



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Gosnold, MASSACHUSETTS

MVP 2.0 Planning Vendor

TOWN MANAGER

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SELECT BOARD

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Contents:

- Section A: [Overview of Opportunity](#)
- Section B: [MVP 2.0 Summary](#)
- Section C: [Scope of Work](#)
- Section D: [Submittal Requirements](#)
- Section E: [Evaluation of Proposals](#)

Section A: Overview of Opportunity

Cities, towns, and Tribes throughout Massachusetts are identifying climate vulnerabilities and investing in community resilience. The MVP 2.0 program, run by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, expands on the work communities have done to date and supports communities with new methods, tools, and resources for building climate resilience. MVP 2.0 is a way for grantees to revisit their community resilience priorities with a focus on equity and translate those priorities into action through project development and implementation.

The Town of Gosnold seeks proposals from qualified individuals or firms to update the 2018 Municipal Vulnerability Plan using the MVP 2.0 Process described herein.

The work is funded by a grant award under the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 program.

The selected Planning Vendor shall demonstrate previous experience in providing specified services to municipalities. Vendors must submit documentation required in Section D: Submittal Requirements. The contract will be awarded to the firm that provides the most advantageous proposal based on the Technical and Price Proposals described below. The Town of Gosnold reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the proposal process, and accept the proposal deemed to be in the Town's best interest.

It is recommended that respondents to this request thoroughly review the vendor qualifications and the MVP 2.0 Process Guide available here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/mvp-20-process-guide/download>.

Section B: MVP 2.0 Summary

The MVP 2.0 program expands on the climate resilience work communities have done to date and supports them with new methods, tools, and resources for building climate resilience. In particular, the vendor will support the Grantee in revisiting their community resilience priorities with a focus on equity and translating those priorities into action through project development and implementation. The MVP 2.0 program does this through:

- Convening a community team to lead equitable climate resilience work;
- Providing training on strategies for building climate resilience, equity, and climate justice;
- Revisiting resilience priorities with the involvement of the wider community and a stronger assessment of social vulnerability and resilience;
- Helping the municipality and community to co-develop and implement a project that builds community resilience, with guaranteed funding for implementation; and
- Providing a process that can be replicated for future, competitive MVP Action Grants.

This work will be different from the original MVP Planning Grant (MVP 1.0) approach that you may be familiar with. It focuses less on understanding how extreme weather events will impact infrastructural and environmental assets in the community, and more on building social resilience. This includes exploring the factors that create vulnerability or resilience for people living or working in the community. It involves digging deeper into issues like food security and housing affordability and understanding how those factors shape what is needed for building resilience to climate change. The MVP 2.0 process calls on a Core Team with strong

connections to communities that will be most impacted by climate change, and Planning Vendors that bring different skill sets than in MVP 1.0 (see skill sets detailed in evaluation section below). In addition, every municipality or region in the MVP 2.0 Program is paired with an Equity Partner. The Equity Partner helps provide coaching and guidance on things like inclusive engagement and how to measure the equity impacts of projects. Together this team will focus on connecting with and collaborating with community members, and expanding the voices who are involved in climate resilience efforts.

The MVP 2.0 process is broken down into three phases. It's designed to be completed over two years, knowing that it takes time to build new relationships, expand the involvement of the broader community, and work together to develop and implement a project. Grantees may also continue to apply for Action Grants while participating in MVP 2.0. The Planning Vendor will be hired in Step 1 of the process, and will be responsible for helping the community implement Steps 2-8 in the MVP 2.0 Process Guide.

Phase 1 - Develop a Core Team. The Core Team is a team of municipal staff/volunteers and community members who will lead the MVP 2.0 process. Half of the Core Team members will be **community liaisons** – members of the community or region who have strong connections with Environmental Justice (EJ)¹ and other priority populations² who will lead outreach to these communities throughout the process and who will be compensated for their time with grant funding. As part of Phase 1, the Grantee, Equity Partner, and Planning Vendor will investigate lived expertise in the community to identify perspectives that will be important to include on the Core Team. It's expected that Phase 1 will take about five months.

