Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community's approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community's eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may indicate an area of opportunity to address through a Community Action Grant.

Community name:	
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	
Date:	
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	

Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community:

What are two things your community is doing well?	
What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?	

What is important for your community to address in the long-term?	
What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?	

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan is a good starting place to find this information. Hazards can include storms, floods, wind, fire, extreme temperatures, drought, etc. Likelihood could be indicated either numerically or qualitatively as low, medium, or high.	Explanation:
2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?	☐ Yes ☐ No
If your community has not tracked trends historically, you might infer past trends by determining if current priorities have shifted compared to past hazard mitigation plans. For example, drought or wildfire might be an emerging concern.	Explanation:
3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?	☐ Yes ☐ No
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation:
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation:
6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	☐ Yes ☐ No
These events could be, for example, a 1-in-100 year flood, or a prolonged electricity outage or heating fuel shortage. What events might the community need to consider?	Explanation:
7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Explanation:
8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?	☐ Yes ☐ No
In addition to natural hazards, consider public health threats that might be worsened by climate change,	Explanation:

such as contamination of drinking water sources and vector-borne diseases from ticks and mosquitos.	

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	☐ Yes ☐ No
This information might be found in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan. Examples of characteristics and trends might include older or low-income populations, low housing availability, reliance on a single economic driver, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, etc.	Explanation:
10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	Explanation:
10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	☐ Yes ☐ No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation:
12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?	☐ Yes ☐ No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Explanation:

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital improvement plan that requires construction projects	Explanation:

to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	
14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
This is different from Question 10 in that these resources would need to sustain a new long-term commitment rather than a one-time, short-term response. For example, if flooding emerges as an issue, a revenue source such as a stormwater utility fee could sustain a new community stormwater management program.	Explanation:
15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Examples might include a flood ordinance that requires compliance with the current building codes after substantial damage, or a communitywide post-disaster recovery plan.	Explanation:
16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.	Explanation:
17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?	Explanation: