



## 2026 CSO Spring Member Meeting

### Technical Assistance for Coastal Resilience and Relocation

#### Project Leads

Coastal States Organization  
National Wildlife Federation

#### Funding Source

National Wildlife Federation

#### Project Scope

CSO and NWF have been working on designing a technical assistance effort to support coastal programs who are interested in community driven relocation efforts. This work includes:

- 1) Undertaking a thorough review of existing literature on coastal relocation and community engagement to provide an overview of key findings, lessons learned and best practices.
- 2) Conduct meetings, interviews and surveys with key state agency personnel to develop a detailed understanding of the regulatory/policy landscape, previous efforts, capacity gaps and engagement opportunities in each state.
- 3) Develop state-specific profiles that provide a comprehensive overview how each state currently approaches community relocation; the programs, tools and resources available to support this work; as well as a suite of tailored recommendations on how to grow capacity to address relocation.

#### Project Funding

CSO and NWF submitted a grant application to the CO2 foundation in 2025. While our initial letter of intent was invited back for a full proposal, we did not succeed in the final competition for funding. We are nevertheless proceeding with this project using existing philanthropic funding sources that NWF receives.

#### Project Approach

CSO and NWF have been partnering together over the years to provide technical assistance to coastal programs who are interested in strengthening relationships with coastal communities, especially around the implementation of nature-based solutions.

In 2026, we are focusing our efforts on providing capacity building and tools to coastal programs who are interested in supporting community-driven coastal relocation efforts.

This work builds off needs assessments and discussion conducted during previous CSO meetings by a prior Digital Coast Fellow, Annika Thompson and our prior NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, Natalie Cross.

The project involves engaging relevant agencies and programs to help identify the strategies, tools, and resources that functionally increase their capacity to partner with local municipalities on climate relocation programming.

In an effort to provide discrete, state-specific information, the scope of the project is limited to a handful of states (we have started piloting this approach with Maryland).

The goal is to increase the capacity of state agencies to proactively address long-term community vulnerabilities before disasters that displace communities, rather than after.

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#### For more information, contact:

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