

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ROUNDTABLE ON

DISASTER MITIGATION

FEBRUARY 10, 2023 / WASHINGTON, D.C.

FEATURING ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST STATES, COUNTIES AND PARISHES

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

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Detailed agenda begins on page 8

NACo Conference Center (First Floor)

- 8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:45 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:15 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.** **Keynote Address**
Perception, Capacity, Benefits: A Conversation on Mitigation
- 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.** **Defining Intergovernmental Roles and Responsibilities and Capacity for Disaster Mitigation**
- 10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.** **The Role of Staffing and Consultants in Capacity for Disaster Mitigation**
- 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.** **Lunch**
- 1:15 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.** **The Role of Funding in Capacity for Disaster Mitigation Planning and Implementation**
- 2:15 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.** **Innovative Strategies for Building and Managing Capacity**
- 3:15 P.M. - 3:35 P.M.** **Afternoon Break**
- 3:35 P.M. - 4:35 P.M.** **Federal Resources for State and Local Capacity: Data and Analytics**
- 4:35 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.** **Closing and Next Steps**

In February 2022, federal, state and county officials convened for a roundtable discussion to deliberate and identify top challenges in intergovernmental coordination and collaboration in disaster resiliency. The group generated several key takeaways and priority challenges for the intergovernmental system to address.

Disasters Are Local.

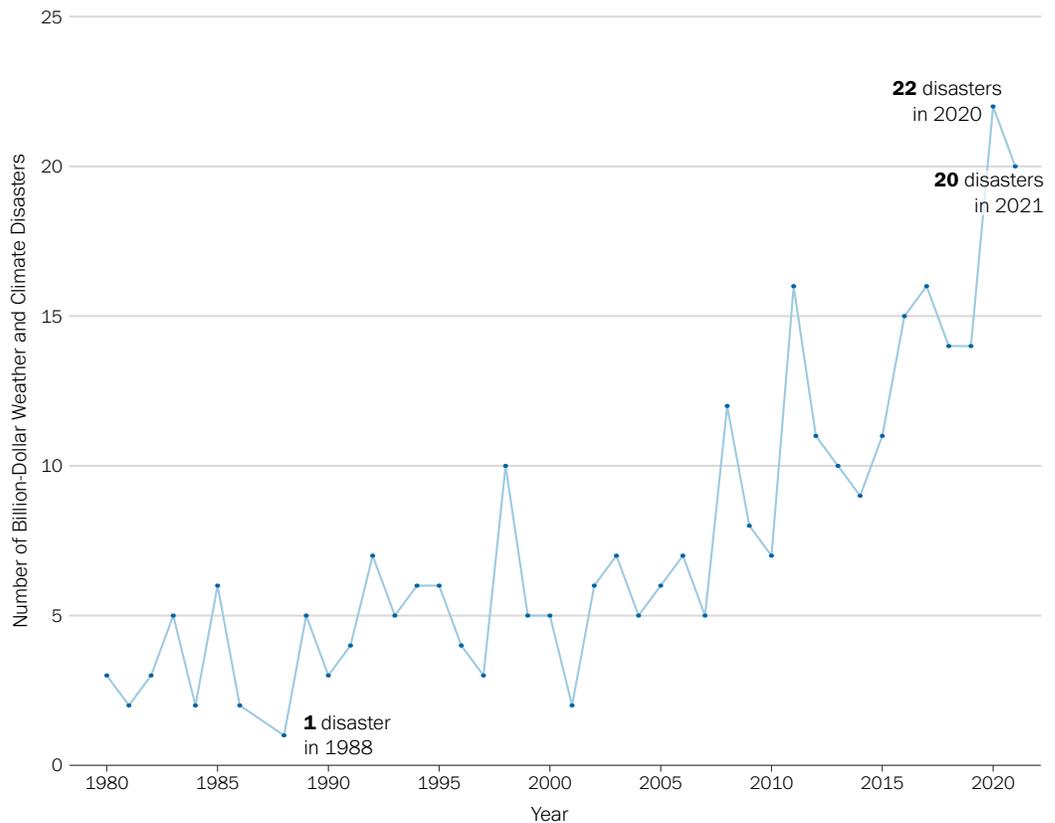
Disasters directly affect people in their homes and their local communities. To support residents in response and recovery, there are distinct roles and responsibilities across levels of government that leverage strengths and resources. Counties lead at the local level, states coordinate cross-jurisdictional response and fund distribution, and the federal government provides financial aid and national response resources to states and localities.

