

How Does Resilience Planning Differ from Emergency Management Planning?

While resilience planning may contain elements of emergency management planning, there are essential differences in focus, process, and objectives. Resilience planning generally takes a more holistic view of a community and operates on a longer time horizon to consider climate futures. The planning process is built upon the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and is designed to engage the most vulnerable members of the community.

1 Highly participatory

Engaging vulnerable populations is an essential part of the process.

2 Multisectoral

While a hazard mitigation plan may address a community's exposure to a specific hazard, a resilience plan considers long-term underlying factors that contribute to increased vulnerability, such as housing conditions, unemployment, and poor infrastructure.

3 Forward-looking

Resilience planning considers long-term changes in environmental conditions, including scientific climate-change projections for the next several decades and beyond.

4 Aspirational

An emphasis is placed on restoring the community to a state of self-sufficiency and using strategies that promote multiple community benefits, such as natural infrastructure.

5 Adaptable

Resilience planning considers and accommodates uncertainties of future climate conditions.

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY: A BROADER VIEW

Emergency management registries typically list residents needing assistance due to special health needs.

Whole-community resilience planning offers a broader view of social vulnerability. Planners consider indicators of structural racism and historic underinvestment, which, in turn, point to social vulnerability in low-income populations and some people of color. Resilience planning also considers the vulnerability of populations with limited English proficiency and few options for public transportation or quality affordable housing.