



# **\$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)





# Table of Contents

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Overview</b>    | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Topic Areas</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Appendix</b>    | <b>8</b> |





# 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exposed to flooding and urban heat islands, along with the compounding threats of job insecurity, insufficient or outdated housing, limited availability of healthy food and transportation options and inaccessibility to healthcare.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.*





# Appendix 1:

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

### SVI

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Theme: Socioeconomic Status | Sub-theme: No health insurance |
| Socioeconomic Status        | Below 150% poverty             |
| Household Characteristics   | Civilian with a disability     |

### CEJST

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 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/<br>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>

### SVI

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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><br><p>Health</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Legacy pollution</p><br><p>Transportation</p><br><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> |
|--|---|

**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> |
|--|--|

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> <br/> <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/<br/>Wastewater discharge</li> <li>Low median income</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Unemployment</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**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> |
|--|--|

**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/<br/>Proximity to hazardous waste facility/<br/>Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk<br/>Management Sites</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

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/<br>Proximity to hazardous waste facility/<br>Proximity to Superfund site/Proximity to Risk Management Sites |
| Transportation        | Diesel particulate/Transportation barriers/<br>Traffic proximity and volume   |
| Waste and wastewater  | Underground storage tanks and release/<br>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."

