

# Measuring Recovery Through Healthy Community Indicators

## Background

In the aftermath of a large natural disaster, such as a hurricane, tornado, or flood, residents can suffer from multiple types of damage to the physical structures, economic base, and social fabric of the community. The losses caused by these impacts can linger for months or even years and the process of recovery is a key capability for federal, state, and local governments to help communities get back on their feet. Yet at this time, no measurable, validated indicators of community recovery have been developed. Practitioners need these indicators to help gauge the speed and extent of recovery and to identify areas of the community that may need additional support and resources during the rebuilding process.

This project is developing tools to help practitioners at all levels of government to document what they did as part of recovery and to measure the impact of those actions. The information gathered can then be used to define high quality disaster recovery for a post-disaster community.

## Key Products Under Development

- A checklist of approximately 90 indicators of recovery-categorized by the eight areas related to the Recovery

Mission Area Core Capabilities as described in the National Preparedness Goal

- A case-study of two communities that have undergone recovery from a recent disaster, along with documentation of their use of indicators to measure success using their actual recovery experiences
- A crosswalk of indicator interdependencies to gain a better understanding of how indicators might be organized (e.g. temporally ranked or weighted)
- A pilot to collect primary data on indicators of recovery in the field
- A web-based tool, along with guidance for its use, for practitioners at the state and local level to use in applying recovery indicators

## Partners

- Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Recovery Directorate
- State and local emergency managers, planners, and community

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## COASTAL HAZARDS CENTER

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