

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a calm body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange, yellow, and blue, with a small crescent moon visible in the upper right. The water reflects the colors of the sky. A small boat is visible on the horizon in the center.

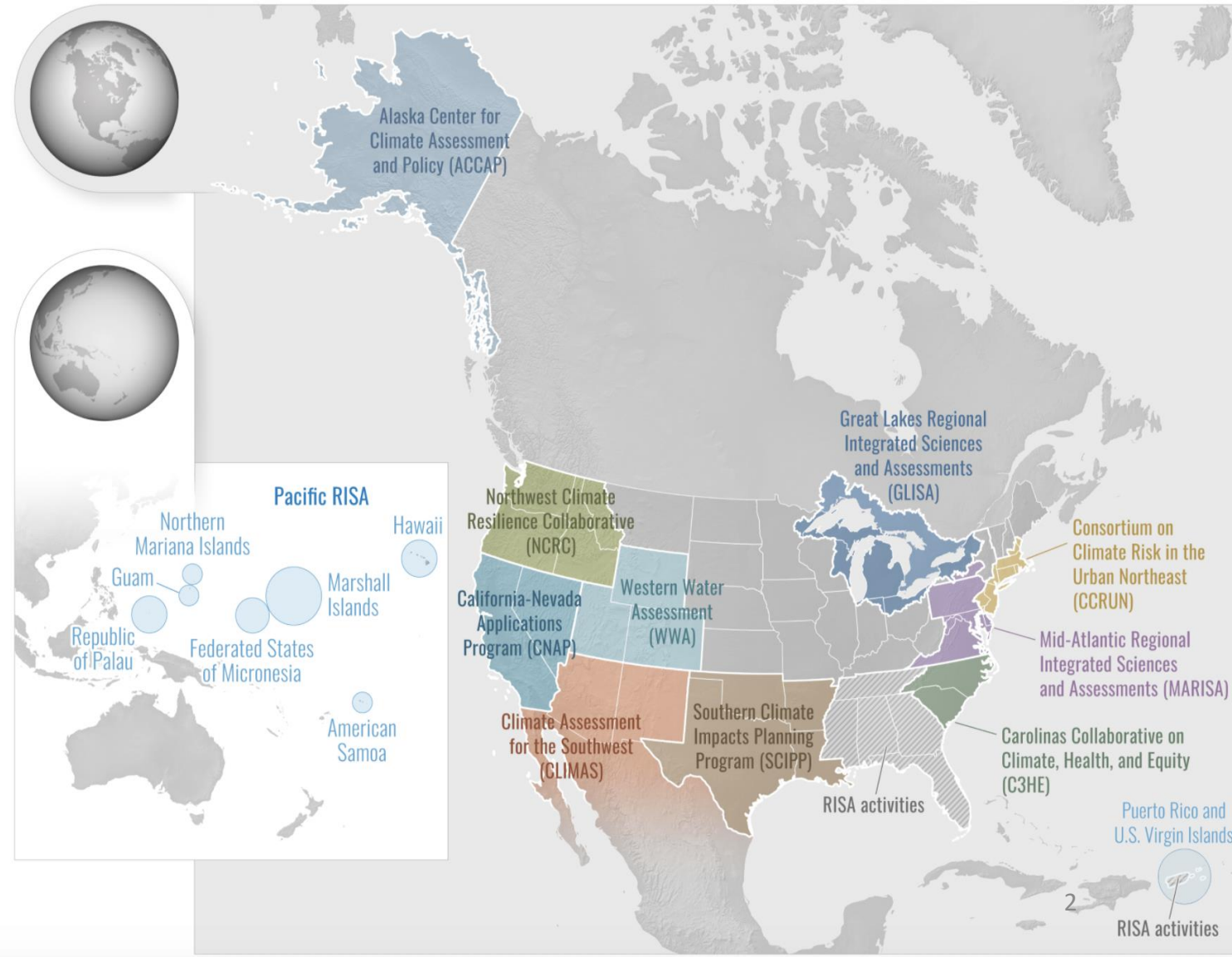
# Equitable Engagement with Communities in the Mid-Atlantic: The MARISA Small Grants Program

