

Developing & Empowering a National Resilience Agenda in 2021

Academy Election 2020 Project

Working Group: Build Resilient Communities

Background

There are multiple threats to our nation—climate change, cyber crimes, future pandemics—and now is the time to identify paths to resilience. Addressing these threats requires restoring the trust and partnership among the levels and agencies of government and the development of a comprehensive approach. A national resilience agency has been under discussion and development for at least a decade and it is time to move forward from these policies, not reinvent them. Doing so requires understanding the truth about the nature of resilience; incorporating the on-going work of state and local government, organizations, and academia; organizing, managing and resourcing on a national-level; and building critical capacity. Fortunately, there are many existing initiatives at all levels of government, in the private and nonprofit sectors, and in academia upon which to build.

The Challenge: Build Resilient Communities

Across the nation, America needs resilient communities with the capacity to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. Such communities are able to bounce back from disruptions while providing a high quality of life for all residents. Resilient communities are able to address natural hazard preparedness, mitigation, and response needs, but, as the term is used here, it refers to the whole panoply of potential and actual stresses facing communities.

Recommendations for 2021

- 1. Develop a comprehensive resilience strategy** that addresses the threats faced by the nation, asks for a long term commitment and ongoing investment from all participants in both the public and private sector, and considers resilience on a global perspective and as a societal characteristic.
- 2. Establish a national resilience director and national resilience office** that operate jointly to facilitate decisions across the federal government, integrate in the life of communities, engage top practitioners and academics, build partnerships across sectors, operate in a collaborative manner, and recognize the work that state and local governments have already done.
- 3. Increase critical capacity across the nation** built on the ideas that resources are central, education is a capacity multiplier, and infrastructure is the foundation upon which resilience rests.

Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, Developing & Empowering a National Resilience Agenda in 2021.

[The Academy: Election 2020: Developing & Empowering a National Resilience Agenda in 2021](#)

[The Academy: Ten Ways to Build a More Resilient Community](#)

[The Academy: Virtual Roundtable on Building Resilient Communities](#)

[GAO Report: Disaster Resilience Framework: Principles for Analyzing Federal Efforts to Facilitate and Promote Resilience to Natural Disasters](#)





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