

Chapter 2: The Social Context for Community Resilience

Presenters:

**Erica Kuligowski, Sociologist, NIST
Liesel Ritchie, Sociologist, Natural Hazards Center,
UC Boulder**

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

Framework
focus is here

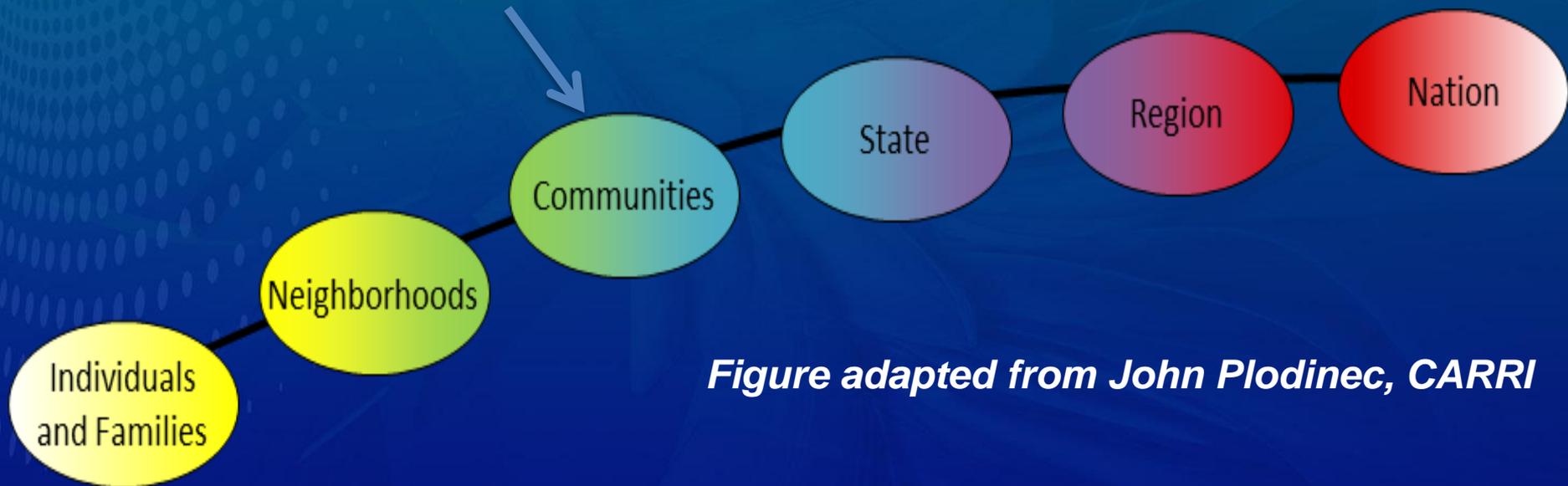
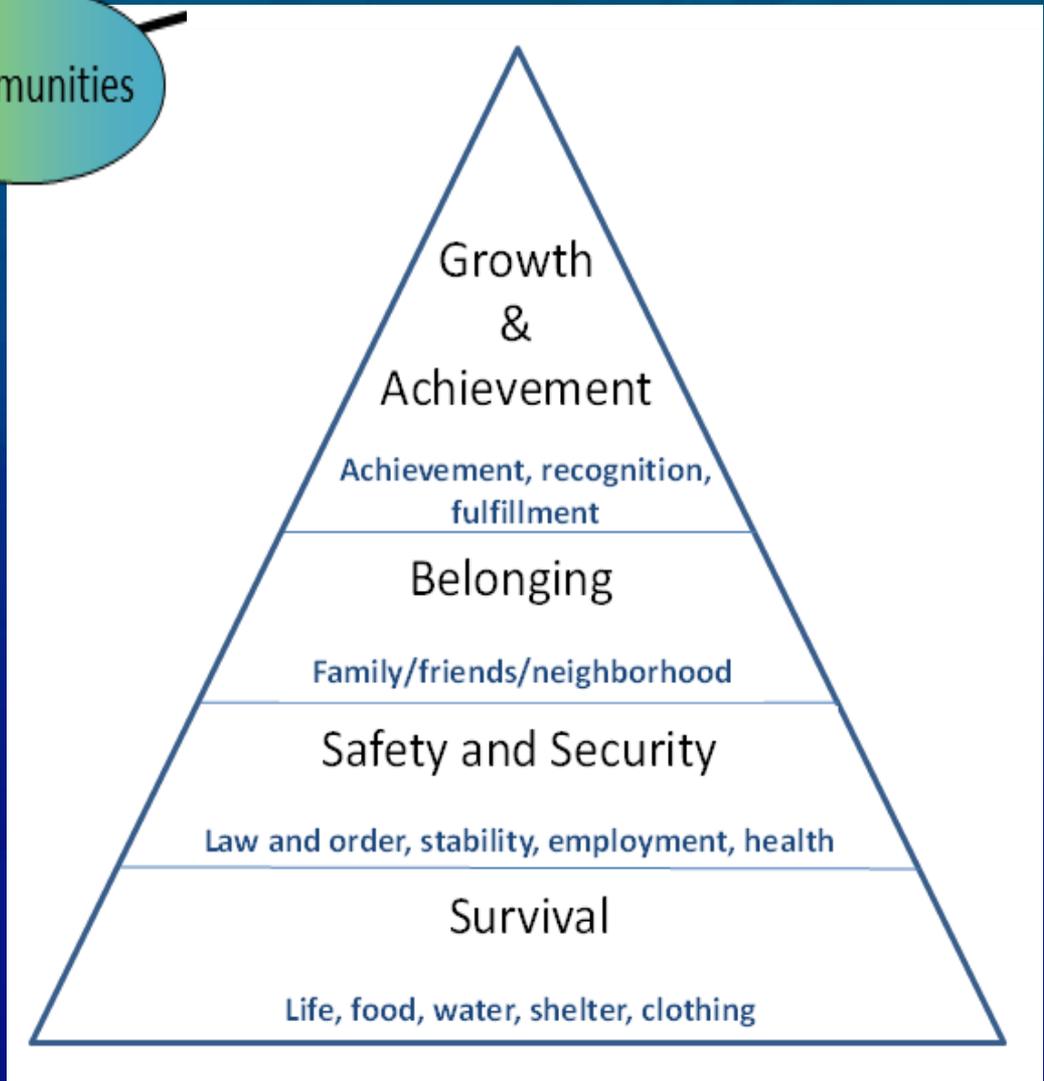