Presented by the MARISA Program Manager  
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# Climate Adaptation Partnership/Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CAP/RISA) Program

**CAP/RISA is a national, NOAA-funded research program that brings together diverse disciplines and sectors to enhance learning and decision making to prepare for the impacts of climate variability and change**



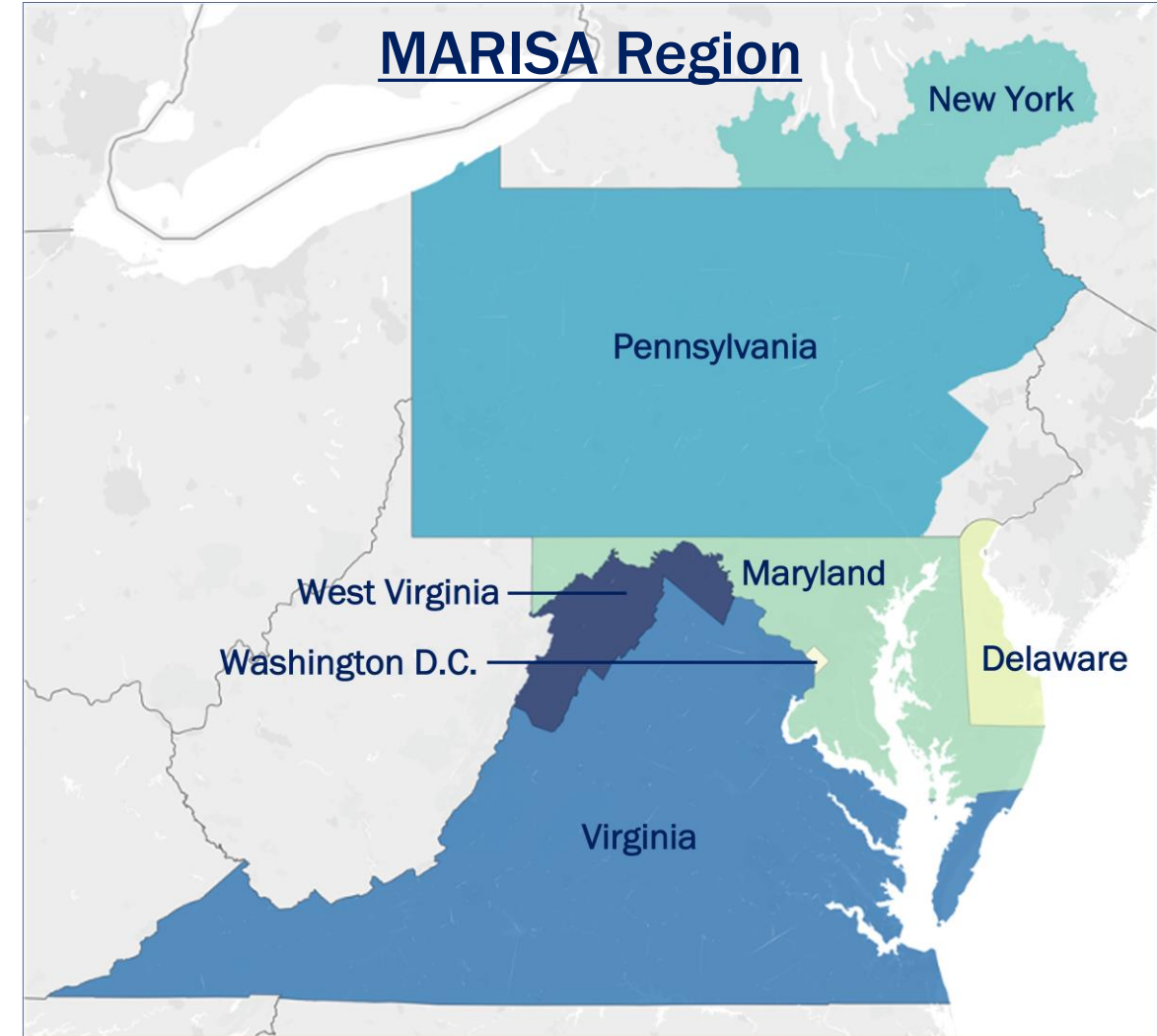
# What is MARISA?

