

Resilience

[DRAFT]



Never before did we see the region’s resiliency tested as much as it has this past year. We experienced both major wildfires and a global pandemic in the region, which pushed the region’s resources to the limit. This was no longer an exercise; it was real, and all local and regional plans were put into action immediately. The NWCCOG Economic Development District’s role with respect to resiliency is to help our region’s communities understand the shocks and stresses they face, make connections across sectors to leverage resources and ideas, develop solutions that address multiple challenges, and build adaptability and preparedness. We coordinate and collaborate with local, state, federal, private, and non-governmental partners to ensure that our region’s communities are resilient to disruptions and adapt to changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.

Resilience is the ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from any type of shock, disruption, or stressor. These shocks can include natural disasters, hazards, and the impacts of a changing climate, but also man-made economic disruptions such as the closure of a region’s large employer, the decline of an important industry, changes in the workforce, and shifts in population trends. The power of resilience planning is that it focuses both on emergency response – how to deal with the immediate impact of a disruptive event – as well as how to prepare and organize in advance and rebuild afterwards with a coherent framework.

Because shocks don’t stop at geographical or jurisdictional boundaries, the need to prepare and respond to these events should be a regional effort, therefore the CEDS planning process is the right time to foster and nurture these key partnerships. Therefore, resilience is identified as one of the four CEDS goals identified, and is woven into the CEDS throughout as well, since it is one of the cornerstones of a sustainable and prosperous regional economy.

Resilience: The Region's Key Vulnerabilities

[DRAFT]



Threats identified in the SWOT fall into four main themes:

Adapting to our changing climate

- Wildfires
- Drought
- Loss of snowpack runoff affects water supply and water-based recreation
- Shortened ski season
- Climate change affect on daily life and tourism: smoky skies from wildfires more prevalent; campfire bans; burned forests; low rivers and lakes; shortened ski season

Understanding risks from natural and other hazards

- Pandemic: continued economic impacts; long-term recovery from; threat of more in the future
- Drought: wildfires and subsequent threat of mudslides and flooding

Addressing social inequities and unique community needs

- Incoming location-neutral workers will not be filling local jobs and will outcompete local workers for housing. This hurts the ability for local businesses to find, keep, and attract employees, lowering the level and quality of services they can provide to residents and visitors alike
- Overcrowding on public lands
- Possible surge in permanent, year-round population due to pandemic (driven by remote work; remote school, internet connectivity) – could lead to increased demand in public services
- Rising cost of living overall
- Declining/stagnant population in some remote communities in the region
- Rising mental health challenges and substance abuse

Pursuing economic diversity and vibrancy

- Housing: in-migration driving up housing prices making it difficult for workforce to afford housing; Impacts of increase in short-term rentals (loss of workforce housing)
- Loss of workforce due to pandemic
- Growth in wealth/permanent population creates more demand for low-paying service jobs to support growing permanent population (i.e. restaurant, recreation services, retail jobs)
- Finding employees to fill resident and visitor service jobs necessary to maintain a community will likely become even more challenging
- Small businesses closing their doors due to inability to survive the pandemic
- Ongoing inability of our service businesses and tourist economy to accommodate professionally and in a timely manner the demands of the ever-increasing number of tourist and second homeowners.
- Dependence on oil and gas revenues in some of the region's counties
- Federal and State legislation negatively affecting some key industries in the region (e.g. hunting and ranching)

Resilience: Planning

[DRAFT]



Northwest Colorado All Hazards Emergency Management Region

purpose is to allow the NWAHEMR to strengthen the Counties' ability to prepare for, mitigate the impacts of, respond to, and recover from a disaster. After September 11, 2001, FEMA created this grant funding source so all the states could prepare for terrorist attacks, natural weather disasters, and or human-caused incidents. The States were required to establish Regions for distributing grant funds and to enhance regional collaboration. FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security allocate each States SHGP funds to share with the State Regions. NWCCOG acts as the fiscal agent for the grant and employs the Coordinator for the program via contract. A committee provides strategic direction for the program, and votes to approve all projects for funding. The NWAHEMR is an inclusive organization open to bringing in new partners who bring beneficial relationships.

