVI</b>	0.9412
<b>Socioeconomic</b>	0.988
<b>Household Characteristics</b>	0.4359
<b>Racial &amp; Ethnic Minority Status</b>	0.9575
<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>	0.8759

SVI scores are designed to quantify the level of social vulnerability in a given area. These scores range from 0 to 1, where a higher score indicates an elevated level of social vulnerability.





# CEJST Sample Census Tracts

A	
Category	Rank/Status
Climate Change	N/A
Energy	Energy Cost 90th Low Income 96th
Health	Asthma 96th Diabetes 88th Low Income 96th
Housing	Housing Cost 97th Low Income 96th
Legacy Pollution	N/A
Transportation	N/A
Waste and Wastewater	N/A
Workforce Development	Low Median Income 92nd 26% High School Education

B	
Category	Rank/Status
Climate Change	Flood Risk 96th
Energy	N/A
Health	Asthma 98th Diabetes 99th Heart Disease 96th Life Expectancy 99th Low Income 98th
Housing	Underinvestment Yes Low Income 98th
Legacy Pollution	Hazardous Waste 90th Superfund Sites 99th Low Income 98th
Transportation	N/A
Waste and Wastewater	N/A
Workforce Development	Low Median Income 96th Poverty 92nd Unemployment 93rd 23% High School Education

C	
Category	Rank/Status
Climate Change	Flood Risk 92nd
Energy	Energy Cost 90th Low Income 96th
Health	Asthma 94th Life Expectancy 98th Low Income 88th
Housing	Housing Cost 97th Low Income 88th
Legacy Pollution	Low Income 88th
Transportation	N/A
Waste and Wastewater	N/A
Workforce Development	Low Median Income 91st 24% High School Education

Percentile rankings (e.g., “97th”) indicate that the tract ranks higher than 97% of other areas in the same category, with higher percentiles representing elevated levels of concern or impact. “N/A” means not applicable or data not available. Specific terms such as “Housing underinvestment Yes” indicate a particular condition or issue identified in the tract. Percentages before “High school education” refer to the proportion of the population in the tract with a high school level education.