Disasters Are Increasing in Frequency and Severity.

Twenty years ago, the U.S. experienced between five to eight 'billion-dollar disasters' per year. That number has been increasing, reaching 20 separate billion-dollar disasters, which totaled approximately \$145 billion in damages, in 2021. Intergovernmental partners recognize the growing imperative to address key challenges present in our current system of response and recovery.

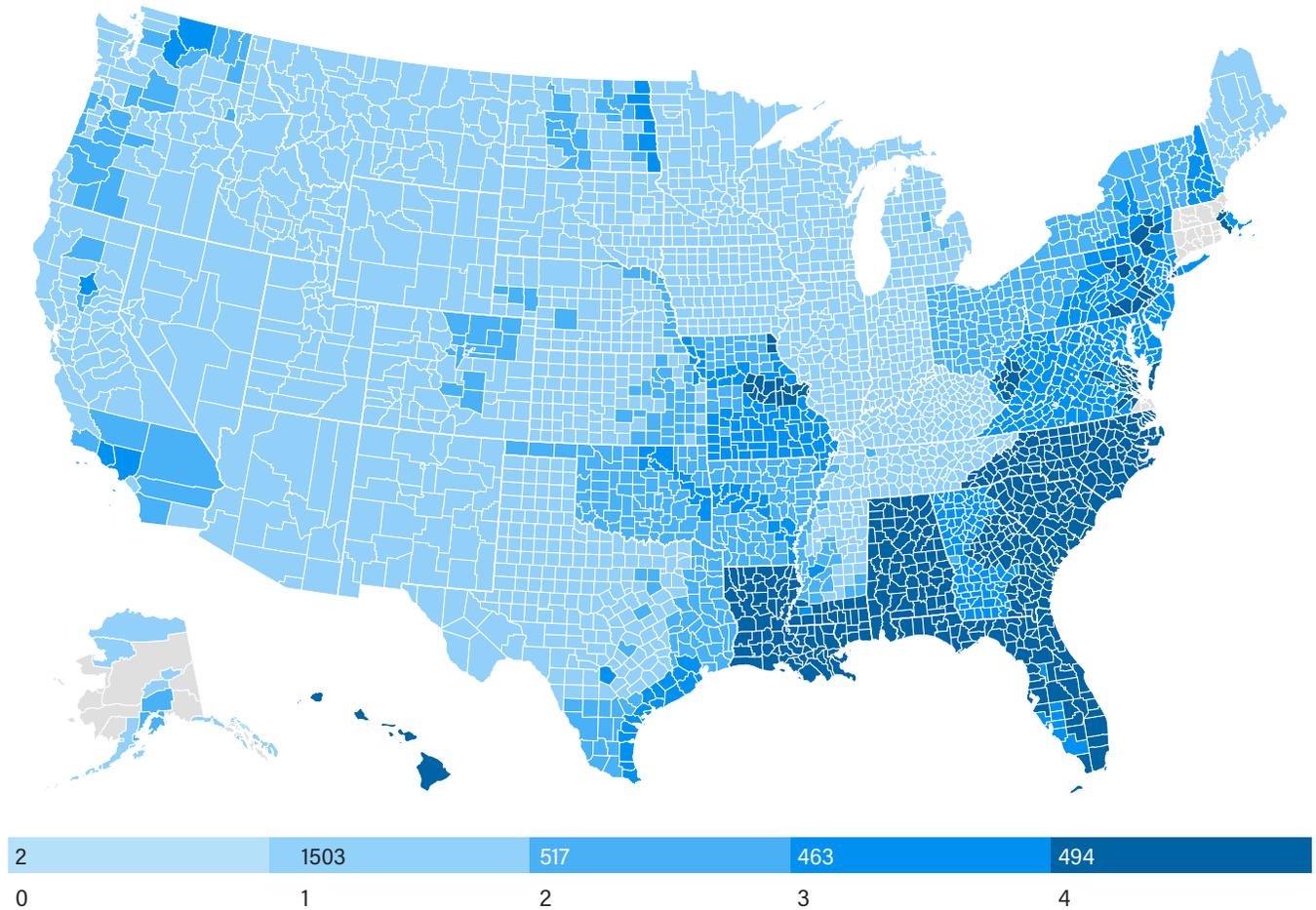
Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Source: NACo analysis of data published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Disaster declarations are concentrated in the Southeast United States along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts.

