

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-019-2023

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Hawkins

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Resilience Hubs

3 For the purpose of providing a certain definition; providing for high priority locations for resilience
4 hubs; providing for the identification of partner organizations; providing for certain requests for
5 proposals; providing for community engagement; providing for certain streamlining of permitting
6 and code compliance; providing for resilience hub innovation and entrepreneurship; providing for
7 certain funding strategies; providing for certain incentives; and generally regarding resilience
8 hubs.

9 BY adding:

10 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

11 Sections 2-508.1, 2-508.2, 2-508.3, 2-508.4,
12 2-508.5, 2-508.6, 2-508.7, 2-508.8 and 2-508.9,

13 The Prince George's County Code
14 (2019 Edition; 2022 Supplement).

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
16 Maryland, that Sections 2-508.1, 2-508.2, 2-508.3, 2-508.4, 2-508.5, 2-508.6, 2-508.7, 2-508.8
17 and 2-508.9 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

18 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

19 **DIVISION 42A. RESILIENCE HUBS.**

20 **Sec. 2-508.1. Definition.**

21 (a) **Resilience Hub** shall mean community-serving facilities augmented to support

1 residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while
 2 enhancing quality of life. Resilience hubs provide an opportunity to effectively work at the nexus
 3 of community resilience, emergency management, climate change mitigation, and social equity
 4 while providing opportunities for communities to become more self-determining, socially
 5 connected, and successful before, during, and after disruptions.

6 (b) Resilience hubs are used to support residents and coordinate resource distribution and
 7 services before, during, or after a natural hazard event. These resilience hubs will also provide a
 8 central location for residents impacted to gain immediate access to existing County and State
 9 government resources to aid in the overall community's recovery. They leverage established,
 10 trusted, and community-managed facilities that are used year-round as neighborhood centers for
 11 community-building activities. Resilience hubs can equitably enhance community resilience while
 12 reducing GHG emissions and improving local quality of life. They are a smart local investment
 13 with the potential to reduce burden on local emergency response teams, improve access to health
 14 improvement initiatives, foster greater community cohesion, and increase the effectiveness of
 15 community-centered institutions and programs.

16 (c) Resilience hubs provide an opportunity to build local community power and leadership.
 17 They are focal points for neighborhood revitalization that provide the resources residents need to
 18 enhance their own individual capacity while also supporting and strengthening their neighborhood
 19 and neighbors. Instead of being led by local government, they are intended to be supported by
 20 local government and other partners but led and managed by community members, community-
 21 based organizations, and/or faith-based groups.

22 **Sec. 2-508.2. High Priority Locations for Resilience Hubs.**

23 (a) It is the County's goal to prioritize and establish at least ten resilience hubs in climate-
 24 impacted vulnerable communities by 2030.

25 (b) The County shall use existing maps, energy resilience zones, equity emphasis areas,
 26 thermal mapping, and other relevant map layers, to prioritize the ten locations.

27 **Sec. 2-508.3. Identification of Partner Organizations.**

28 The County shall identify partner organizations based on the needs of the resilience hubs from the
 29 private sector, the non-profit sector, as well as, from federal, state, local and municipal
 30 governments. The County shall identify likely partners based on the priority areas. Several partner
 31 organizations may need to be identified in each resilience hub priority zone.

1 **Sec. 2-508.4. Requests for Proposals.**

2 Requests for proposals shall be issued for targeted community partners to assist in locating high
3 priority locations for resilience hubs. Identifying multiple potential locations for each resilience
4 hub priority zone may be necessary.

5 **Sec. 2-508.5. Community Engagement.**

6 (a) The County shall engage the community to assist in designing and maintaining resilience
7 hubs.

8 (b) The County shall tailor programs and services offered by each designated resilience hub
9 to meet the community's needs.

10 (c) There shall be a community-specific approach utilized by the County to first engage with
11 stakeholder residents through workshops, surveys, and other means to assist in gaining support
12 and consensus in identifying specific resilience hub locations.

13 (d) The County shall partner with equity organizations within vulnerable communities which
14 may be cash strapped and/or place greater priority of investing available resources on the
15 community's existing issues which may be considered more critical to everyday life versus
16 investment in preparing for future impacts of climate change.

17 (e) To put equity at the center of implementation, the County shall engage directly with the
18 community to inform the community of the location, design, and services of resilience hubs. Multi-
19 lingual workshops should be provided based on specific community demographics. The creation
20 and location of resilience hubs should be considered part of every economic redevelopment plan
21 for equity areas. Specific consideration shall be given of how to provide timely support for
22 businesses within vulnerable communities to remain open for services and solvent after a natural
23 hazard event.

24 **Sec. 2-508.6. Streamlining Permitting and Code Compliance.**

25 The County shall streamline the County's permitting and code compliance for all resilience hub
26 related improvements.

27 **Sec. 2-508.7. Resilience Hub Innovation and Entrepreneurship.**

28 The County shall incubate resilience hub innovation and entrepreneurship through public-private
29 partnerships by incorporating resilience hub locations into the County's Economic Development
30 Plans.

31 **Sec. 2-508.8. Funding Strategies.**

1 The County shall co-develop funding strategies with resilience hub partners. Different partners
2 may have access to different funding sources, and a co-proposal may appeal to many funders.
3 Funding strategies should include the MEA Resiliency Hub Grant Program and grant funders
4 which have a traditional interest in supporting vulnerable communities, disaster preparedness, the
5 environment, and energy. The County shall consider the role of financial incentives for a public-
6 private partnership to retrofit existing facilities more quickly into resilience hubs.

7 **Sec. 2-508.9. Incentives.**

8 The County shall reward participating businesses or other participating entities through public
9 recognition, fee and tax reduction incentives, and other available incentives.

10 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
11 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
12 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
13 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words,
14 phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since
15 the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or
16 unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

17 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
18 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

KEY:

- Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
- [Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
- Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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