**MARISA is a partnership of researchers from seven institutions**

- RAND, Penn State University, Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Morgan State University, and Carnegie Mellon University

**Established in September 2016**

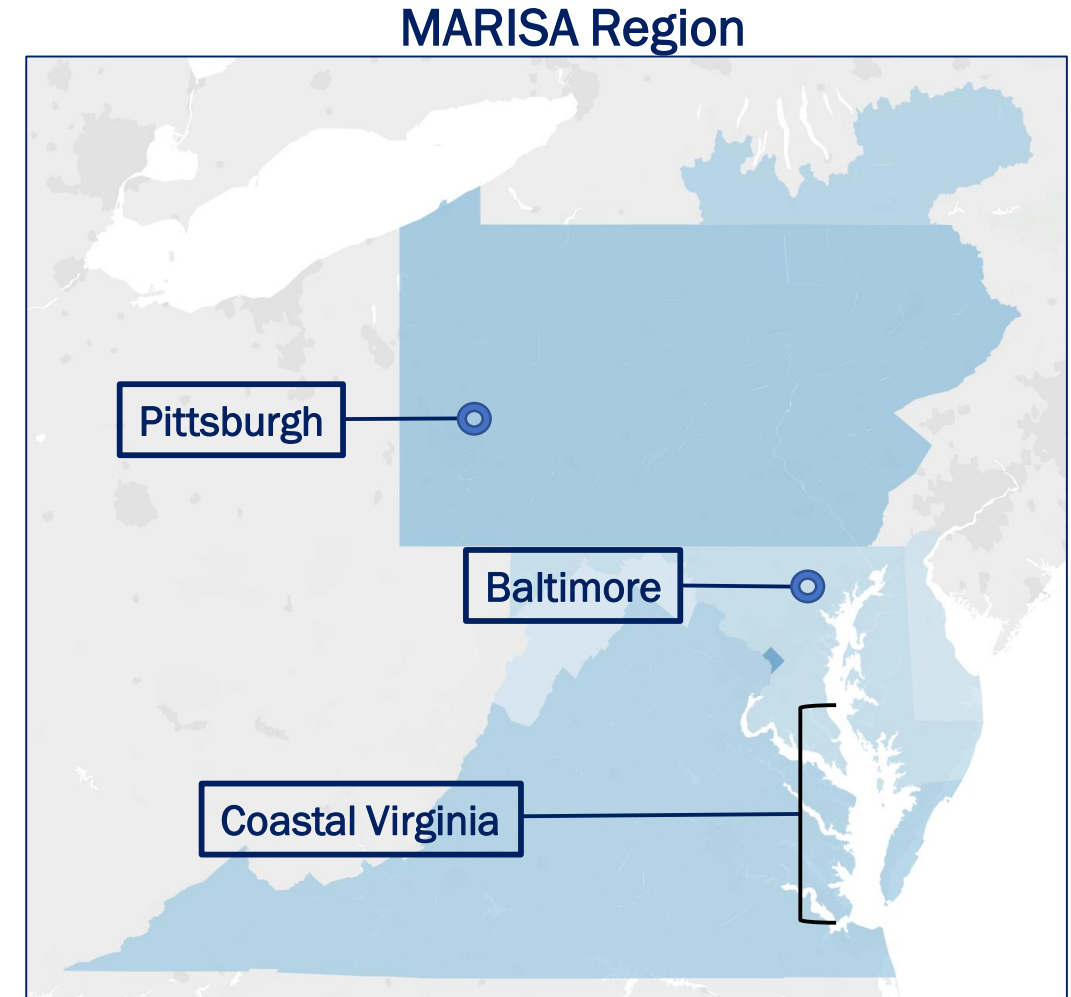
**MARISA's mission is to collaborate with communities in the Mid-Atlantic to enhance their resilience to a changing climate through improved data, place-based decision support, and public engagement**