2011-2020 Number of Emergency Declarations - Natural Disasters



2011-2020 Number of Emergency Declarations:

The number of emergency disaster declarations authorized by the President for incidents affecting a county in 2011-2020. An emergency disaster declaration may be for any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed. It usually supplements State and local or Indian tribal government efforts in providing emergency services and the total amount of assistance provided for in a single emergency may not exceed \$5 million.

Source: NACo Analysis of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency 2008-2017 Disasters data, as of March 18, 2018

PRIORITY CHALLENGES

There Are Disparities In Local Capacity And Resources.

Funding for key services, such as emergency management, at the local level is largely based on local tax revenue. Counties are not equally resourced, though they have the same responsibility in the event of a disaster. County officials estimate that even in the smallest counties, the county emergency management office requires up to five full-time positions to be able to adequately prepare and respond.

There is greater demand for services than ever before, including providing public information in more languages and formatted for mobile devices and providing more complex health and behavioral health services in emergency shelters.

Disasters are Expensive and Difficult to Budget.

Even the most well-resourced counties often do not have the funds needed to adequately respond to a disaster event.

“My county, which is a mid-sized county of about 150,000 people, had to front approximately \$15 million for Hurricane Florence. It took time for us to begin seeing reimbursements. We were very thankful that we had planned for that.”

[Frank Williams, Commissioner, Brunswick County, N.C.]

Accurate budget forecasting requires accurate tracking of past expenses; however, most states and local governments do not comprehensively track disaster spending, largely due to the episodic and variable nature of disaster events and the reality that spending is spread across multiple agencies, levels of government and the private sector. States may provide support to under-resourced counties, stepping in when disasters are more severe.

“In Florida, we have 29 fiscally constrained counties that just do not have the same capability that a Miami-Dade or a Duval County or Orange County have...one thing that we do here in Florida is that we give out 12.5% match to all counties and municipalities on the 75% recovery funding that FEMA provides.”

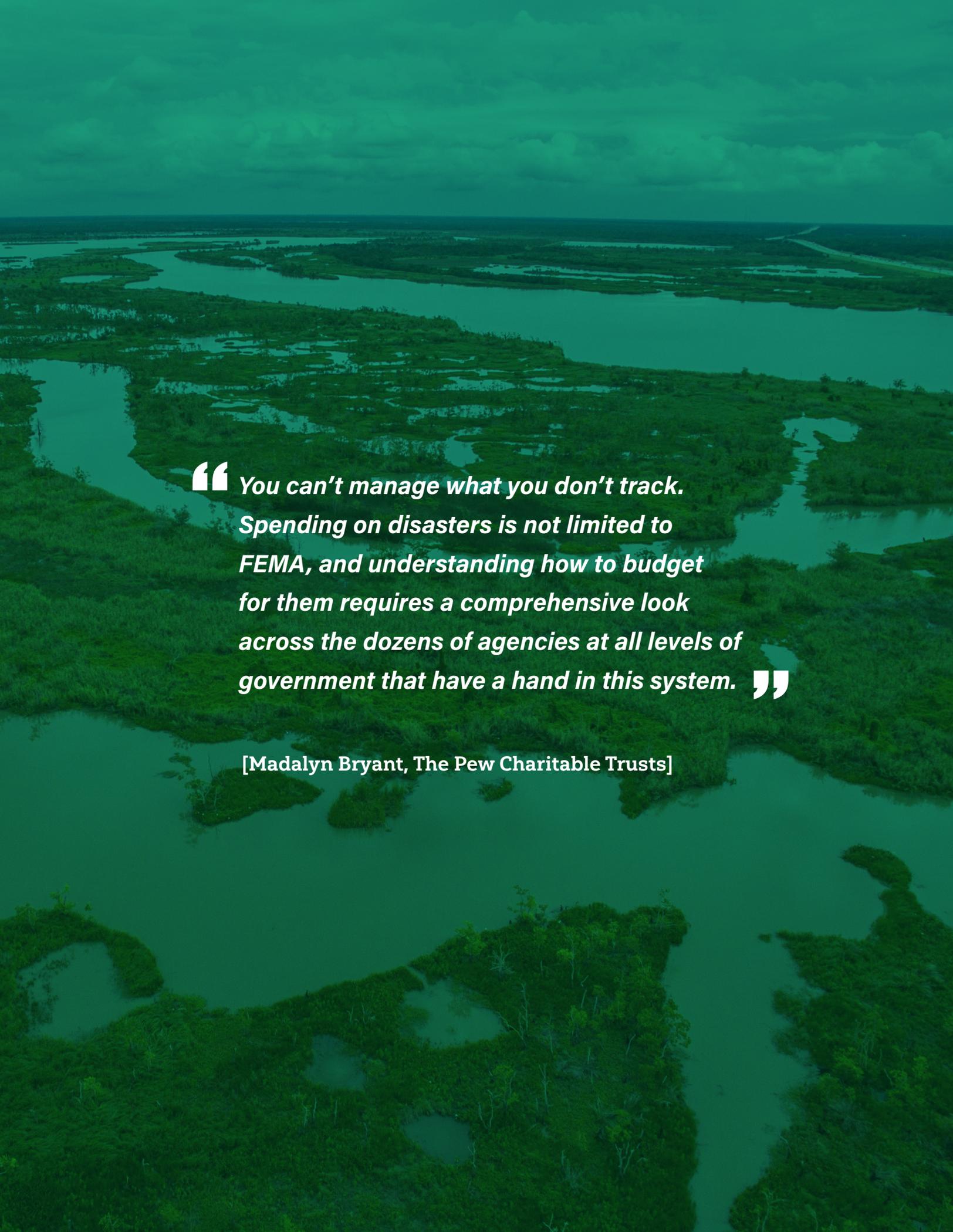
[Kevin Guthrie, Director, Florida Department of Emergency Management]

