

Community Conditions for Climate Resilience

The places where we live, learn, work, and play shape our ability to prepare for and recover from climate hazards. These community conditions — from Race & Ethnicity, to Household Income, to Manufactured Homes, Access to a Vehicle, and more — and housing stability to language access and transportation — can either protect residents or leave them more exposed when climate events strike.

| WHO LIVES HERE | ECONOMIC CONDITIONS | PLACE & MOBILITY |
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| <p>Population characteristics that shape exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Population & Size Affects the scale of resources and coordination needed when climate events strike. > Age — Children & Older Adults Younger and older residents may be more sensitive to heat and air quality, or face mobility challenges during emergencies. > Residents with Disabilities When emergencies disrupt services and infrastructure, residents with disabilities may need additional support to stay safe. > Race & Ethnicity Historic and ongoing inequities can mean that many communities of color are more exposed to environmental hazards and have fewer resources to recover. > Limited English Proficiency Language barriers can make it harder to access emergency alerts, recovery programs, or a voice in local planning. | <p>Financial stability shapes how well households can prepare, respond, and recover.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Household Income Higher, more stable incomes give families more options — better insurance, safer housing, and the ability to evacuate when needed. > Low Income & Poverty When resources are stretched thin, it can be harder to prepare for emergencies, afford repairs, or relocate from high-risk areas. > Cost-Burdened Households Households spending 30%+ of income on housing have less left over for preparedness, insurance, or home improvements that reduce risk. > Owner vs. Renter Renters often have less control over property-level protections like insulation or flood-proofing, and may face displacement after climate damage. | <p>Where people live and how they get around shapes their vulnerability and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Housing Affordability When affordable housing is scarce, residents may have fewer choices about where they live — including whether they can avoid high-risk areas. > Manufactured Homes Manufactured housing can be more vulnerable to extreme weather and is often located in areas at greater flood risk. > Access to a Vehicle Without a car, it can be much harder to evacuate during floods or storms, or reach cooling centers and shelters. > Public Transit Access Reliable transit connects residents to jobs, healthcare, and services — but gaps in service can limit options during climate emergencies. |

Place matters — and we can change it. The conditions that make communities more or less resilient to climate change are not fixed. They are shaped by housing, economic, and transportation policies — and they can be redesigned. Equitable climate resilience planning means understanding where these conditions create unequal risks, and directing resources to the communities that need them most.