Phase 2 - Revisit resilience priorities. Building on MVP 1.0 and any climate resilience planning since, the Core Team facilitated by the Planning Vendor and Equity Partner, will dig deeper into the factors that contribute to social vulnerability and resilience for people who live and work in the community. This step will kick off collaboration of the Core Team with team-building activities, and then involve connecting with EJ and other priority populations in the community or region and investigating community and climate data to identify community resilience needs. Finally, the Core Team will revisit their community resilience priorities from MVP Planning 1.0 to make sure they reflect any progress, new information, as well as updated understanding of community resilience needs. Throughout, the Equity Partner will provide coaching on how to think about climate equity in the community and inclusive engagement. It's expected that Phase 2 will take about six months.

Phase 3 - Implement a Seed Project. A Seed Project is a project selected by the Core Team that will advance the community's resilience priorities, and that can be completed in 9-10 months. In Phase 3, the Core Team will develop a project idea, vet that idea with the community, develop an implementation plan (including a session led by the Equity Partner on equity metrics), and implement the Seed Project. The MVP 2.0 process finishes by reflecting on what went well and

¹ Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations are defined in the [2021 EJ Policy](#) and can be viewed in the [MA EJ viewer](#).

² Other priority populations are people or communities in addition to mapped EJ populations who may be disproportionately impacted by climate change due to life circumstances that systematically increase their exposure to climate hazards or make it harder to respond. In addition to factors that contribute to EJ status (i.e., income, race, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health status, and age shape whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected by climate change.

how it will adjust the approach for future Action Grants or other resilience efforts. The actual implementation of the Seed Project will be covered under separate procurement and will be allotted \$50,000 of grant funding per community with no local match required. The responsibility of the Planning Vendor being hired through this RFP will be to help the community select a Seed Project and build out the implementation plan. It does not include actual implementation of the Seed Project unless specified by the Grantee. It's expected that Phase 3 will take about 13 months.

Experience & Skill Sets Required of the Planning Vendor/ Vendor Team

The Planning Vendor or vendor team will need to bring capability and experience in the following three areas:

1. Equity-Centered Project Facilitation – This skill set is important for managing the process, and guiding and facilitating decision-making within the Core Team. Equity-centered project facilitation requires skills and experience in consensus building, equitable community processes, managing various types of power dynamics, anti-racism education, cultural sensitivity, project management, and organizational development to support diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ideally, the person or team bringing this experience would be a neutral entity without prior stake in the issues.
2. Community-Driven Processes – This skill set is important for supporting municipal staff in recruiting a Core Team, and for guiding and supporting the Core Team in community outreach and engagement. This area requires experience and expertise in developing and implementing equitable and inclusive approaches to outreach, engagement, and community-led processes, and particularly processes designed with and for EJ and other priority populations. Strong local knowledge and connections within the community are a significant asset. This role could be filled by someone who has strong relationships with communities throughout the town, city, or region.
3. Climate and Community Resilience – This skill set is important for supporting the Core Team in identifying the root causes of climate and social vulnerability, developing actions for building community resilience, and in designing a Seed Project. This area requires experience and expertise in climate and community data, assessing climate and social vulnerability, approaches to building climate resilience, equity and climate justice, and project design and development. Strong local climate data and impacts knowledge is a significant asset. This role should be filled by someone that has strong experience with climate-related work.

Additional Experience

In addition to the qualifications listed above, the Planning Vendor/vendor team should have demonstrated experience in the following areas:

- Experience with facilitation or consensus building.
- Experience working in multi-racial, multicultural, or socially vulnerable groups.
- Experience managing projects.
- Local expertise.

Resources & Support

The Grantee will work with the Planning Vendor to help manage and facilitate the process and will be provided with a set of guidance documents and tools for completing the process. Additionally, the project team will use the [Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience](#)

([GEAR](#)) online tool which provides access to community data, downscaled climate projections, and guidance for investigating and understanding local climate vulnerability. The MVP Program’s team of Regional Coordinators (RCs) will also provide support and guidance in the process (see list of MVP checkpoints below).

Section C: Scope of Work & Checkpoints

The Town is seeking proposals from qualified firms to be the Planning Vendor and implement Steps 2–8 in the MVP 2.0 Process Guide. The Planning Vendor will work with the Municipal Project Manager and the Equity Partner to conduct the following tasks to complete the MVP 2.0 process.

