

# The RAFT: Maintaining Progress in Coastal Virginia

**Grant # NA23NOS4190255 Task 91.02**  
**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management Program**



## **Proposed Timeline and Plan for Implementing RAFT with Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Historic Triangle Localities**

October 2024

### **Summary:**

The Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN) at the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR) at the Old Dominion University (ODU) and the Coastal Collaborator at Virginia Tech (VT) look forward to partnering with Virginia’s Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) to support three Historic Triangle localities in advancing their resilience priorities. Specific localities identified during initial consultations and an interest meeting with HRPDC staff and locality representatives include the three Historic Triangle localities of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. The project will implement The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) process to support these three communities in advancing their resilience through a “collective impact” co-creative collaborative approach that leverages the expertise and resources of numerous institutional government and academic partners and diverse community stakeholders.

The RAFT process offers an innovative and proven collaborative approach to supporting localities in increasing their climate resilience. Drawing on the expertise and resources of numerous institutional partners and community stakeholders, The RAFT has been implemented successfully with 28 communities across the Commonwealth of Virginia. These include seven localities on the Eastern Shore, eight localities in the Northern Neck, six localities in the Middle Peninsula, two localities in the Crater Region, three pilot communities, and two Virginia Indian Tribes with support from the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Zone Management Program (VDEQ CZM), Jessie Ball duPont Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Agua Fund, and other funders.

The RAFT Team will begin The RAFT assessment phase with HRPDC Historic Triangle localities in January 2025, which will include scoring their current resilience strengths and identifying opportunities with the updated RAFT Scorecard. Concurrently, IEN will conduct a qualitative assessment with diverse stakeholders and community leaders that serve the Historic Triangle localities to understand opportunities for resilience planning during the implementation phase. We anticipate completing the RAFT Assessment phase in HRPDC localities in Spring 2025, including the qualitative assessment comprised of interviews and focus groups with community leaders and critical service providers. The finalization of opportunity lists from the Scorecard and Qualitative Assessments and presentations to locality staff and City Councils or County Boards of Supervisors will be conducted in Summer 2025.



A regional Resilience Action Workshop is anticipated to be scheduled in August 2025 and will enable community stakeholders from the three Historic Triangle localities to identify their top resilience priorities and create their Resilience Action Checklists and associated Implementation Teams. The 12-month Implementation Phase will then launch in September 2025 with IEN, ODU and VT facilitating monthly implementation team meetings for their respective localities through August 2026. A One Year Progress Review Workshop is anticipated for September 2026, which will close out The RAFT process with HRPDC Historic Triangle localities. Please see the tables below outlining the proposed timeline.

#### Localities Anticipated to Participate in RAFT:

City of Williamsburg	James City County	York County
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#### Proposed RAFT Process Timeline:

Phase of RAFT	Start Date	End Date	RAFT Partner Lead
Pre-RAFT Engagement with Hampton Roads PDC and Historic Triangle Localities	Ongoing	December 2024	University of Virginia Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN)
Assessment Phase (Quantitative Scorecard)	January 2025	Spring 2025 (May anticipated)	Virginia Tech Coastal Collaborator (VT)
Assessment Phase (Qualitative Interviews and Focus groups)	January 2025	Spring 2025 (May anticipated)	IEN
Presentations of results to Locality Staff	June 2025	July 2025	IEN, VT, and Old Dominion University (ODU)
Presentations of results to City Councils/Board of Supervisors	June 2025	July 2025	IEN, VT, and Old Dominion University (ODU)
Regional Resilience Action Workshop	August 2025	August 2025	ODU with support from IEN and VT
Implementation Phase (monthly Implementation team meetings)	September 2025	August 2026	IEN, VT, and ODU for their respective localities with mentoring by IEN
One Year Progress Review Workshop and Wrap Up	September 2026	September 2026	IEN, VT and ODU



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**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management Program\***



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For more information visit The RAFT website: <https://www.coopercenter.org/ien/raft>

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