State, federal and private grants can provide needed resources, but identifying, pursuing, funding a cost-share component and accomplishing the technical parameters of grants is challenging and time consuming.

Federal Support Is Complex and Often Slow.

Federal disaster spending is spread across 17 major departments and agencies, including FEMA, USDA, HUD, DOD, HHS, DOT and the EPA, each with different award or reimbursement processes. While some resources can be aligned, there is a need for improved coordination at the federal level.

Long lead times and inconsistent processes between agencies lead to long gaps between response and recovery. State and county officials note that HUD’s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grants are often awarded up to four years after a disaster event.



“ You can’t manage what you don’t track. Spending on disasters is not limited to FEMA, and understanding how to budget for them requires a comprehensive look across the dozens of agencies at all levels of government that have a hand in this system. ”

[Madalyn Bryant, The Pew Charitable Trusts]

Federal Support Systems Are Not Designed For Equitable Distribution Of Resources.

Government officials at all levels recognize that some communities are left behind after disasters.

“We certainly can say our processes are blind and credible and we fund the best projects that we see, but are they the best projects? That’s the question.”

[FEMA official]

DOD, FEMA and other federal agencies are working to build local capacity, drive equitable responses and support underserved communities in recovery and mitigation efforts through initiatives like DOD’s REPI Program.

Emergency Management Is Too Focused On Recovery, Rather Than Preparedness.

Government officials agree that emergency management has focused for too long on recovery rather than preparedness, such as hardening infrastructure to avoid loss of power and mitigating flooding so residents can stay in their homes. Officials estimate a 1:1 return on investment for recovery, whereas mitigation produces a 6:1 return. Participants noted several mitigation tactics that are not widely adopted, such as comprehensive insurance and adopting the latest hazard-resistant building codes. According to federal officials, only 38% of counties have adopted the 2018 code.

“Disasters are going to come. More and more we depend on FEMA to build out state and local governments because they’re underinsured or not insured.”

[Kevin Guthrie, Director, Florida Department of Emergency Management]

Building Community-Led Preparedness.

Residents must invest in disaster preparedness and reduce over-reliance on government services at all levels. To accomplish this, community leaders should promote resiliency to their citizens by educating their communities about safety kits, insurance, disaster planning, and resiliency/sustainability tactics.

“The biggest thing is just be prepared. We need to develop - in every county in the country - a culture of preparedness.”

[Frank Williams, Commissioner, Brunswick County, N.C.]

Actionable Science For Better Decision-Making.

Government officials agree there is uncertainty in predictions related to sea level rise and other planetary stressors, though the science is advancing and uncertainty is reducing. The federal science enterprise, inclusive of NOAA, NASA, USGS, the Department of Energy and others, is working to both advance research and to translate this research into user-informed resources to better enable risk-informed decision-making at local levels.

“Science for science’s sake is indeed necessary but insufficient to improve adaptation outcomes on the ground. There is a critical need to collaboratively identify, understand, and communicate priorities of how science and services need to advance.”

