

COMMUNITY-CENTRED RESILIENCE and the CONNECTED COMMUNITY APPROACH

WORKING DEFINITIONS:

Community-centred resilience can be defined as the capacity of community groups, networks and organizations to collectively and effectively prepare for, respond to, recover from & regroup after extreme shock events.



Using the Connected Community Approach, each community will articulate its own priorities, projects and actions. These common definitions will be used in different ways in different communities.

PREPARE FOR:

- Relationships, networks, co-ordination mechanisms, communication channels that support collective action in a community
- Linkages, relationships and communication channels between the community and appropriate City departments/divisions
- Identification of assets that can be leveraged on an ongoing basis to respond to stresses, and identifying how they can be used in the event of a shock
- Documented plans, committees, workgroups, training that allow a community to take on specific roles in relation to shock events
- Centralized location/people who can be a community focal point in the event of a shock event

RESPOND TO:

- The capacity to communicate effectively and efficiently across the community
- The ability to mobilize plans, spaces and knowledge quickly
- The ability to align/co-ordinate community assets with City emergency response (increasing City effectiveness by mobilizing local assets)
- The capacity to mobilize trained people to take on specific roles as required/co-ordinated with professional responders

RECOVER FROM:

- The ability to identify the unique specific needs of individuals and community groups as they put their lives back together after a shock event
- The ability to connect appropriate City and other professional resources to the people who need them
- Capacity to collectively plan for rehabilitation of shared spaces and other community assets damaged in the shock events
- The organizing of vigils and other public mourning/grieving opportunities

REGROUP AFTER:

- The ability to address the question “what now”
- The capacity of a community to use tragedy to grow stronger in meaningful ways
- Strategies, plans, activities designed to mitigate/prevent events from happening again
- Strategies, plans, activities designed to influence the City and other professionals to strengthen their own responses and connections to community based resilience organizing
- The crafting of community narrative about the event and ways to mark and remember the event, the people who lost lives and the people who used their community building expertise during the shock event

EMERGENCY PREVENTION/MITIGATION:

- The capacity for community players to identify hazardous areas or situations that may trigger or be exacerbated by shock events
- The capacity of community players to address hazardous areas or situations in a proactive way
- The ability of community players to organize, strategize and act to lessen community based stresses
- The ability of community players to influence City or other professional plans, services or activities in ways that address potential hazards or situations
- The ability for a community to join with others in larger scale actions and movements that mitigate, prevent or otherwise lessen City wide, national or global stresses that may ultimately result in extreme shocks

PRINCIPLES/ASSUMPTIONS that guide the use of the Connected Community Approach for Community-Centred Resilience:

- Equity is core to effective resilience work
- Shocks can occur from any source; the source need not be predefined
- Community-centred resilience is a community development process (rather than an individual process)
- Grassroots strategies and formalized professional strategies are both required to create resilient communities
- CCA focuses on the interface of municipalities, institutions and grassroots community groups developing the systems and processes that allow citizens and institutions to work together to effectively prepare for, respond to, recover from and regroup after shock events
- The aim of regrouping after shock events should be creating a stronger, more equitable community (bouncing forward) rather than bouncing back to a pre-existing state
- Stresses, as identified in a given community, will be addressed in preparing for and moving(bouncing) forward after shock events
- CCA is an approach or framework, not a rigid model

