

Whole-Community Resilience Planning: A Checklist for Planners

Whole-community resilience planning is based on the principle that a vision for a resilient future touches on all aspects of a community – social, economic, cultural, and ecological. The approach embraces the idea that inclusive, community-driven processes lead to effective outcomes benefiting all residents. Creating opportunities for socially vulnerable people to identify climate-related challenges is an essential element of this process. To this end, resilience planners are encouraged to:

Think across boundaries.

Involve all sectors and disciplines, including social services, built environment, public health, natural resources, public finance, and others.

Be open to new ideas.

Developing a whole-community coastal climate resilience plan envisions a new future for a community. Resilience planners are encouraged to be open to innovation and new ideas that can sustain a community into the future.

Value social capital.

Civic engagement, democratic processes, and social networks are enduring contributors to resilience.

Share risks and opportunities.

Transparency in decision-making and a sense that “we are all in this together” undergird the equitable distribution of benefits and risks.

Value evidence and science.

Extensive resources are available locally to support decision-making. Planning for future climate conditions may involve consultation with scientists or other experts.

Translate ideas to action.

The resilience planning process needs to identify mechanisms for implementation with an emphasis on existing systems and processes.

Bring many new seats to the table.

The strongest resilience plans emerge from involvement of many voices, especially those not typically involved in civic dialogue.