[Mark Osler, Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience, NOAA]

AGENDA

All times are in Eastern Time

8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

National Association of
Counties - First Floor
Conference Center
660 North Capitol St NW,
Washington, DC 20001

Roundtable participants should plan to arrive by 8:30 a.m. for registration and breakfast.

8:45 A.M. - 9:15 A.M. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Following breakfast, Roundtable participants will be welcomed by key leaders from the National Association of Counties. This session will include an overview of findings from the 2022 Intergovernmental Roundtable on Disaster Resiliency, goals and objectives for the day's event and self-introductions from Roundtable participants from Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, counties and parishes.

SPEAKERS:



Mr. Matt Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Hon. James Gore
NACo Second Vice President; Supervisor
Sonoma County, Calif.



Ms. Ashleigh Holand
Director, Counties Futures Lab
National Association of Counties

9:15 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. PERCEPTION, CAPACITY, BENEFITS: A CONVERSATION ON MITIGATION

In her keynote address, Kathleen shares observations on what motivates communities to act on mitigation and what holds them back. Join in an interactive discussion on the nuances of keeping our communities safe from natural hazards.



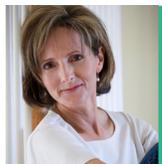
Ms. Kathleen Koch
Founder & Executive Director
LeadersLink

Kathleen Koch is an international speaker on disaster and resilience and founder of LeadersLink, the first nonprofit to harness and share elected officials' disaster lessons learned to help other communities better prevent, prepare for and recover from similar crises. Koch is also an award-winning former journalist and author who for 18 years was a CNN Washington correspondent covering the White House, Pentagon and Capitol Hill as well as numerous disasters including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. She currently writes op-eds for CNN.com, USA Today, U.S. News & World Report and other publications.

Koch anchored two prize-winning documentaries on the recovery of her hometown, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and recorded its journey in a best-selling book, *Rising from Katrina*, which was named Best Nonfiction in the Southeast Region in the 2011 Independent Publisher Book Awards. She also shared in the 2006 Peabody Award CNN received for its coverage of the hurricane.

9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. DEFINING CAPACITY FOR DISASTER MITIGATION

Prior to the Roundtable, participants identified top indicators of capacity for disaster mitigation: funding for planning and project implementation, dedicated staffing and jurisdiction-specific agencies. This level-setting discussion will focus on state and local leaders' perspectives on roles and responsibilities related to disaster mitigation and defining capacity for mitigation, including how it is built and sustained for best outcomes.

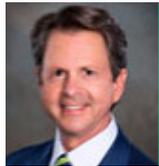
MODERATOR:

Ms. Kathleen Koch
Founder & Executive Director
LeadersLink

SPEAKERS:



Hon. Archie Chaisson, III
Parish President
Lafourche Parish, La.



Hon. Gregg Weiss
Mayor
Palm Beach County, Fla.



Mr. Travis Voyles
Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and Chief Resilience
Officer, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin
Commonwealth of Virginia

10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. THE ROLE OF STAFFING AND CONSULTANTS IN CAPACITY FOR DISASTER MITIGATION

Speakers will share their perspectives on building and staffing new resiliency offices, weighing dedicated staff vs. consultants and defining capacity by the personnel working toward mitigation outcomes. Speakers will host a conversation with the Roundtable participants to expand on staffing as an element of capacity.

MODERATOR:



Ms. Ashleigh Holand
Director, Counties Futures Lab
National Association of Counties

SPEAKERS:

Ms. Anne Coglianese
Chief Resilience Officer
Jacksonville/Duval County, Fla.



Ms. Karen Burney-Green
Chief Resilience Officer
Charleston County, S.C.



Mr. Ben Duncan
Chief Resilience Officer
South Carolina Office of Resilience

12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M. LUNCH

Lunch will be served in the NACo Conference Center. There is no program during this time and attendees are encouraged to network among Roundtable participants.

1:15 P.M. - 2:15 P.M. THE ROLE OF FUNDING IN CAPACITY FOR DISASTER MITIGATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Speakers will share their perspectives on funding mitigation planning and project implementation through local, state, federal and private funding with particular attention to recurring and one-time funding opportunities made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Speakers will host a conversation with the Roundtable participants to expand on funding as an element of capacity.