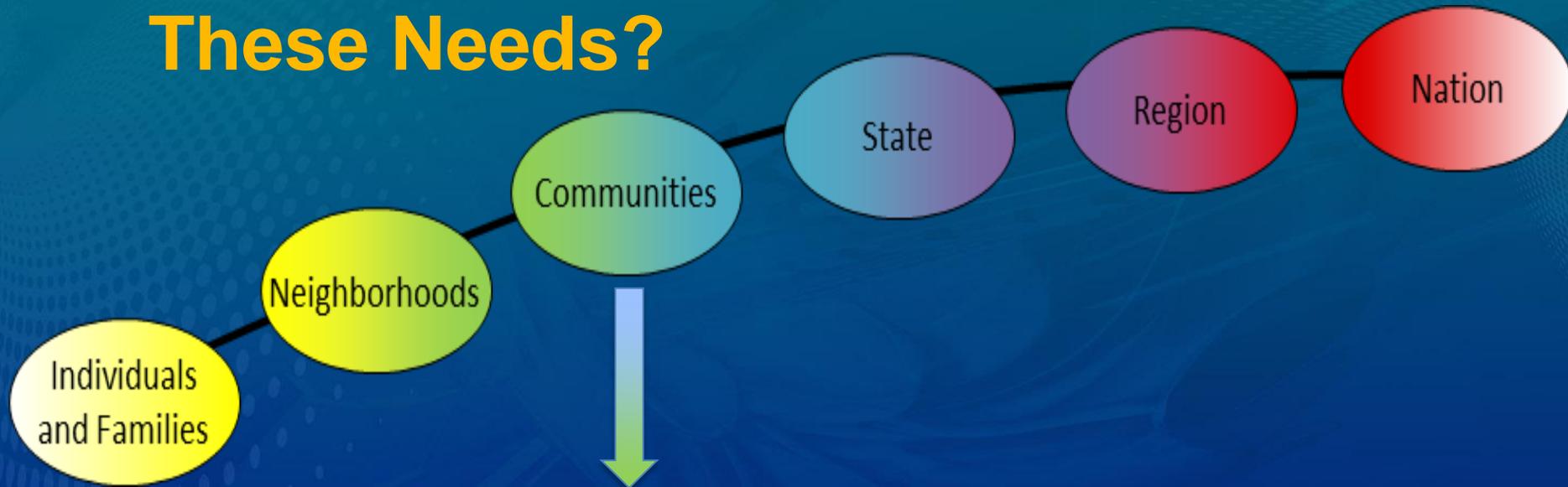
Figure adapted from John Plodinec, CARRI



Who are the Community Members and What Do They Need?



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

	Buildings	Transportation	Water/ wastewater	Power/ energy	Communication
Purpose (or function) within Health Care	<p>Place for emergency, short- and long-term health needs (physical and mental)</p> <p>Storage of equipment, records</p>	<p>Provide access to and from the facility for patients, staff</p>	<p>Allow for safe use of health care facility, use of medical equipment, fire protection</p>	<p>Allow for use of facility, including technology, equipment, lights, appliances</p>	<p>Communicate within and outside of facility</p> <p>Access information/resources (e.g., medical records)</p>

Table 2-10: Health Care: Examples of Purposes with Links to the Built Environment



Example Links between Health Care and the Built Environment, cont.

	Buildings	Transportation	Water/ wastewater	Power/ energy	Communication
How purpose is actualized through the built environment (examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hospitals •Clinics •Mental health facilities •Centers •Hospices •Assisted living facilities •Nursing homes •Pharmacies 	Roads/ bridges, Vehicles - buses – public, subways, personal vehicles	Pipelines, pumps/ stations, valves, fire hydrants, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storage tanks	Generation facilities, grids, substations, lines, pipelines	Internet, emergency communication system, phones (voice and text), email

Table 2-10: Health Care: Examples of Purposes with Links to the Built Environment



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

