SIX-STEP PROCESS TO PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

1. FORM A COLLABORATIVE PLANNING TEAM
- Identify leader
- Identify team members
- Identify key stakeholders

2. UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION

Social Dimensions
- Characterize social functions & dependencies
- Identify support by built environment
- Identify key contacts

Built Environment
- Identify and characterize built environment
- Identify key contacts
- Identify existing community plans

Link Social Functions & Built Environment
- Define clusters

3. DETERMINE GOALS & OBJECTIVES
- Establish long-term community goals
- Establish performance goals
- Define community hazards
- Determine anticipated performance
- Summarize results

4. PLAN DEVELOPMENT
- Evaluate gaps
- Identify solutions
- Develop implementation strategy

5. PLAN PREPARATION, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL
- Document plan and strategy
- Obtain feedback and approval
- Finalize and approve plan

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE
- Execute approved solutions
- Evaluate and update
- Modify strategy as needed

A GUIDE TO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Community Resilience

NIST
National Institute of
Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

YES, IT CAN HAPPEN HERE

Extreme weather, earthquakes, and other hazards inflict tremendous costs on communities and the nation. Every year, people are injured or killed, and property is destroyed, leaving disrupted lives and livelihoods in their wake. All communities are susceptible to hazard events, and although communities can't stop natural hazards and have only limited ability to stop technological and human-caused hazards from occurring, they can minimize disastrous consequences.

The *Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems* provides a six-step planning process that towns, cities, and counties can apply to better withstand hazard events and recover more quickly. It provides a practical approach to help communities set priorities and allocate resources to reduce risks by improving their *resilience*.

Using the *Guide*, communities will be able to integrate resilience plans into their economic development, zoning, mitigation, and other local planning activities that impact buildings, public utilities and other infrastructure systems.

RESILIENCE PAYS

Think of resilience planning as preventive and restorative care, but for the buildings and infrastructure —the "built environment"—facing disaster risks. These are the structures and technological "systems" that residents rely on for essential services and most activities of daily living that underpin the social and economic fabric of their community. By planning, prioritizing, and acting, communities can improve their resilience over time, in a cost-effective manner consistent with their long-term development goals.

If a disruptive event does strike, communities with resilience plans in place will be ready to move quickly and effectively to respond, recover, and then rebuild if necessary. Beyond equipping them to maintain and restore vital services after an event, communities that plan and carry out resilience strategies will be better prepared for future events, making them more attractive to businesses and residents alike.
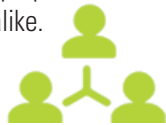
A SIX-STEP PROCESS

The *Guide* was developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in collaboration with public and private stakeholders from state, local, and federal governments, utilities, regulators, standards developers, industry, and academia.

The Guide is an adaptable, flexible method that allows any community to develop individualized long-term resilience plans and goals based on available resources and needs. It details the following six-step planning process that a community can use and tailor to its particular circumstances:

1. **Form a collaborative planning team** with strong, inclusive leadership to engage public and private stakeholders, and community members.

2. **Understand the situation** by characterizing the existing social functions, buildings and infrastructure systems of the community, and how they are linked.

3. **Determine goals and objectives** based on long-term community goals and desired social functions, recognizing that community resilience is built over time and that social needs should drive performance goals for buildings and physical infrastructure systems.

4. **Plan development** includes evaluating gaps between the desired, future performance and the anticipated current performance of buildings and infrastructure systems following a disruptive event, and identifying and prioritizing solutions to address the gaps.

5. **Plan preparation, review, and approval** depends on broad dissemination and transparent engagement with all stakeholders, community leaders and members.

6. **Plan implementation and maintenance** requires regular, transparent reviews and updates to the implementation strategy and solutions.

MOVING FORWARD

The *Guide* will be updated as we learn from the experiences of communities and through research. The Guide can be downloaded at **http://www.nist.gov/el/resilience.**

NIST is convening a **Community Resilience Panel for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems** of experts and stakeholders that will recommend approaches and best practices that communities can use as they develop their resilience plans and proceed with their implementation strategies. For more information see **www.CRPanel.org.**

LEARN MORE

The NIST Community Resilience Program complements disaster-focused programs and activities carried out by federal, state and local governments as well as by the private sector, including non-profit organizations.

To learn more about NIST's multi-faceted efforts to withstand and bounce forward from hazard events, go to: **http://www.nist.gov/disaster-resilience.**

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