

# SIX KEY CONCEPTS

Let's start with several essential ideas regarding the nature of resiliency, vulnerability, and the values of whole-community planning.

# 1

## **Resilience is a community's ability to "bounce forward."**

Resilience is the capacity of a community to anticipate, plan for, and mitigate the dangers – and seize the opportunities – associated with environmental and social change. It's not merely bouncing back to a previous condition but "bouncing forward" to a better one.

# 2

## **Some people are more vulnerable to climate risks than others.**

The ability to cope with a natural disaster depends on exposure to hazards as well as capacity to respond. Some people are more vulnerable to climate risks due to social factors such as age, socioeconomic status, health concerns, English-language proficiency, and access to transportation.

# 3

## **Resilience planning is different than emergency management planning.**

In general, resilience planning takes a longer-term, more holistic view than emergency planning. It is grounded in the idea that creating healthy, equitable, and vibrant communities is the most effective way to build resilience. And, to do so, it's essential to address the needs of the most vulnerable community members.

# 4

## **Including socially vulnerable people in resilience planning produces a more effective outcome.**

Because socially vulnerable populations have been historically underrepresented in community decision-making, ensuring their involvement is critical to the development of comprehensive resilience plans.

# 5

## **Resilience planning strengthens communities.**

Whole-community resilience planning brings community members together for a common purpose. This is especially true when the process includes members of marginalized or disempowered populations. The planning process strengthens social cohesion, which, in turn, enhances resilience.

# 6

## **Equality, equity, diversity, and inclusion are the foundations of whole-community resilience planning.**

The values of whole-community planning ensure that everyone has the same opportunities to be resilient regardless of each person's unique situation and that socially vulnerable people are given whatever support is needed to meaningfully participate in the resilience planning effort.