Hazard Resilience & Economic Growth: A State Framework
1. Understand the current and future hazards

- Pick the right horizon for your state
- Look at both short-term threats (5-10 years) and long term threats (50 years)
- Look at different hazard types – for example, a lot of places are not factoring in extreme heat as a base issue
- Include trend projection data and climate change data
2. Build a broad stakeholder base for resilience planning & implementation

- Make sure you have input into planning from vulnerable populations
- Make sure you have people at the table who can follow through on implementation and make things happen in the end
3. Stop activities that increase the state’s vulnerability

- Stop digging yourself into a hole
- Review all current state activities to make sure you are not increasing the state’s vulnerability and the likelihood of a natural hazard becoming a disaster
Consider a cost-benefit analysis but make sure it factors in the needs of vulnerable populations and includes equity and environmental benefits.

- Look at what kind of economic development can be triggered through resilience investments.
- Look at various threat types – some might be retrofit solutions.
- Look at utilities, roads, transit, water, state government buildings and other state-owned assets to determine what needs to be protected and hardened and what can recede.
5. Put mechanisms in place to ensure that rebuilding activities reduce risk

- Don’t just rebuild to the same threat level you had before
- Ensure that you have plans in place to get resilience improvements out of all rebuilding activities
- Build consensus or at least determine priorities ahead of time
- Work on vision of stronger resilience and bake that into planning efforts
6. Ensure each new investment and program improve economic, environmental, and equity outcomes

- Consider economic benefit of different resilience strategies and activities
- Determine how to get multiple benefits from each investment and program
- Weave vulnerable population needs into all of these plans – potential to create more opportunity, healthier places out of these new investments
Our goal is to identify the top actions a state should take to be most successful for short and long-term state resilience.
Position leadership in the governor’s office or in super-cabinet role

- Create a sub-cabinet to coordinate resilience and development issues. A sub-cabinet can share information, encourage interagency collaboration, and jointly target growth-related state spending and investment. Sub-cabinet members could include the secretaries of transportation, housing, planning, natural resources, environment, economic development, hazard mitigation, administration or general services, and budget and finance.

- The sub-cabinet can function as a convener/coordinator, including setting the table for representatives who work directly with vulnerable populations – low-income, disadvantaged, elderly, remote access, health issues.
Select highest threat priorities for 5-10 years alongside 50 year threats (or other intervals of your picking)

- Look at the top risks over the next 5-10 years and act on them now. Use these to communicate to public on what you are doing and why.
- Figure out which threats are a priority by looking at economic impact, environmental impact, and impact on vulnerable populations
- Act for the short term, plan for the long-term
- Reach out to national organizations and state orgs to identify leaders who represent minorities, health-impaired, aging, low-income, remote populations
- Bring in major state businesses
- Facilitate peer to peer connections
- Ensure the people at the planning table include those who can carry out implementation at the end
Ensure capital investments factor in resilience and risk

Adapt state program criteria too

- Create risk and resilience factors that are integrated into infrastructure investment decisions – location, materials, codes (example of Washington State). These have major impacts on local land use decisions.
- Pick easier places to start and build on short term successes to create momentum
Partner with municipalities to deter additional development in high risk locations

- Can be through regional coalitions and conversations
- Can be used as a process for public education
Fund pre-disaster recovery plans that factor in vulnerable population needs and future economic development goals

- Integrate state plans across purposes — economic, transportation, housing, climate change mitigation, and disaster recovery
- Decide where to harden and where to recede
- Provide funding and technical assistance for local communities to create integrated plans
Conduct benefit-cost analysis on proposed actions to understand the economic & environmental benefits
Create a clear & transparent process to allocate funds
Measure benefits and risk reduction over time
Translate the need into an urgency that anyone can understand
The following are the other ideas that came from Summit participants in our discussion about what else should be included in the Top 10 Actions. Please send additional ideas to Alexander Cox at acox@smartgrowthamerica.org by Friday, October 24th.
1. Manage the total cost of facilities and procurement – new vs. existing, deferred maintenance
2. Figure out how to keep a focus on resilience in the Governor’s office & sustain it in everyday work
3. Work in partnership with localities on future development; assets like waterfronts may be important for economic development, need to protect it
4. Less dramatic climate changes need to be prioritized as well (ie. hotter average summer days)
5. COMMUNICATION is key
6. Cost-benefit analysis – need to include 2nd and 3rd tier benefits, environmental & social benefits
7. Matrix – would be helpful to crosswalk these ideas with HUD goals
8. Role of business & private sector as messengers
9. Diversity of options – can’t always move people out of the risk locations, need more options including how to protect & harden an at-risk location
10. Need a public discussion about recovery processes and expectations
11. Need for additional capacity at state level – train existing staff and keep them
12. Train up local staff for longer-term resilience knowledge
13. Use existing universities, health departments, and other existing “non-traditional” networks
14. State convener role is key, keep Gov level position
15. Data – understand what threats apply to what assets and over what time period; states need help figuring this out
16. Understand the programs different agencies operate in order to integrate plans
17. Understand the gaps in existing state programs
18. Provide assistance for small businesses who want to prepare
19. Consider multi-state mechanisms, and other creative solutions like blending funds
20. Inter agency communication at all levels – understand how investments from the state differ across regions
21. Engage state department of health
22. CDC has program to help connect climate change and health
23. Look at state requirements for regional/local resilience plans and make sure that health and other key topics are included
24. Articulate the value of facilitators, translators, and conveners
25. Press outreach and coordinated PR strategy are key – frame resilience as politically inclusive issue
Please send additional ideas for the Top 10 Actions to Alexander Cox at acox@smartgrowthamerica.org by Friday, October 24th.

Please also send feedback about the major pieces of this framework.

THANK YOU