# Participatory Processes: A Checklist for Resilience Planners

The goal of whole-community resilience planning is to engage all segments of the community – including the most vulnerable – in creating a resilience-based vision of the future. Socially vulnerable populations have historically been excluded from, and may have distrust for, community-based decision-making processes. Additional efforts may be needed to ensure meaningful participation. A participatory process designed to engage socially vulnerable populations should have the characteristics listed below.

☐ **Up-front and collaborative**

Engage early in the planning process. Consultation should begin with the design of the engagement process to ensure that it is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

☐ **Cognizant of unique contributions to governance processes**

If socially vulnerable people act as technical consultants to the resilience planning process, the planning team may need to consider compensating them for contributing unique knowledge.

☐ **Barrier-free**

Structure meetings in ways that eliminate barriers to participation. Barriers might include late notice of meetings; culturally insensitive or inaccessible locations; meetings held during work hours; lack of childcare, transportation, or translation.

☐ **Capacity-building**

To ensure inclusion, consider providing socially vulnerable people with additional capacity (e.g., technical assistance) on par with other members of the community who may have greater historic capacity.

☐ **Partnerships**

Partner with trusted local organizations, especially those that represent or serve socially vulnerable populations.

☐ **Ongoing**

Build ongoing relations with leaders of organizations that serve and represent socially vulnerable populations. Conduct routine debriefings with such leaders during the course of the planning process to ensure that messages from socially vulnerable populations are being "heard."

☐ **Interactive**

Create opportunities for a two-way exchange of ideas and allow ample time for questions, answers, and discussion.