MODERATOR:

Mr. Colin Foard
Manager
Fiscal Federalism Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts

SPEAKERS:



Mr. Benzon Koshy-John
*Planning Section Chief, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Harris County, Texas*



Ms. Megan Houston
*Chief Resilience Officer
Palm Beach County, Fla.*

2:15 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING AND MANAGING CAPACITY

This session will cover “other” indicators of capacity that should be considered in our working definition and what innovative strategies they are using to build and sustain capacity. Speakers will host a conversation with the Roundtable participants to expand on capacity.

MODERATOR:



Mr. Mathew Sanders
*Senior Manager, Flood-Prepared Communities
The Pew Charitable Trusts*

SPEAKERS:



Ms. Jennifer Jurado
*Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division
Broward County, Fla.*



Ms. Jennifer Charlton-Faia
*Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Section Chief
Texas Division of Emergency Management*

3:15 P.M. - 3:35 P.M. AFTERNOON BREAK

3:35 P.M. - 4:35 P.M. FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL CAPACITY: DATA AND ANALYTICS

To build a Climate Ready Nation, it is NOAA's mission to enhance its capacity as the primary federal authoritative provider of climate data, information, and services for the Nation. In this session, NOAA leadership will highlight relevant data, tools, products, and services that have emerged over the last year and speak to new investment opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. The session will include a deeper dive into the local application of NOAA's tools and invite a discussion around how the states and counties envision the Federal role in this space

MODERATOR:***Ms. Nancy Augustine***

*Director, Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships
National Academy of Public Administration*

SPEAKERS:***Mr. Mark Osler***

*Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

***Ms. Jackie Jackson***

*Resiliency Program Administrator
Chatham County, Ga.*

4:35 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

County/Parish Leaders

Hon. Jeff Branick

Judge, Jefferson County, Texas

Ms. Karen Burney-Green

Chief Resilience Officer, Charleston County, S.C.

Hon. Archie Chaisson, III

Parish President, Lafourche Parish, La.

Ms. Anne Coglianese

Chief Resilience Officer, City of Jacksonville/Duval County, Fla.

Ms. Megan Houston

Chief Resilience Officer, Palm Beach County, Fla.

Mr. Benzon Koshy-John

Planning Section Chief, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Harris County, Texas

Mr. Brett Kriger

Deputy Director of Disaster Response, Louisiana Municipal Association

Ms. Jackie Jackson

Resiliency Program Administrator, Chatham County, Ga.

Ms. Jennifer Jurado

Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Broward County, Fla.

Ms. Stacie Miles

Deputy Director of Emergency Services, Onslow County, N.C.

Hon. Louis Morant

County Councilmember, Georgetown County, S.C.

Hon. Douglas Smith

Commissioner, Martin County, Fla.

Hon. Gregg Weiss

Mayor, Palm Beach County, Fla.

Mr. Weston Young

Chief Administrative Officer, Worcester County, Md.

State Leaders

Dr. Wesley Brooks

Chief Resilience Officer, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Jennifer Charlton-Faia

Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Section Chief Texas Division of Emergency Management

Mr. Ben Duncan

Chief Resilience Officer, South Carolina Office of Resilience

Mr. Gregory Grandy

Deputy Executive Director, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

Ms. Sandy Hertz

Director, Office of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation, Maryland Department of Transportation

Mr. Travis Voyles

Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin, Commonwealth of Virginia

National and Federal Partners

Ms. Nancy Augustine

Director, Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships, National Academy of Public Administration

Ms. Kathleen Koch

Founder & Executive Director, LeadersLink

Ms. Claudia Mazur

Sea Grant Knauss Policy Fellow, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Mr. Josh Murphy

Program Manager, Learning Product Development, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management

Mr. Mark Osler

Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Event Hosts

Mr. Matt Chase

Executive Director, National Association of Counties

Hon. James Gore

NACo Second Vice President, Supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif.

Mr. Colin Foard

Manager, Fiscal Federalism Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Mr. Zachary Greenberg

Officer, Environment, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Ms. Jill Hammelbacher

Associate I, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Ms. Ashleigh Holand

Director, Counties Futures Lab, National Association of Counties

Ms. Ashley Hunt

Program Manager, Health, National Association of Counties

Ms. Jennifer Kuiper

Associate Program Director for Resilient Economies and Communities, National Association of Counties

Mr. Mathew Sanders

Senior Manager, Flood-Prepared Communities, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Ms. Elizabeth Roberts

Events Coordinator, National Association of Counties

Mr. Bob Zahradnik

Principal Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts



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