



A Community Liaison acts as a bridge between an organization and the public, facilitating clear communication, building trust, and connecting local folks with resources and opportunities.

Community Roots: The Roots for Resilience Community Liaison Program

The [Roots for Resilience \(R4R\)](#) Community Roots program will strengthen community engagement on the Eastern Shore through community liaisons. Community Roots will address community priorities such as resilience, recreation, access to natural spaces, cultural heritage, and the local economy by hiring local representatives as liaisons between the affected communities and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) project team.

Purpose: Community Liaisons will connect technical restoration work with the lived experiences of Eastern Shore residents. Community Liaisons will bring local voices to DNR's planning processes to ensure projects reflect what residents value. Community Liaisons will facilitate communication between DNR, project partners, and Eastern Shore residents. They will be the bridge between the local community and DNR to ensure that local voices shape how we protect our land and water.

Need: Community Liaisons will gather and share local feedback related to R4R restoration projects, priority areas, and local goals. *We are looking to hear voices and input from:*

- **Indigenous Communities** (Tribal members and leaders)
- **Recreational Groups** (Hunters, fishers, and outdoor enthusiasts)
- **Local Neighborhoods** (Long-time residents and heritage groups)
- **Faith-Based Communities** (Local churches and faith organizations)
- **Natural Resource Economies** (Watermen, foresters, eco-tourism, farmers)
- **Other interested/affected groups**

Goals of Community Roots:

- **Hire** trusted local messengers who can build relationships, strengthen communication, and support long-term engagement.
- **Ensure** community perspectives are heard to inform restoration decisions and help prevent unintended impacts.
- **Provide** clear, accessible ways for residents to share concerns and ideas, especially in places where trust in government may be low.
- **Streamline** the process of gathering input to reduce the burden on communities and collect feedback efficiently and respectfully.

Activities: Community Liaisons will play an important role, which will include:

- Local Engagement: develop a Community Engagement Plan and identify key interest groups within the focus area;
- Collect Input and Feedback: participate in site visits and engage with the public to gather input on projects and share, summarize, synthesize, and share feedback;
- Leverage Opportunities: identify local efforts or resources to address community feedback and advance priority projects;
- Reduce Burden: provide guidance to project team members, consolidate community requests, and coordinate outreach to reduce effort duplication and streamline communication;
- Outreach and Collaboration: coordinate with DNR, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, land trusts, contractors, and grantees to prepare for community meetings;
- Participate and Advise: attend quarterly project team meetings to relay and integrate community feedback; and
- Track Community Benefits: submit a final report summarizing community input, outlining progress, documenting key interest group responses, and offering recommendations.

Incentives: Community Liaisons will be fairly compensated for their time/expertise.

Duration and Timeline: Over the next one to three years, Community Liaisons will focus on building strong, lasting relationships through ongoing, two-way communication, not just through public hearings or single meetings.



Email for more information:

dnr.rootsresilience@maryland.gov



Weblink:

mddnr.info/R4R



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