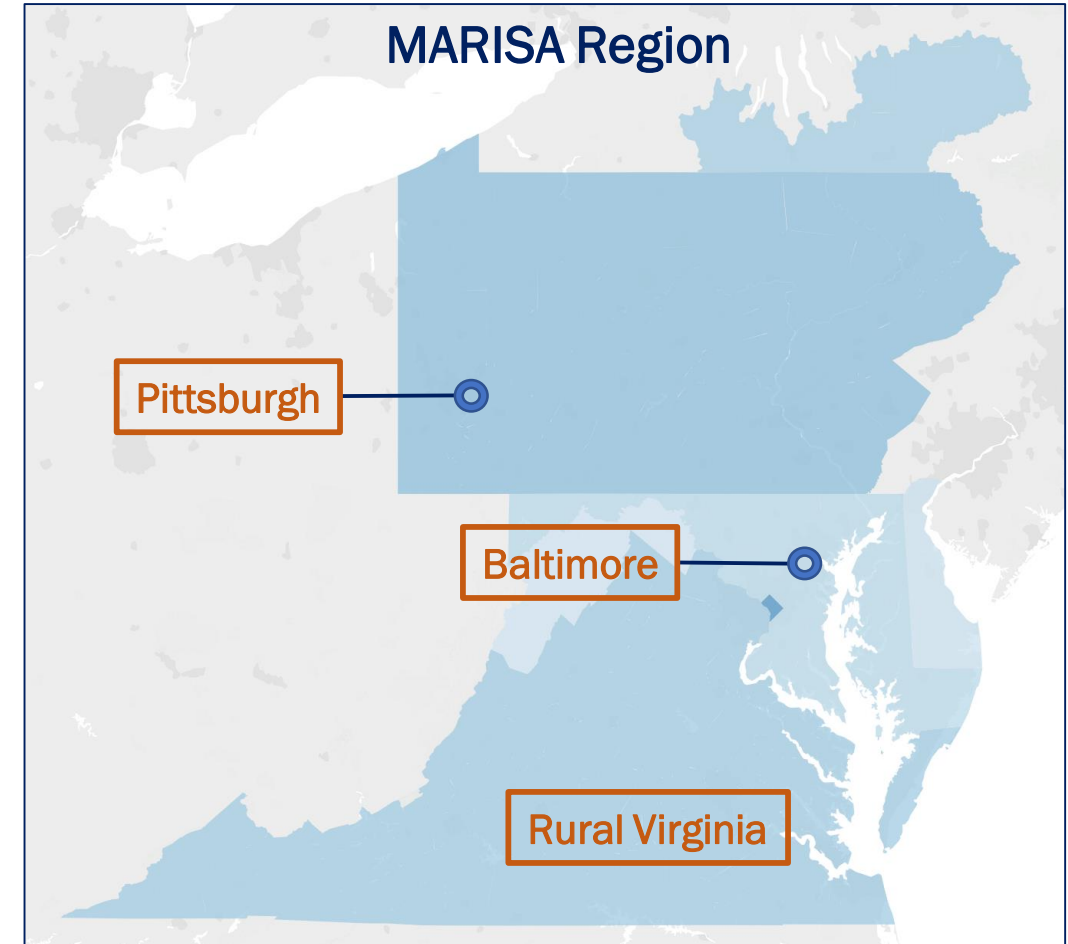
# MARISA Communities of Focus

- **Pittsburgh**
  - Integrated Modeling and Decision Support for Stormwater Managers
  - Climate Adaptation in Disinvested Urban Areas
- **Baltimore**
  - Equity-Informed, Multi-Objective Analysis for Green Infrastructure
- **Coastal Virginia**
  - Coastal Flooding: Primary and Secondary Impacts in Rural Communities