County Emergency Management Departments

Each County has an Office of Emergency Management accessed through the County's website. These sites have links to sign up for alert notifications, information/checklist on preparing for a disaster, on-going information regarding an active disaster that impacts the community, and other resources. Additionally, the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has information for citizens to prepare for and recover from a disaster and report suspicious activities. Another resource is the Colorado Red Cross.

DOLA Regional Recovery Roadmaps -COVID-19 represents one of the greatest disruptions of our lifetimes, requiring our communities to partner across jurisdictional boundaries in order to effectively respond to change and elevate community assets to solve shared problems. In response, The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), along with Community Builders, partnered to provide an opportunity for regional community teams to form to develop their own "Rural Colorado COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Resiliency Roadmap Plan" ("Recovery Roadmap" for short). Four of our region's counties have been awarded technical assistance to complete a two-year economic and regional resiliency planning process (Eagle, Grand, Pitkin, and Summit). The technical assistance award provides paid consulting, along with administrative and data support to each team. At the end of the two-year planning period, the goal is for each team to have an actionable plan to address key issues necessary to diversify and strengthen the region's economy and resiliency. One of the intentions of pursuing this award is to identify and prioritize as a community key areas for possible future funding as it may be made available and leverage the technical assistance for funding analysis and strategy to implement the roadmap. NWCCOG will be an active participant in all these planning efforts, and they will be incorporated into the CEDS.

Colorado Division of Homeland Security & U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Resilience: Goal in NWCCOG CEDS

[DRAFT]

Priority Area: RESILIENCY

Goal: Bolster the long-term economic durability of the region

Objective: Foster a regional economy that has the capacity to recover from, withstand, and avoid adverse conditions

Objective: Encourage diversity in industry and jobs

Strategies	Lead & Stakeholders	TF	Actions	Status
Cultivate entrepreneurship as a strategy towards economic recovery and long-term resilience	Lead: Organizations working to build entrepreneurial ecosystems; SBDC Stakeholders: entrepreneurs	ST	Provide access to capital for startups Provide equitable access to opportunity	
Maintain strong partnerships between regional stakeholders to share problems, data, stories, and solutions	Lead: NWCCOG EDD Stakeholders: towns, counties, businesses, workforce, visitors, residents, state and federal agency partners	OG	• Maintain frequent communication between federal, state, regional, and local partners	
Provide a forum for regional communication, collaboration, and information sharing	Lead: NWCCOG EDD Stakeholders: towns, counties, businesses, workforce, visitors, residents, state and federal agency partners	OG	EDD Board of Directors meetings (in conjunction with NWCCOG Council meetings) Regional Economic Forum – bring back Spring 2022 Conduct studies/surveys/prepare reports on economic development topics of regional interest and value	