Phase 1: Developing a Core Team	
Step 1: Starting to Build Your Team (1-2 Months)	
<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a Planning Vendor (or vendor team) to support the MVP 2.0 process • Recruit the municipal staff who will be on the Core Team. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just after award - The Municipal Project Manager will receive an award letter, a timeline, a contract, and the name and contact information of the Equity Partner (EP) assigned to the community from the MVP team. The MVP Regional Coordinator (RC) for your region will contact you to schedule quarterly check-ins. • Just after award - The community’s EP will be in contact to set up a meeting between the Municipal Project Manager, RC, and EP to kick off the process and to discuss Planning Vendor selection. • After selecting a Planning Vendor - Email the contract, contact information, and qualifications for your selected Planning Vendor to your RC, EP, and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov).
Step 2: Identifying Lived Expertise (1 Month)	
<p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify lived expertise of people who live and work in the community and perspectives that will be important to include on the Core Team. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion - Email your completed Community Exploration to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 3.
Step 3: Recruiting the Rest of Your Team (2 Months)	
<p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and onboard the Community Liaison Core Team Members. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion - Email a list of your Core Team members to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 4. Note which members are Community Liaisons, the

	community(ies) they are connected to, and how much they will be compensated.
Phase 2: Revisiting Resilience Priorities	
Step 4: Kicking off Collaboration (1 Month)	
Goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a foundation for working together through team building, orientation, and discussion. 	MVP Checkpoints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion - Email your completed Discussion Guide to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 5.
Step 5: Uncovering Social Resilience (3 Months)	
Goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify factors that contribute to vulnerability and resilience for people who live and work in the community and region. 	MVP Checkpoints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completing your Engagement Plan - Email your completed Engagement Plan to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before starting on your engagement activities. • Upon completion of Step 5 - Email your completed Social Resilience Roadmap to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 6.
Step 6: Revisiting Resilience Priorities (2 Months)	
Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit and update community resilience priorities (from MVP 1.0) based on what was learned in Step 5. • Vet the updated priorities with the community. 	MVP Checkpoints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of Step 6 - Email your completed Resilience Priorities Guide to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 7.
Phase 3: Implementing a Seed Project	
Step 7: Selecting a Seed Project (1 Month)	
Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a Seed Project idea(s) that will advance one or more of the community resilience priorities. • Vet the project idea(s) with the community. 	MVP Checkpoints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you have identified a few Seed Project ideas - Email your preliminary Seed Project ideas to your RC for feedback before vetting the Seed Project ideas with the community. • Upon completion - Email your completed Seed Project Plan Part A to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 8. Submitting Part A and approval from your RC will unlock funding for Seed Project implementation.

Step 8: Developing and Implementation Plan (1 Month)	
<p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an implementation plan for the Seed Project that will help translate the idea into action. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion - Email your completed Seed Project Plan Part B to your RC and the MVP inbox (mvp@mass.gov) before moving on to Step 9. Upon completion - Submit the MVP 2.0 Interim Submission Form, which includes answering some summary questions about the process and uploading all completed deliverables thus far (Steps 1-8).
Step 9: Implementing the Seed Project (Ten months) - TO BE LED BY SEPARATE VENDOR UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY THE GRANTEE	
<p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Seed Project, and in doing so, build resilience and capability within the community or region. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halfway through Seed Project implementation - Email or set up a call with your RC to provide a progress update.
Step 10: Reflecting, Adjusting, and Next Steps (1 Month) - TO BE LED BY CORE TEAM	
<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on the process in order to evolve and improve it for future resilience building efforts. Close out the MVP 2.0 Process. 	<p>MVP Checkpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion- Submit the MVP 2.0 Final Submission Form, which includes uploading the completed deliverables from Steps 9 and 10, including documentation of the Seed Project.

The [MVP 2.0 Roadmap](#) is an example resource that breaks down the process meeting-by-meeting, outlining roles, responsibilities, and time commitments. In summary:

Planning Vendor/Vendor Team

- Project management
- Help to recruit and onboard community liaisons
- Pay community liaisons
- Facilitate working sessions and meetings with the Core Team
- Coordinate and support community outreach and engagement
- Coordinate and support in investigating community and climate data
- Facilitate discussions with the Core Team to unpack community vulnerability and resilience, and to update resilience priorities
- Help develop a Seed Project and draft an implementation plan to build equitable community resilience
- Take notes, draft content, incorporate feedback, and oversee the completion of deliverables

Equity Partner

- Help the municipal project manager select a Planning Vendor and select municipal staff to serve on the Core Team
- Lead learning sessions about equity and climate justice
- Provide guidance and support in recruiting Community Liaisons
- Lead onboarding of Community Liaisons
- Help the Core Team think through, plan, and execute inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement
- Assist in developing Seed Project ideas with an eye to how they are advancing equity goals

