



# Call for Proposals

## 2025 Resilient Virginia Conference

### Summary

**On July 23-24, 2025, Resilient Virginia is hosting their 6th biennial conference at James Madison University.** This statewide conference will bring together resilience practitioners and researchers for peer to peer learning, networking, and collaborating.

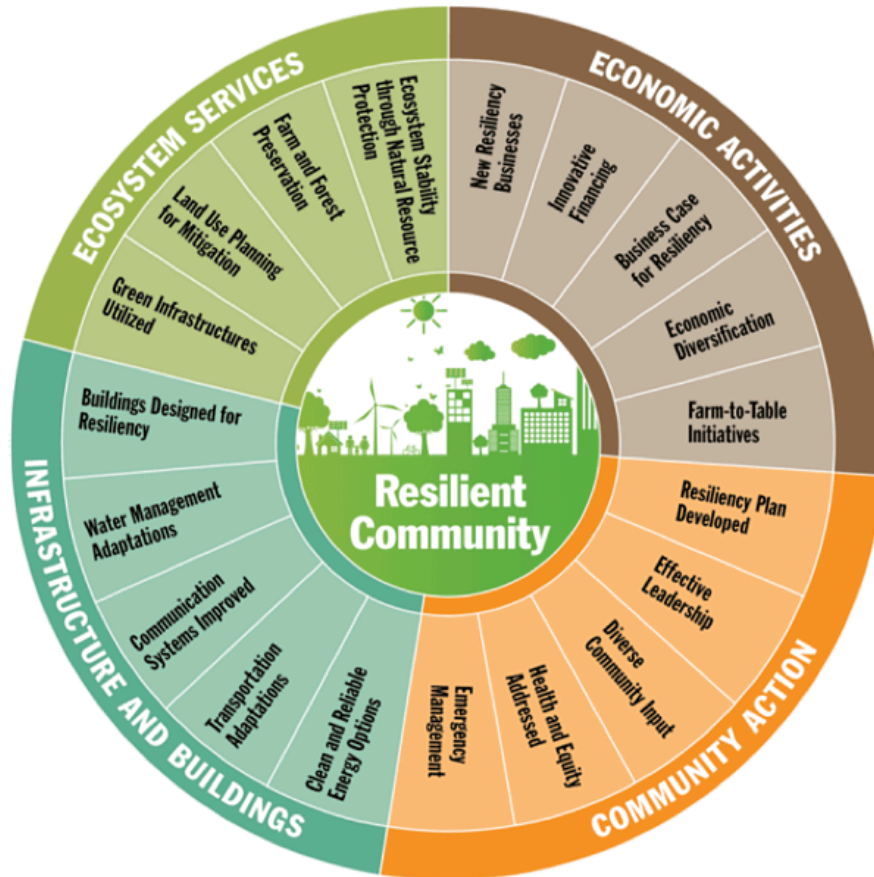
Resilient Virginia is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals (CFP) for the 2025 Resilient Virginia Conference. We are seeking dynamic speakers, thought leaders, and practitioners who can contribute to the advancement of holistic, inclusive, and long-lasting resilience strategies across the Commonwealth. This year's conference focuses on **Moving Virginia Forward** through innovative approaches to resilience at the state, regional, and community levels, emphasizing climate adaptation, equity, economic sustainability, and systems-based solutions. The goals of the conference are learning, networking, and collaborating.

### About Resilient Virginia

Resilient Virginia aims to inform, educate, and activate communities across the Commonwealth to prepare for and respond to a wide range of challenges—natural, climate-related, and man-made. The organization focuses on:

1. Informing diverse community representatives about current and emerging resiliency challenges specific to their regions.
2. Educating key stakeholders and groups about effective models and best practices for community resiliency planning.
3. Activating local communities to take concrete steps in developing and implementing comprehensive resiliency plans.

