

RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RECOVERY

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Resilience and disaster recovery are growing concerns.

Recent floods, fires, hurricanes, and other disasters have resulted in significant human and financial costs for communities. These events endanger human health, damage local infrastructure, jeopardize water quality and availability, and lead to energy and food shortages. Since 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that the federal government has spent at least \$450 billion in disaster response funding, and other estimates place this amount much higher.



How do regional councils help promote community resilience?

Regional councils convene local stakeholders across jurisdictional boundaries to develop comprehensive resilience plans. Resilience planning identifies ways to increase the durability of infrastructure and public service systems by strengthening existing community resources and incorporating resilience considerations into future projects.

What are regional councils doing to help address resilience challenges?

An example of what is happening at the regional level:

Triangle Regional Resilience Assessment -Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) in the Raleigh-Durham, NC Region

The Triangle Regional Resilience Partnership was a joint project completed between four municipalities and two counties. Administered and facilitated by TJCOG, the project was a venue for conversations between local governments regarding their community resilience concerns and needs. Together they created a regional resiliency assessment of stressors, assets, and threats and prioritized recommendations that would benefit the entire Raleigh-Durham region. This assessment will now provide invaluable information for each community as they move forward with individual comprehensive plans and ensure communities with shared boundaries leverage similar strategies.



Regional resilience efforts provide a strong return on federal investment.

Resilience investments protect costly infrastructure and ensure that communities will rebound from disaster. Congress should support these efforts and increase the resources available to regional councils for this work.

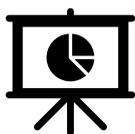


SUPPORT REGIONAL RESILIENCY PLANNING

Congress should support regional planning and local prioritization in resilience efforts:



Increase funding for and authority of regional councils to implement resilience projects. Increase local resilience funding through programs such as the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) and Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT). Additionally, support new sources of funding for disaster recovery, mitigation assistance, and emergency preparedness.



Support the development, collection, and sharing of data. Encourage and provide funding for regional data collection, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, and the use of regional scenario planning tools. Data and mapping projects are key to developing resilience plans which will effectively protect infrastructure investments.



Better integrate transportation planning with natural systems planning to comprehensively increase resiliency. Support the integration of resilience considerations in transportation and housing planning to build smarter and more resilient communities.



Increase cooperation among the multiple federal agencies working on resilience. Increase inter-agency coordination, flexibility in combining funding opportunities, and clarity in communication channels to improve the ability of local and regional governments to efficiently apply federal resources for resilience applications.