



The Nation's FIRST Whole-Community Resilience Benchmark

Providing communities a single, transparent, usable and easily understandable metric to gauge their cross-sector resilience efforts quickly.

www.resilientalliance.org



A community is only as strong as its weakest link

Communities large and small, urban or rural, are made of interconnected systems supporting one another. Every day, members of a community depend on the ability to use roads, access hospitals, get to work and school, receive mail, and communicate with friends, family, colleagues, customers, and clients.

Like a series of dominos, even small changes in one element can affect the cohesion of others. Severe disruptions caused by disaster, turbulence and change resonate across the whole community. No part of the community stands alone—the whole community suffers if any one part fails.

A city with working lights cannot effectively operate if the streets are impassable. A business that survives a hurricane cannot thrive if banking networks have crashed. A household with running water cannot be sustained if grocery store shelves are bare. Every community needs all of its gears operating and working together to be resilient.

What is Resilience?

Resilience, derived from the Latin “resalire” meaning to spring back, is the power or ability to return to original form, position, etc.; to recover readily from adversity.

Resilience is about building strength and opportunity in the entire community across all aspects—the economy, the society, and the infrastructure. It is about unleashing the expertise and innovative spirit within the business sector, building strong ties and exceptional quality of life within neighborhoods and creating forward-looking, supportive community organizations. It is about making the whole community better, adaptive, more competitive, more robust, and more productive.



Challenges faced by communities of all sizes:

- Natural disasters
- Climate change
- Social unrest
- Economic instability



There are 89,000+ communities across the United States

Cities, towns and counties range in size, population and demographics, and face various economic priorities, environmental challenges, investment opportunities and financial constraints. Local, state and federal governments can encourage and assist communities as they seek to become more resilient, but communities should not expect government alone to make the investments necessary to be truly resilient. This is a job that calls for all hands on deck.

Governments, private businesses, organizations, the faith-based community, individuals, and families must all contribute to the effort. If all groups come together and invest the effort needed to increase resiliency, the whole community will save by doing things smarter and more effectively.

Cities, businesses, and households need support to be able to effectively adapt to challenges

Currently, no systemic resiliency toolkit or benchmarking system exists to help a community measure strengths and vulnerabilities, or how it can improve.

The Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) is developing such a tool to support governments, businesses, and people across the country.

Resilient communities are good places to live, work, raise a family, or start a business. Resilient communities are the best places to invest. They thrive and adapt to be more competitive and safer. When challenges arise, they come back quicker and stronger.

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Whole Community Resilience Benchmarks

The Community Resilience Benchmarks (CRB) system is intentionally cross-sector, encompassing elements such as: communications, housing, water, food distribution, energy, waste management, finance, education, public health, transportation, public safety, and business. This will consolidate existing assessments, certifications, and research to serve as a useful, centralized tool to help make decisions to become more resilient, based on consistent and comparable information. Communities, businesses, governments, and people can utilize this tool to decide where to live, where to invest, what to prioritize, and how to measure progress, seize opportunity, and thrive.

The ANCR Approach

ANCR will collect and integrate the best ideas on measuring the resilience of each community system to form preliminary CRBs. Preliminary CRBs will be created, using approaches that best represent the resilience of each system. A national workshop subsequently will convene leaders from multiple sectors to finalize the comprehensive CRB system and plan a path forward for further development and application of community resilience benchmarks.

Communities will receive the information needed to understand their resilience. With understanding comes the drive to do better, fix problems, and address challenges. All parts of a community—elected officials, business owners, infrastructure operators, health care providers, teachers, and parents—can learn how to best work together so that no single element limits the potential of a whole community to thrive. Ultimately, decision making will be informed and enhanced by this resilience benchmarking system.

ANCR will help communities face the challenges of the 21st Century. The nation's resilience is dependent on and firmly anchored in the resiliency of its communities.

It's a big job

ANCR is currently building partnerships and seeking financial support to develop its community resilience benchmarking system. Partners already include key organizations, associations, businesses, and individuals across the previously identified sectors. ANCR seeks a variety of foundation, private sector, and government support in order to complete this critical work.



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Join ANCR and support its collaborative mission!

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