Priority Area: RESILIENCY

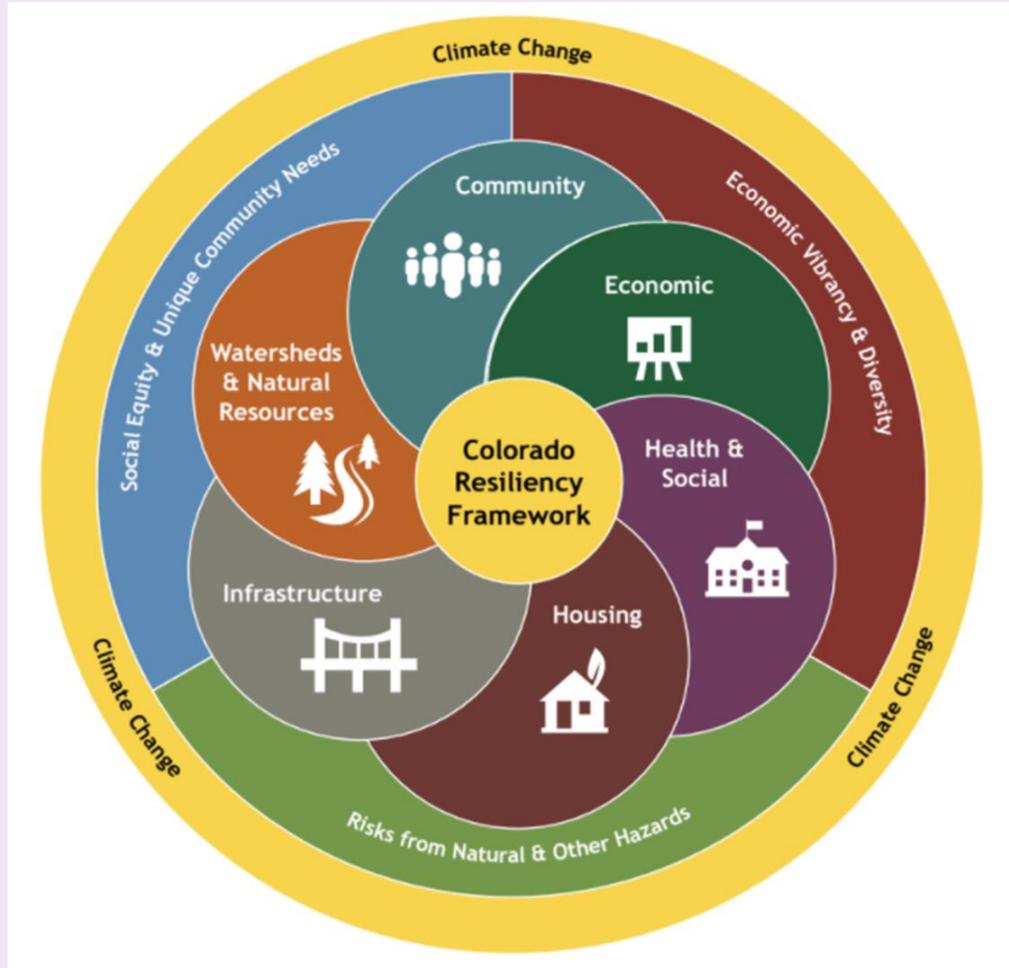
Priority/Timeframe: ST: Short-term (Year 1); MT: Medium-term (Year 2-4); LT: Long-term (Year 5); OG: On-going (throughout the 5 year period)

Goal: Bolster the long-term economic durability of the region

Objective: Prepare for and develop recovery strategies for natural disasters, economic shocks, and their aftermaths

Strategies	Lead & Stakeholders	TF	Actions	Status
Collaborate with the region's counties on economic recovery and resiliency plan development	Lead: NWCCOG EDD Stakeholders: towns and counties in the region	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with counties on DOLA Regional Resiliency Roadmaps (Eagle, Grand, Pitkin, Summit – all submitted applications) Carry out all projects/activities/deliverables of the EDA CARES Act grant (\$400,000) - report out on county-level projects; COVID lessons learned/best practices report from RBRC help coordinate best practices for the region on recovery plans 	
Encourage opportunities for community collaboration with respect to wildfire preparedness and mitigation	Lead: NWCCOG EDD Stakeholders: towns and counties in the region	ST	• Climate Change: Gather all county plans together. Convene regional climate change forum	
Utilize the work of the Mountain Migration Project - strategies	Lead: NWCCOG EDD Stakeholders: towns and counties in the region	ST	• Present strategies and identify those the region's stakeholders want to focus on which will bolster the long-term economic durability of the region	

Resilience: Colorado Resiliency Framework



The Colorado Resiliency Framework - In the wake of the 2012 wildfires and 2013 flooding events, the State of Colorado recognized the need to proactively and holistically address future shock events and stressors to protect lives, property, and livelihoods. The original 2015 Colorado Resiliency Framework showcased Colorado's ability and determination to build back in a way that moves the State forward from adversity with a resiliency strategy.

The updated [2020 Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) (Framework) serves as the State's roadmap to a more resilient future. It lays out the State's resiliency vision and goals and explores risks and vulnerabilities across four themes: adapting to our changing climate, understanding risks from natural and other hazards, addressing social inequities and unique community needs, and pursuing economic diversity and vibrancy. The Framework provides 29 strategies across six priority focus areas that the State will implement to reduce risk and vulnerabilities and be adaptive to changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.

Throughout the Framework, risks and vulnerabilities are analyzed and specific strategies are identified that will strengthen the State's capacity to adapt and support local communities on their path toward resiliency. Two overarching strategies — establishing a statewide resilient and sustainable community/regional program and attracting and leveraging resiliency funding opportunities — are foundational activities that will connect and strengthen all the resiliency priorities. NWCCOG will align our resilience section with this framework as a way to be in line with the state's resiliency goals.