

Characteristics of Resilient Communities:

DIRECTIONS: Read through each characteristic. Rate each characteristic on a scale of 1 (weakness) to 5 (strength):

| # | Characteristic | Rating |
|--------------|---|--------|
| 1 | <p>Collective Identity and Community Support: Resilient communities have a strong collective identity and a network of support. Characteristics include a strong sense of culture, shared values, and a willingness to help others in the community. Citizens are informed, engaged, and contribute to the overall well-being and prosperity of the community. There is adequate opportunity and physical space for social, cultural, recreational, and spiritual activities.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Safeguards to Human Health and Social Welfare: Resilient communities provide individuals with access to social support and quality healthcare, both for routine health management and unforeseen emergencies. Characteristics include access to social welfare programs, an affordable food supply, preventative medicine, mental health services, maternal care, specialty medicine, and effective emergency response.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Safe and Affordable Housing: Ensuring safe and affordable housing is essential for the well-being of a resilient community. Characteristics include a sufficient stock of affordable and safe housing, mechanisms to protect renters from unsafe housing conditions, and grants to support home safety upgrades for those in need of financial assistance. Safe homes also require that homes are prepared for natural disaster events, such as flood, severe weather, or wildfire.</p> | |
| BREAK | | |
| 4 | <p>Diverse Livelihoods and Employment: Resilient communities promote the economic well-being of residents by having diverse job opportunities and by providing skills and training for local residents to gain employment. Characteristics include a strong K-12 system, skill-based training programs, resources to support local businesses, an innovation friendly environment, accessible financing for new businesses, access to broadband internet for remote work, and inclusive labor policies</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Sustainable Economy: Resilient communities have active groups who implement stable, diverse, place-based economic strategies that build upon local assets. They retain and expand existing businesses and support entrepreneurship and innovation, aiming for an economy that works for everyone who lives there.</p> | |

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| 6 | <p>Effective Leadership: Community resilience thrives under effective leadership that actively engages and empowers stakeholders. Strong and adaptive community leaders foster a sense of shared responsibility, ensuring their citizens are informed and have the opportunity to contribute to decision-making processes.</p> | |
| BREAK | | |
| 7 | <p>Built to Last: A resilient community understands the importance of building and maintaining quality public and protective infrastructure. This includes affordable and reliable water, sewer, sanitation, and energy distribution that serves the community now and in the long term, especially during unforeseen emergencies. This also includes a safe and effective transportation network and diverse transportation options for all residents (sidewalks, public transit, road safe for driving and biking), and protective infrastructure (stormwater management, flood management).</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Effective Disaster Management: Resilient communities proactively plan to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters or emergencies. The goal of disaster management is to minimize the loss of life, property damage, and social and economic disruption caused by disasters. Characteristics of effective disaster management include comprehensive hazard and exposure mapping, mitigation efforts to reduce the impact of disaster events (such as flood levees), coordination across agencies, governments, organizations for effective emergency response, and informed and prepared citizens. In addition, emergency information systems reach all sectors of your community.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Natural Stewardship: Resilient communities value and care for their natural surroundings and wildlife. They strive to find a balance between the ecological value of nature and its economic/recreational use. In resilient communities, ecosystem services are identified and protected to maintain ecosystem health. Ecosystem stewardship includes using resources wisely, preventing pollution, and ensuring that our actions do not harm the delicate balance of nature. Stewardship helps keep the environment healthy and productive for current and future generations.</p> | |
| 10 | <p>Thriving Today and in the Future: A resilient community creates proactive strategies that balance environmental, social, and economic considerations to safeguard the well-being of current and future generations. This includes a planning process aligned with long-term city strategies that considers land use, zoning, building codes, energy and water sustainability, and effective data management.</p> | |

| Other Characteristics not Covered Today | | |
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| | <p>Crime and Justice: Community resilience involves fostering a sense of security, trust, and shared responsibility. Through effective crime prevention strategies and a fair and responsive justice system, communities can withstand challenges, prevent crime, support victims, and work collaboratively to create safer and stronger neighborhoods.</p> | |
| | <p>Reliable and Secure Communications and Technology: A resilient community has reliable and secure communication services. This also includes a diverse, reliable, and secure technology network with widespread access to broadband. City operations are supported by information and operation technology services and security, and city data is backed up and protected.</p> | |