Chapter 2: The Social Context for Community Resilience

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Background and Purpose Statements

• Hazard events can damage the built environment making it difficult for communities to function
• Social and economic functions **drive** requirements for the built environment
• **Therefore, we need to understand the social environment as we plan for the built**
Understanding the Social Environment

Figure adapted from John Plodinec, CARRI
Who are the Community Members and What Do They Need?

- Survival
  - Life, food, water, shelter, clothing
- Safety and Security
  - Law and order, stability, employment, health
- Belonging
  - Family/friends/neighborhood
- Growth & Achievement
  - Achievement, recognition, fulfillment
- Individuals and Families
- Neighborhoods
- Communities
What Structure is in Place to Meet These Needs?

- Family and Kinship
- Economic
- Government
- Health Care
- Education
- Community Service Organizations
- Religious/Other Belief Systems
- Media

- Definition
- Function of each institution
- Ways in which they are organized to serve these functions
- Needs met by each institution
Health Care

• Examples of functions:
  – Health services, workers
  – Functioning information system
  – Equitable access to essential medical products, vaccines, and technologies

• Different types of health services

• Needs met: survival; safety and security
Community Service Organizations

• Examples of functions:
  – Assist in meeting basic needs
  – Provide emotional and mental health support
  – Enhance quality of life

• Types of CSOs: civic, social and recreational clubs, senior citizen associations, youth programs

• Needs met: survival; safety and security; belonging; growth and achievement
How Can Social Institutions Depend on One Another?

- **Government and economics**: The longer it takes businesses to recover, the higher the potential for loss of local taxes (e.g., sales taxes)

- **Healthcare, education, economic, government, media AND family/kinship**: Each social institution needs staff and/or employees (e.g., doctors, nurses, medical technicians, billing, as examples for health care) to function

- **Government, media and family/kinship**: The media serves as an intermediary between the government and the members of a community
Social Context to Plan for Community Resilience of the Built Environment

• Establish requirements for social institutions by asking the following:
  – Who are the members of the community and what are their needs?
  – What are the social institutions within the community? What are the functions of these institutions? What services are provided? What needs do they meet?
  – How do the institutions rely on one another?

• Identify links between social institutions and the built environment
## Example Links between Health Care and the Built Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose (or function) within Health Care</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Water/wastewater</th>
<th>Power/energy</th>
<th>Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place for emergency, short- and long-term health needs (physical and mental)</td>
<td>Place for emergency, short- and long-term health needs (physical and mental)</td>
<td>Provide access to and from the facility for patients, staff</td>
<td>Allow for safe use of health care facility, use of medical equipment, fire protection</td>
<td>Allow for use of facility, including technology, equipment, lights, appliances</td>
<td>Communicate within and outside of facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage of equipment, records</td>
<td>Provide access to and from the facility for patients, staff</td>
<td>Allow for safe use of health care facility, use of medical equipment, fire protection</td>
<td>Allow for use of facility, including technology, equipment, lights, appliances</td>
<td>Communicate within and outside of facility</td>
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*Table 2-10: Health Care: Examples of Purposes with Links to the Built Environment*
## Example Links between Health Care and the Built Environment, cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How purpose is actualized through the built environment (examples)</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Water/wastewater</th>
<th>Power/energy</th>
<th>Communication</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hospitals</td>
<td>Roads/bridges, Vehicles - buses – public, subways, personal vehicles</td>
<td>Pipelines, pumps/stations, valves, fire hydrants, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storage tanks</td>
<td>Generation facilities, grids, substations, lines, pipelines</td>
<td>Internet, emergency communication system, phones (voice and text), email</td>
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<td>• Clinics</td>
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<td>• Mental health facilities</td>
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<td>• Centers</td>
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<td>• Hospices</td>
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<td>• Assisted living facilities</td>
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<td>• Nursing homes</td>
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<td>• Pharmacies</td>
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</table>
Additional Considerations

• **Social vulnerabilities** are an important part of this process
• **We can learn from one another**
• **Engagement with community decision-makers and members is key to implementation**
Social Aspects Breakout

• Thank you for your attention. We want your feedback on the following:
  – Chapter organization/approach
  – Social institutions and their functions
  – Dependencies of the institutions on one another
  – Links to the built environment
  – Examples from communities – setting priorities and engaging the public in the process