



Climate Action Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs

Community Resilience Hubs 101

A community resilience hub is a public space that provides shelter and essential services during power outages, extreme weather conditions, and other emergencies. These hubs should be constructed outside of disaster-prone areas, such as flood zones. They should be accessible by public transit and pedestrian paths. Apart from emergencies, they might provide educational events, such as disaster preparedness trainings, and other resources to communities. Community resilience hubs can be older buildings that are upgraded or new buildings with resilience features. Installing these features can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and adapt them to climate change impacts. They could include using fire-resistant material to build or upgrade the building, elevating the building to reduce flood risk, installing green roofs, and using solar panels and/or generators to provide power.

Community resilience hubs vary but might have the following features:



Backup power: Generators, solar panels and batteries, and/or other forms of power that do not rely on the electric grid. Hubs should have backup power available since many emergencies can cause communities to lose power.



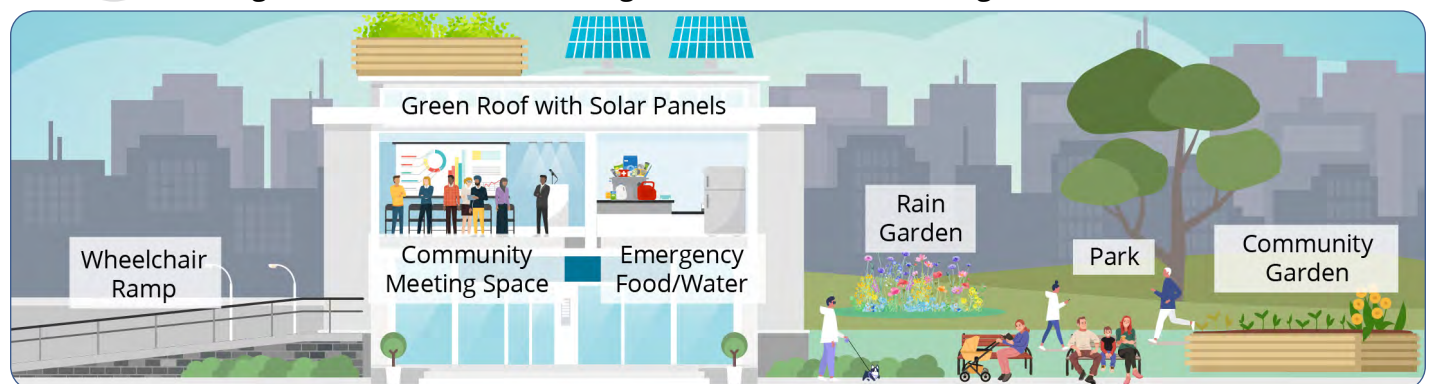
Community meeting space: A place for communities to gather during emergencies and for events such as public meetings, workshops, or trainings.



Emergency supplies and equipment: Food, water, supplies (such as medicines), and equipment (such as refrigerators to keep medicine cold).



Green roofs: Roofs with plants grown on them to provide insulation and cooling benefits during heat waves while reducing stormwater runoff during storms.



A community resilience hub

Community Resilience Hubs

Community Resilience Hub Solutions for Community Challenges



Power Outages

Community Challenges	Possible Solutions
<p>Power outages can disrupt communications, water, and transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low-income and minority neighborhoods experience more frequent and longer-lasting power outages than areas with wealthier and whiter populations.• Power outages can be dangerous for elderly and chronically ill people who depend on medicines that must be refrigerated or medical devices that need electricity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community resilience hubs should have backup power, such as solar with storage or diesel generators, to provide electricity for residents during outages.• Hubs should have emergency supplies such as food and water for community residents.• Hubs should also have communication devices that work during power and communication system outages.



Extreme Weather Events

Community Challenges	Possible Solutions
<p>Some communities face climate risks such as extreme heat, flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires that require people to shelter away from their residences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change is increasing the frequency of weather events that are extreme enough to cause communities to leave their homes temporarily to shelter elsewhere.• People with poorly insulated or run down homes and people who are unhoused are especially vulnerable to extreme heat and tornadoes. People with low-lying homes are especially vulnerable to flooding. People with homes near forests are especially vulnerable to wildfires. People with homes that have poor air filtration and are in the path of wind from wildfires are vulnerable to smoke from wildfires, as are unhouse people in these areas. In general, people living in homes that are not climate-resilient are lower-income and have fewer resources to support their well-being during extreme weather events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community resilience hubs can complement and strengthen local emergency response plans. They can offer safety during extreme weather events. The hubs can be built or upgraded to be safer by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elevating buildings to reduce flood risk.• Installing efficient cooling systems and insulation to reduce extreme heat risk.• Upgrading building exterior materials to reduce fire risk.• Installing air filtering equipment to reduce risks of breathing in smoke.• Community resilience hubs can complement and strengthen local emergency response plans.

Community Resilience Hubs

Community Resilience Hub Solutions for Community Challenges



Lack of Public Community Spaces

Community Challenges	Possible Solutions
<p>Community buildings and parks are essential to allow communities to meet and use green space. Many low-income and underserved neighborhoods do not have community buildings with enough meeting spaces for trainings, community organizing, or social activities. Especially in urban areas, low-income neighborhoods often do not have enough outdoor spaces for recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People living in neighborhoods without outdoor recreation areas have lower fitness levels and don't live as long.• Children living in neighborhoods without parks are more likely to get hit by cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community resilience hubs can provide meeting spaces and recreation spaces for community members.• Hubs with rain gardens, parks, and community gardens can provide opportunities for community members to spend time outdoors.• Hubs can be built with meeting spaces to host trainings on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and other topics.• Hubs can provide programming and a safe space for kids to go to when school is out.

Disclaimer: This document was created to help Community Change Grant applicants think through various potential solutions to the problems their community may be facing. All the listed "Community Challenges" and "Possible Solutions" are only examples. We did not attempt to list all possible challenges or solutions.

For further information on the Community Resilience Hubs Climate Action Strategy, read Section I.G and Appendices C and F of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).



For further questions regarding technical assistance, please contact EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov or call 1(800) 540-8123.



For questions regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), please contact CCGP@epa.gov.



<http://bit.ly/CCGTA>