# MARISA Small Grants Program

- **Objectives**
  - Increase meaningful participation in and use of MARISA's research, resources, and expertise
  - Enhance community capacity for resilience and climate adaptation
  - Build trust, new relationships, lasting partnerships in the region
- **Competitions**
  - Rural Capacity Building - Virginia
  - Negley Run Watershed - Pittsburgh, PA
  - Green Infrastructure - Baltimore, MD
  - Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning - Mid-Atlantic
- **Funding Amount**
  - Approximately \$25-30k was available for each competition



# Eligible Activities and Organizations

- Activities to build local capacity for climate change adaptation and community resilience
- Citizen science or cultural projects to collect or disperse relevant climate data
- Green infrastructure/environmental planning and implementation
- The inclusion of art, creative communication tools, oral histories or other innovative approaches to meet program objectives

## CHaMP Competition: The use of CHaMP to...

- Inform an updated FEMA hazard mitigation plans
- Inform local decisionmakers of projected climate and hazard information
- Other activities outlined in the RFP

- Tribal governments and non-profit local and regional organizations that support frontline and underserved communities in each competition region were eligible to apply
- For profit entities, international organizations, and those serving communities outside of the Mid-Atlantic were not eligible to apply

# Requirements

## Submission Packet

- Short description (narrative) of the proposed work. 0.5 page with 12-point font (up to 1 page accepted)
  - the organization's mission and community served
  - the need for or relevance of this work
  - who will do the proposed work
  - plan for working with MARISA and our resources
  - anticipated outcomes (and outputs, if any) from this work
- Budget form with a narrative budget justification
- Subrecipient information and compliance form

## Awardee Requirements

- Must be a subawardee of the RAND Corporation
- Invoices, technical or progress reports, and proof of use of funds must be sent on a regular basis
- Program Evaluation: respond to short survey(s) and/or have conversations with the MARISA PI and program manager

# Review Criteria

Proposals were rated on a scale of 1-5 as to how well they met the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed work met the MARISA Small Grants Program objectives
- The extent to which the proposed work advanced MARISA's mission
- Demonstrated capacity to administer the funds and complete the proposed work
- Inclusion of a plan for collaboration, both with communities served and with MARISA
- Incorporation of innovative approaches to reach stated goals
- Likelihood of the proposed activities creating or deepening relationships, trust, and a sense of belonging within communities

For the CHaMP competition only, additional preference was given to applications who:

- Had not previously included climate change in their hazard mitigation or climate adaptation plans
- Had not previously worked with MARISA team members
- Were not located in/serving MARISA's current communities of focus



# Selected Grantees

## **Upstream Pittsburgh: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Monitoring in the Negley Run Watershed**

Competition: Climate resilience and adaptation (Pittsburgh)

## **Temple X Schools: The Keystone Project**

Competition: Green infrastructure (Baltimore)

## **The Nansemond Nation: Creating a Baseline Vulnerability Assessment**

Competition: Rural capacity building (Virginia)

## **Resilient Virginia: The Resiliency Academy**

Competition: Climate and hazard mitigation planning (Region-wide)

# Lessons Learned

- Strength in the diversity of grantee organizations, grant topics, and project goals
- Prioritizing a realistic funding timeline ahead of RFP release ensured that grantees received their project funding when promised
- Shorter application and fewer grantee requirements opened up applications to diverse potential candidates and has allowed recipients to spend more time on project outcomes
- Linking these grants directly to MARISA's ongoing work has ensured that projects and relationships built are relevant to our team goals

A serene sunset scene over a calm body of water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and red near the horizon. A small boat is visible in the distance, leaving a wake on the water. A crescent moon is visible in the upper right portion of the sky.

# Thank you!

For general MARISA questions, contact me at [leaston@rand.org](mailto:leaston@rand.org) or the MARISA PI  
at [kristarg@rand.org](mailto:kristarg@rand.org)