Grantee/Municipal Staff

- Complete a contract with the Commonwealth and maintain all necessary reporting
- Procure a Planning Vendor based on the provided vendor qualifications
- Recruit municipal staff to participate in the Core Team
- Work with an EEA-procured and assigned Equity Partner to ensure equity and Environmental Justice is central to the process
- Help to recruit Community Liaisons
- Participate in working sessions and meetings of the Core Team
- Help implement community outreach and engagement
- Participate in learning sessions about equity and climate justice
- Identify/procure an Implementation Vendor to lead or support the implementation of the Seed Project; work with the Implementation Vendor and community stakeholders to implement the Seed Project (Step 9)
- Reflect on the MVP 2.0 process, and submit the MVP 2.0 Final Submission form with all associated deliverables to the MVP team (Step 10)

Community Liaisons

Community Liaisons will make up approximately half of the members on your Core Team, be compensated for their time through the grant funding, and play an important role in making sure the insight, needs, and priorities of those most impacted by climate change inform decisions throughout the process. Community Liaisons (approximately five) will help implement the MVP 2.0 process. Community Liaisons will be paid out of the grant funding and responsibilities will include the following activities:

- Work closely with the other members of the Core Team (other Community Liaisons and Grantee staff) for unified project coordination
- Participate in learning sessions about equity and climate justice
- Attend and participate in regular Core Team meetings
- Organize, promote, and facilitate engagement activities with members of the community
- Gather insight from the community about community needs and factors that contribute to social vulnerability
- Work with other Core Team members to update the community's priorities for building climate resilience
- Work with other Core Team members to identify, develop, and implement a project that supports community resilience

- Develop and maintain trusting relationships in the community

Reporting & Final Deliverables

Please see “checkpoints” column in the table above for required actions and deliverables. After Step 8, the Planning Vendor will help the community submit the [MVP 2.0 Interim Submission Form](#) with deliverables from Steps 1-8. The Grantee will submit the [MVP 2.0 Final Submission Form](#) in Step 10.

Other close-out materials not listed in checkpoints above:

- Final invoice(s) demonstrating all grant funding was spent according to the contract scope of work.

Details on Materials that Result from this Contract

All materials, software, maps, reports, and other products produced through the grant program shall be considered in the public domain and thus available at the cost of production. All materials created through this opportunity and as a result of this award should credit the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program.

Budget

Upon admittance to the MVP 2.0 Program, the Grantee was awarded a funding amount of \$50,000. Below is a sample budget for the completion of the MVP 2.0 Process. The budget below provides a sample breakdown of this grant funding across Community Liaisons, the Planning Vendor, a Subject Matter Advisor, and direct costs for engagement. The vendor’s submitted budget must reflect the vendor’s responsibility of paying the Community Liaisons as sub-contractors. An [Excel version of a sample budget](#) is available here with additional details.

Section D: Submittal Instructions & Requirements

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with MGL Ch. 30B to the Office of the Town Clerk at:

Town of Gosnold
Town Clerk’s Office
PO Box 28
Gosnold, MA 02713
mcarvalho@townofgosnold.org

All proposals must be submitted by Email.

Proposals must consist of two parts:

1. A Technical Proposal that shall include all information responsive to this RFP, except price; and,
2. A Price Proposal.

Technical Proposals shall include the following:

- A. Planning Vendor and/or sub-Vendor Description: Provide a brief description of the firm/organization including size and area of specialization, location of headquarters, and location of office proposed to handle this project.
- B. Project Team: Provide names, contact information, resumes, and office locations of key staff who will be assigned to the project. Each team member's education and qualifications shall be listed. The project manager shall be clearly identified. If different consultants will be teaming together, indicate who will be the day-to-day contact person/team.
- C. Qualifications: Provide a description of how the Planning Vendor/vendor team meets the three areas of required experience and skill sets described above: Equity-Centered Project Facilitation, Community-Driven Processes, and Climate and Community Resilience. See how this will be evaluated below for the types of information to include here.
- D. Additional Experience: Provide a description of the following:
 - a. Experience with facilitation or consensus building. Describe the Planning Vendor team's experience with facilitation and consensus building within a group or project team. Provide details on one or more projects or initiatives where members of the Planning Vendor team were responsible for playing a facilitation or consensus building role.
 - b. Experience working in multi-racial, multicultural, or socially vulnerable groups. Describe the Planning Vendor team's experience with working on projects that involved integrating marginalized racial, cultural, or socially vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. Provide details on one or more projects or initiatives where members of the Planning Vendor team implemented meaningful inclusionary practices, fostered social connections, and managed power dynamics that centered social equity or building resilience.
 - c. Experience managing projects. Describe the Planning Vendor team's experience with managing projects, including coordinating a project team and tracking a budget and deliverables. Provide details on one or more projects or initiatives where members of the Planning Vendor team were responsible for project management.
 - d. Local expertise. Describe the Planning Vendor team's familiarity with the municipality or the region, including experience living and/or working in the municipality or region, and experience collaborating with local partners.
- E. Project Understanding: Provide a statement summarizing how the Planning Vendor team is particularly qualified for this project.
- F. Scope of Services: Describe the Planning Vendor team's approach and plan for accomplishing the work listed herein and in the MVP 2.0 Process Guide. The Planning Vendor shall not delete any requested scope tasks. The proposed scope must be included and demonstrate a payment system for Community Liaisons.