The organization takes a proactive stance on resiliency planning by guiding communities to examine four critical components that shape their ability to withstand and recover from disruptions: Ecosystem Services, Economic Activities, Community Action, and Infrastructure and Buildings.



## Opportunity Details

We invite proposals for presentations, panels, workshops, and case studies that address critical issues in resilience planning and implementation. Successful proposals will align with the conference’s mission to move Virginia forward through integrated, actionable, and forward-thinking strategies.

Presentation ideas include (but are not limited to):

- Community programs where there is an opportunity for replication or scaling up
- Trans-boundary collaborations and/or partnerships
- Innovative approaches to building resilience
- Research projects
- Tools and resources for resilience practitioners
- Funding opportunities

Suggested topics include (but not limited to):

- Climate adaptation and mitigation planning
- Community-based resilience and equity-centered initiatives

- Nature-based solutions and green infrastructure
- Energy resilience and clean energy transitions
- Resilient infrastructure and transportation systems
- Policy innovations and governance models for resilience
- Regional collaboration and capacity building
- Financing and funding resilience projects
- Resilience in rural vs. urban settings
- Youth and next-generation resilience leadership

### **Conference Audience**

Past conferences have averaged between 200 and 300 attendees representing state, regional, and local governments, nonprofits, the private sector, and academia. Attendees work in a multitude of industries including governance, agriculture and food systems, water infrastructure, energy, transportation, emergency preparedness, built infrastructure, climate science, natural resource management, communications systems, land-use planning, public health, and many more.

### **Benefits of Speaking at the Conference**

- Receive 25% off conference registration
- A dedicated time to present your work to an audience excited to hear about what you're doing
- Network with other resilience professionals from across the state
- Network with attendees before, during, and after the conference through the Whova app
- Meet one-on-one with attendees seeking technical assistance

## **Submission Requirements**

### **Proposal Format**

All proposals must be submitted in PDF format.

### **Required Documents and Information**

Please include the following in your proposal:

- Name and contact information
- Presenter's bio
- Abstract (250-300 words)
- Preferred format (e.g., panel, solo presentation, workshop)

### **Submission Method**

Please email your proposal to [conference@resilientvirginia.org](mailto:conference@resilientvirginia.org) no later than May 6, 2025 @ 5pm

### **Questions or Clarifications**

Please contact [conference@resilientvirginia.org](mailto:conference@resilientvirginia.org) with any questions.

## **Selection Criteria**

### **Evaluation Factors**

Presentations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment with Resilient Virginia's mission and goals
- Relevance to the current resilience landscape
- Likelihood of fostering collaborations or partnerships to bridge gaps in the current system
- Probability of building capacity to move resilience initiatives forward

### **Evaluation Team**

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of Conference Advisory Committee Members and Resilient Virginia Staff. The team will arrange proposed topics into conference tracks and may request speakers collaborate for a cohesive track.

### **Non-negotiables**

- You must be available to present in-person at the conference in Harrisonburg, VA.
- You must present your own work or work you are authorized to speak about.
- Speakers are required to register for the conference. All speakers will receive a 25% discount on their registration.
- Resilient Virginia is a nonpartisan organization. Presentations should remain nonpartisan; submissions that favor a particular political party or affiliation will not be considered.

## **Timelines and Deadlines**

### **Call for Proposals Issue Date**

April 15, 2025

### **Deadline for Proposal Submissions**

May 6, 2025 at 5:00pm ET

**Speakers will be notified of their acceptance by June 1, 2025**

## **Contact Information**

### **Submission Method**

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### **Resilient Virginia Staff**

Jessica Steelman, Executive Director, [steelman@resilientvirginia.org](mailto:steelman@resilientvirginia.org)

Trish Porter, Director of Programs and Communications, [trish@resilientvirginia.org](mailto:trish@resilientvirginia.org)

### **Learn more about the 2025 Resilient Virginia Conference**

<https://resilientvirginia.org/conference/>