
The Case for Resilience

Anchoring Economic Development on Resilient Communities and Regions

Tennessee Valley Corridor Fall Event
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www.ResilientUS.org

What is Resilience?



The community or region can withstand significant disruptions of any kind, lose as little capacity as possible and recover to an acceptable new state of normalcy that is at least as good and maybe better than the old

Realities Facing Our Communities

- **Growing Complexity**
- **Accelerating Rate of Change**
- **New Spectrum of Risks**
- **Great Recession**
- **Demographic Shifts**
- **Unrealistic Expectations**



A Few Simple Truths

- ***You can't sell disaster – you can't scare people and businesses into preparedness***
- ***You are not recovering – you are preparing for what's next***
- ***The next one won't be like the last one***
- ***It takes a community to rebuild a community***
- ***There are rhythms to recovery; each community has to write its own music.***



What Do Communities and Regions Need to Improve their Resilience?



In order to improve resilience, communities need:

- To understand what community resilience means
- To assess where it stands on a scale of resilience
- To make resilience improvements that can enhance daily function and make recovery more rapid and more certain
- Access to tools and processes that can help it reach a more resilient state



The Path to Resilience: Organization, Self-Knowledge and Assessment, Vision, Action, Institutionalization, Revision (CRS)

What will Improved Resilience Do?

- **Transform daily community function to:**
 - *Be competitive* – nationally and globally
 - Be action-oriented not reactionary
 - Create a local culture of resilience
- **In a crisis:**
 - Minimize disruption
 - Help ensure rapid recovery, with little loss of economic or social value
 - Reduce reliance on limited federal resources
- **Add value by:**
 - Increasing the confidence of business and industry to locate in the community
 - Reducing the community's risk profile, demonstrating better risk management to insurers
 - Increasing lender confidence, encouraging a more robust local economic environment
 - Improving the economic stability, vitality, and growth of the community

