Getting Started on a Checklist

The resilience planning team is encouraged to develop a checklist that can be helpful assessing the extent to which the vision, scenario, and actions of the resilience plan incorporate provisions to address the needs of socially vulnerable populations, impact socially vulnerable populations, and/or affect the pre-existing social, economic and physical challenges facing socially vulnerable populations in the community. Each resilience team is encouraged to tailor a checklist to its own needs and circumstances. The following ideas might help a team get started:

☐ **Who is vulnerable?**

Has the resilience planning team created a profile of the community with regard to populations that, due to pre-existing social, economic, and physical conditions, may be more severely affected by changing coastal climate conditions, including but not limited to the following:

- Low-income populations and populations that are asset limited, income restrained yet employed (ALICE)
- People with limited English proficiency
- People who do not own a car
- People who are homeless
- People of color and others who may experience societal discrimination
- Immigrants and undocumented populations
- People who live in mobile homes
- People with pre-existing health conditions, including mental health
- Older residents and children
- People who may be exposed to disproportionate amounts of environmental pollutants
- People with disabilities, including physical and developmental disabilities

☐ **Where do socially vulnerable populations reside?**

In addition to identifying pre-existing social, economic, and physical conditions that may be challenging to socially vulnerable populations and exacerbated by changing coastal climate conditions, does the resilience planning team's profile of social vulnerability include maps to compare the relative relationship of socially vulnerable populations to current and future flood and other hazards?

☐ **What are opportunities for inclusive processes?**

Has the resilience planning team developed a written plan to ensure inclusive engagement of socially vulnerable populations as part of the resilience planning process?

☐ **What are existing challenges that may be exacerbated by changing coastal climate conditions?**

Has the resilience planning team developed an inventory of pre-existing social, economic, and physical challenges in the community that socially vulnerable populations face that may be exacerbated by changing coastal climate conditions?

☐ **How can resilience affect existing challenges to socially vulnerable populations?**

How might the community vision, scenarios, and/or actions being considered by the resilience planning team positively or negatively affect any of the pre-existing social, economic, and physical challenges in the community that socially vulnerable populations face? Examples:

- The plan might propose to install elevated hard structures, such as seawalls, to prevent rising seas from flooding the community but, in doing so, exacerbate current challenges for people with mobility issues from accessing beaches;

- The plan might include actions to increase open spaces for purposes of flood retention that allow for community gardens that can address food security issues identified as a challenge for some residents previously;

- The plan proposes a new ordinance for the municipality by which all city policies and plans will be translated to the two languages other than English that are prominent in the community in response to complaints heard by the resilience planning team;

- The plan proposes to restrict the subdivision of land within or adjacent to high-hazard areas but does not offer accommodation to burdens that this may place on family arrangements with socially vulnerable members (e.g., older or disabled members) who need to reside adjacent to other family members;

- The plan might articulate a vision for the community that is economically unattainable and culturally irrelevant for some residents, worsening current concerns about racial and socioeconomic divides and limited social cohesion;

- The plan recommends changes to municipal ordinances and zoning that would promote use of natural infrastructure throughout the municipality and identifies priority areas for investment as those where co-benefits include: flood retention, increased tree canopy ratio and vegetative cover compared to municipal levels overall, and contribution to lowering heat island effect to address previous challenges identified about inequitable access to "green" spaces in the community by certain residents;

- The plan may propose to establish a training program with the local community college to train and hire local low-income residents to install natural systems, such as living shorelines in coastal areas for flood retention, and, in doing so, address previously identified challenges regarding a need for living wage jobs;

- The plan includes establishment of a funded home repair program for low- to moderate-income older residents and residents with disabilities that includes installation of resilience measures to address a challenge previously identified regarding the cost of resilience improvements and concerns about long-time residents potentially needing to relocate.

How can resilience create new challenges or opportunities for socially vulnerable populations ?

Do the community vision, scenarios, and/or actions being considered by the resilience planning team create new challenges or new opportunities for socially vulnerable populations in the community? Be as specific as possible for each scenario and/or action and for each population. Examples:

- The plan includes development of a new renewable powered community center that, among other things, will host a community food garden to serve older residents and to act as a cooling center for residents who do not have access to air conditioned homes;

- The plan recommends that the municipality work in partnership with the county and state to acquire a former flood-prone brownfields site and convert it to a recreational eco-park in an area of the municipality that previously had limited recreational open space opportunities;

- The plan establishes a committee to advise the mayor on strategies to prevent "gentrification" of the community that drives out long-time residents, including low- to moderate-income residents, while ensuring improvements that enhance community resilience;

- The plan recommends actions that involve an approach to participatory budgeting for the next municipal budget cycle to plan recreational and open space priorities that increase civic engagement and expand social cohesion in the community;

- The plan recommends actions to increase the availability of affordable housing units in the community in areas that are not flood prone and, in doing so, addresses an existing pressing need within the community;

- The plan recommends actions to work in partnership with the local hospital and health system to conduct a "hot spotting" initiative to identify homeless and below poverty members of the community who are chronic emergency room patients to provide stable community-based living arrangements for them;

- The plan recommends establishment of a new area in need of redevelopment in the community that provides opportunities for affordable housing, housing for older residents and people with disabilities, an arts district, and mixed uses to create a core in the municipality and increase community cohesion to address challenges previously identified. It calls for a diverse and inclusive visioning process for the initiative.