- G. Project Schedule and Commitment: The Planning Vendor shall submit acknowledgment and commitment for the responsibilities, timeline, and familiarity with the [MVP 2.0 Process Guide](#). Any proposed changes to the budget above should be provided with an explanation.
- H. References: Collectively the references should be able to speak to the Planning Vendor team’s qualifications listed above. Ideally, at least one reference would be a representative of a community-based organization or community group that serves EJ and other priority populations and can speak to the Planning Vendor team’s ability to lead equity-centered processes. For each reference, list the contact name, their title and/or affiliation, a brief description of the project or initiative they’d be able to speak to, and their contact information (phone number and email address).

The Price Proposal shall include:

- Costs for each task listed in Section C; in a spreadsheet format, the estimated cost of each task showing effort hours, billable rates, labor category, reimbursable expenses, and sub-consultant costs. All billable rates should be fully loaded. The proposed costs must demonstrate payment to Community Liaisons by the Planning Vendor. Any proposed changes to the budget above should be provided with an explanation. An [Excel version of a sample budget](#) is available here with additional details.

Questions should be submitted via email by 4:00 PM on April 17, 2026 to:

Stewart Young
Gosnold, MA 02713
syoun@townofgosnold.org

Procurement Timeline:

- Questions Due by 4pm: April 17, 2026
- Proposal Submittal: April 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Section E: Evaluation of Proposals

Bids will be evaluated based on Planning Vendor qualifications (see criteria below), additional experience, references, budget and timeline, and completeness and clarity of the proposal, including adherence to MVP 2.0 requirements outlined in the [MVP 2.0 Process Guide](#). The Town reserves the right to award the contract to the firm with the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration both technical and price aspects of the proposals submitted and shall not be required to award to the firm submitting the lowest price proposal.

Evaluation of Qualifications of the Planning Vendor/ Vendor Team

Baseline	Exceptional
At least three years of experience in leading or facilitating equity-centered projects or initiatives; OR	At least five years of experience in leading or facilitating equity-centered projects or initiatives; OR

<p>Experience leading or facilitating at least two equity-centered projects or initiatives.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe how equity goals shaped who was involved, the process, and the desired outcomes. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor team was involved in the process and their role.</p> <p>Note: It is not necessary for the Planning Vendor to have led the full project or initiative as long as they led or played a substantial role in centering equity in the project.</p>	<p>Experience leading or facilitating at least three equity-centered projects or initiatives.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe how equity goals shaped who was involved, the process, and the desired outcomes. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor team was involved in the process and their role.</p> <p>Note: It is not necessary for the Planning Vendor to have led the full project or initiative as long as they led or played a substantial role in centering equity in the project.</p>
<p>One or more members of the Planning Vendor team has received training in advancing equity in governmental processes, undoing racism, and/or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).</p> <p>For each team member, list the training(s) they have participated in. Include links to information on the trainings.</p>	<p>One or more members of the Planning Vendor team has received extensive training (i.e., multiple trainings or learning opportunities) in advancing equity in governmental processes, undoing racism, and/or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); OR Has developed and/or led trainings on the topics listed above.</p> <p>For each team member, list the training(s) they have participated in, developed, or led. Include links to information on the trainings.</p>
<p>At least three years of experience in leading or facilitating inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement with residents from historically underrepresented groups; OR Experience co-designing or facilitating an initiative or planning process where decisions were led or substantially shaped by community members, and specifically residents from historically underrepresented groups.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe how you approached inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement or the process of collaborating with community members. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor</p>	<p>At least five years of experience in leading or facilitating inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement with residents from historically underrepresented groups; OR More than one experience co-designing or facilitating an initiative or planning process where decisions were led or substantially shaped by community members, and specifically residents from historically underrepresented groups.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe how you approached inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement or the process of collaborating with community members. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor</p>

