

President's Task Force Policy Initiative

Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information

July 10, 2014



Resilient Communities for America



Championing the leadership of hundreds of local elected officials who commit to creating stronger, more prepared communities that can bounce back from extreme weather, energy, and economic challenges

JOIN THE LEADERS, BUILD A MOVEMENT



Inaugural Signatories of the Resilient Communities for America Agreement

Campaign Elements



1. By the end of 2015, rally 1,000+ local elected officials who pledge to create more resilient communities by signing the **Resilient Communities for America Agreement**.
2. Provide an **online community platform** for sharing success stories.
3. Channel **tools and resources** from partners to signatories.





Core Partners



Technical and Endorsing Partners



Sponsors



About the Task Force

- “State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience”
- 2/3 of Task Force are ICLEI members or RC4A Signatories
- Goals: modernize federal programs to facilitate increased resilience; provide useful climate preparedness info & tools; support State, Local, Tribal preparedness.
- Sub-groups preparing recommendations
 - Disaster Recovery and Resiliency, Built Systems, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Health and Community Development

About the Policy Initiative

- “Crowdsourcing” input from ICLEI, RC4A, NLC members on federal public asset programs
- Methods: survey and workshops
- Survey: 70 responses (35% elected officials)
- Two workshops: NLC Policy Forum, LGC Conference for Elected Officials



9 Recommendations

- Streamline Application Processes
- Increase Awareness of Resilience Related Programs
- Incorporate Climate Change Considerations into Existing Programs
- Enhance Coordination Between Federal Agencies
- Support Regional Collaboration
- Increase the Flexibility of Federal Programs and Funding
- Help Local Governments Replicate Proven Strategies
- Meet Demand for Green Infrastructure
- Protect and Enhance Municipal Finance tools

Streamline Application Processes

- 43% of survey respondents indicated that resource intensive application processes are a major challenge
- Enable more small and mid-sized communities to participate in federal program by making application processes more straightforward by reducing paperwork and eligibility requirements
- For applications that remain complex, build local capacity to participate
- Provide additional application streamlining for communities that have completed a climate vulnerability assessment and preparedness plan.

Enhance Awareness of Resiliency-Related Programs

- Many survey respondents were not aware of federal resiliency-related programs.
- Action: Develop a clearinghouse of federal resources related to resiliency. 30% of survey participants indicated that an online clearinghouse for federal resilience program information, tools, and data would be useful to community climate change preparedness and disaster recovery activities.
- Example: The Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE)

Incorporate Climate Preparedness into Existing Programs

- Many federal programs lack provisions for considering climate change vulnerabilities and preparedness. Survey respondents described this as a key priority for FEMA and some EPA programs.
- Create requirements within existing programs, especially those related to emergency management and smart growth, which necessitate that local governments consider climate preparedness.
- Provide clear guidance and training to communities on how to meet these new requirements.

Enhance Coordination Between Federal Agencies

- Survey respondents rated the lack of coordination between federal programs as among top three challenges.
- Building on the Interagency Climate Adaptation Task Force, provide a system that allows federal agencies to closely coordinate on the delivery of resilience programs.
- Consider a flagship partnership between key federal agencies responsible for climate preparedness and resilience activities modeled on the Sustainable Communities Partnership.

Increase Flexibility of Federal Programs and Funding

- Many federal programs don't have the flexibility to encourage local innovation, yet new solutions will be needed to address unprecedented climate challenges.
- Develop more flexible programs that allow local governments to meet their unique needs and unlock innovation
- Enable more innovation by encouraging local governments to try new strategies with pilot projects that measures and monitor outcomes, but do not overly penalize setbacks.

Help Local Governments Replicate Proven Strategies

- Many communities are looking for “off-the-shelf” strategies that they can adjust and implement according to a proven process and highly value learning from peers.
- Develop programs that help communities select and implement resilience strategies that are proven and can be adjusted to the local context.
- Provide associated guidance, technical assistance, and tools needed for implementation.

Support Regional Collaboration

- Many survey respondents and workshop participants identified regional collaboration as an effective way to tackle some of the challenges related to climate preparedness and resilience.
- Examples: San Diego Climate Collaborative and Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact
- Design federal programs that support and strengthen regional collaboration among local governments.
- Incentivize regional collaboration in new and existing federal programs.

Meet the Demand for “Green Infrastructure”

- Upgrading urban infrastructure is critical to dealing with climate change and extreme weather. Many communities expressed their interest in upgrading their infrastructure to incorporate more natural systems.
- Prioritize green infrastructure in current federal funding streams for water-related management systems.
- Leverage other streams of federal funding not directly related to water management, such as transportation, hazard mitigation, community development, to include more green infrastructure provisions and projects.

Protect and Enhance Municipal Finance Tools

- 74% of survey respondents selected financial assistance as the most useful way to improve federal programs.
- Work to remove existing barriers to local finance innovations, such as the current restrictions on PACE for the residential sector.
- Help local governments build the capacity to employ innovative forms of financing that have not previously been applied to climate resilience or disaster risk reduction, such as value capture, social impact bonds, and new insurance products.

Questions and Discussion

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