

Carteret County awarded \$470k in coastal resiliency grants from NC Division of Coastal Management

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CARTERET COUNTY - As part of the nearly \$6 million in Resilient Coastal Community Program Grants awarded by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) to 32 coastal municipalities and counties last Thursday, the Town of Newport was awarded \$70,000, and Carteret County received \$400,000

Newport's funding will be released for the first two project phases, of four total, which provide funding, "for technical assistance in risk assessment and resilience planning, and to incorporate resiliency into Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plans, according the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Thursday press release.

During this phase, DCM will, "contract with third-party firms, who receive the [...] funding directly, to provide technical assistance services to the localities. Working with the local governments, the contractors selected by DCM will support the development of the communities' resilience strategies and CAMA Land Use Plans."

While Newport's use of the funding is not yet clear, it will not be used for CAMA land use plans.

Carteret County's funding, outlined as being for "Carteret County Drainage Inventory and Condition Assessment," will be released during the third phase, during which, "municipalities will receive engineering and design funds," per the DEQ. "All of these projects incorporate natural and nature-based elements, such as wetland restoration and living shoreline design," the DEQ explained.

The first round of these grants was awarded in 2021, with Carteret County and included municipalities earning at least \$490,000 from grant cycles spanning 2021 through 2025. According to the DEQ, "The RCCP serves as coastal NC's resilience framework for communities to develop and implement a locally driven Resilience Strategy and implement projects or activities which reduce the impacts of coastal and climate hazards like flooding and storms."

A previous example of grant use in the county was Cape Carteret's 2022-23 Flood Mitigation Planning Project to improve stormwater facilities, map stormwater infrastructure and institute stormwater pretreatment solution in facilities.

Funding for the RCCP comes from both the N.C. General Assembly, as well as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Other counties receiving grants this year are Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender and Tyrell. The other communities awarded include Aulander, Belhaven, Carolina Beach, Wilmington, Colerain, Holden Beach, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Holly Ridge, Jacksonville, Manteo, Murfreesboro, New Burn, Oak Island, Plymouth, Shallote, Southern Shores, Southport and Washington Park.