<p>team was involved in the process and their role.</p>	<p>team was involved in the process and their role.</p>
<p>At least two years of experience working on projects or initiatives focused on addressing climate change or building resilience to climate hazards;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Experience working on one or more projects or initiatives focused on addressing climate change or building resilience to climate hazards.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe the approach taken, the climate impacts that were being considered, and how the project addressed social vulnerability. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor team was involved in the process and their role.</p>	<p>At least four years of experience working on projects or initiatives focused on addressing climate change or building resilience to climate hazards;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Experience working on three or more projects or initiatives focused on addressing climate change or building resilience to climate hazards.</p> <p>For each project or initiative, describe the approach taken, the climate impacts that were being considered, and how the project addressed social vulnerability. Specify where the project or initiative took place, who it served, and the start and finish dates. Specify who on the Planning Vendor team was involved in the process and their role.</p>

Technical Approach and Time Table: Proposals will be evaluated based on the Vendor’s understanding of the Scope of Work, proposed methodology and approach to the tasks involved in this project, thoroughness of the proposed work, innovative solutions and clarity of the work program. The proposal shall include an estimated time of completion for each step of the work required.

Qualifications: Professional qualifications of the respondent (training/educational background appropriate to the project described herein) and all project personnel; including professional experience above and beyond the minimum qualifications.

Experience: Proposals that demonstrate previous successful experience developing innovative projects to increase coastal resiliency will be looked upon more favorably. Consultant must have experience dealing with municipalities, and a minimum of five (5) years of experience in consulting on similar projects.

Client References: Reference checks will be done to evaluate the strength and credibility of the special skills and abilities needed by the Consultant for this activity, including timeliness of performance.

Project Schedule: Proposal clearly demonstrates that the Consultant will have sufficient resources and time to complete the project within the proposed project schedule given other commitments.

Knowledge of community and compelling issues of this project: Proposal demonstrates an awareness of the issues and processes associated with working with a small island town in Massachusetts. Special consideration will be given to proposals who are familiar with the impacts of storms, flooding, and other climate change impacts on island communities.

Link to web site [Town of Gosnold Website](#)

The Town of Gosnold, the outermost community in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, comprises the Elizabeth Islands, with Cuttyhunk Island serving as its primary year-round residential and town center. Located at the southwestern edge of Dukes County, Cuttyhunk sits at the confluence of Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound, and the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean. This geographically isolated setting defines both the character of the community and the nature of its climate vulnerabilities.

Cuttyhunk is a small, remote island community with a year-round population of approximately 10 residents, which increases significantly during the summer months. The island has no bridge access; all transportation of people, goods, and services is dependent on ferry access and weather conditions. Critical infrastructure—including energy, communications, emergency services, and supply chains—is inherently fragile due to this isolation.

The island's built environment is concentrated along low-lying coastal areas, including the harbor, residential zones, and key public facilities. These areas are highly exposed to coastal flooding, storm surge, sea level rise, and erosion. The harbor serves as the economic and logistical hub of the island, supporting commercial fishing, tourism, and ferry operations, making it particularly sensitive to climate impacts.

Cuttyhunk's natural environment is equally significant. The island contains coastal banks, barrier beaches, salt marshes, and limited freshwater resources, all of which are susceptible to climate-driven changes. The island's ecosystems provide critical protective functions but are increasingly at risk from rising seas, stronger storm events, and shifting ecological conditions.

Due to its small population and limited municipal capacity, Gosnold faces unique challenges in planning for and responding to climate change. At the same time, the community benefits from strong local engagement, deep place-based knowledge, and a history of collaboration with regional and state partners.

The Town completed its initial Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan in 2018. Through the MVP 2.0 process, Gosnold seeks to build upon this foundation by incorporating updated climate data, refining priority actions, strengthening implementation strategies, and deepening community engagement. The updated plan will reflect the island's distinct vulnerabilities, seasonal population dynamics, and reliance on resilient infrastructure systems, while advancing actionable, equitable, and locally appropriate climate adaptation solutions.