

FINDINGS FROM THE 2024 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ROUNDTABLE ON

DISASTER RESILIENCE

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Hosted by the National Association of Counties with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts

Executive Summary

America's counties are actively engaged in all aspects of emergency management, including planning, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. As the frequency and cost of disasters increase, county leaders are leveraging their authority, creativity and the power of partnerships to protect residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies. This report provides county leaders with a summary of challenges in disaster resilience and approaches being explored across the country. Its content draws from the final

intergovernmental roundtable in a series co-hosted with The Pew Charitable Trusts. Intergovernmental partners can look to these findings and examples for guidance toward investing in local capacity and capacity-boosting partnerships that support the management of disasters events.



Key Findings



1. Streamline Access to Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness and Relief Funding

- Since 2017, the federal government has obligated \$220.2 billion in disaster funding to awardees, but only distributed \$123 billion – leaving states and localities waiting for \$97 billion.
- Federal and state partners should simplify funding streams and provide universal guidance for local governments. Efforts should focus on leveraging non-emergency funding sources and providing technical assistance to historically disadvantaged communities.



2. Measure and Address the Economic Risks of Disasters

- The growing frequency and intensity of disaster events across the United States have created volatility in insurance markets, raising recovery costs for communities and residents already grappling with inflation.
- Strong partnerships, reliable risk data and community incentives help ensure the best possible outcomes for residents. Federal and state partners can provide grants to support residents seeking to mitigate their homes, require insurers to assess rates by hazard and ensure retrofit-reduced risk is reflected in reduced premiums, and offer a centralized hub for catastrophe models to enable more precise mitigation work.



3. Incorporate Resilient Practices in Land Use Planning and Development

- County authority to influence land use decisions varies both by and within states, leaving counties with no one-size-fits-all strategy to support disaster resilience in planning and zoning.
- Effective two-way communication is critical for encouraging residents to adopt voluntary resilience standards and understand risk. County collaboration with federal, state and nongovernmental partners can highlight scientific solutions and encourage joint mitigation efforts.

The policies, practices and innovative approaches highlighted in this report represent the efforts and accomplishments of roundtable participants in building and maintaining capacity for resilience.