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# Strategies to Promote Storm Resilience for Low-Income Communities

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**Reinventing Older Communities**



May 13, 2014

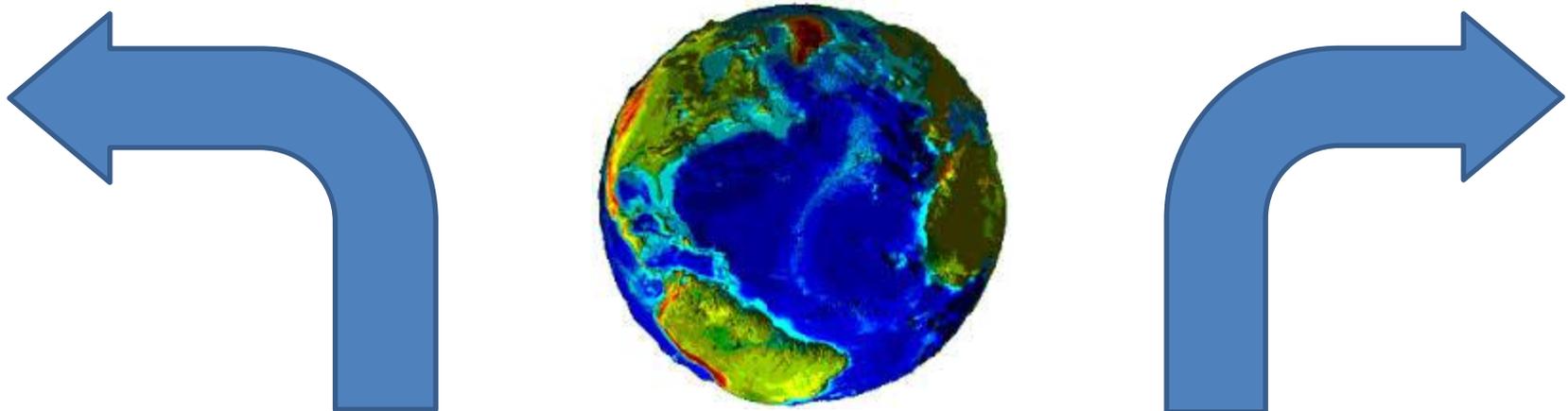


If Low-Income  
Communities do not  
plan ahead of a  
Storm,  
Other forces may  
plan for them,  
sometimes on their  
own terms.



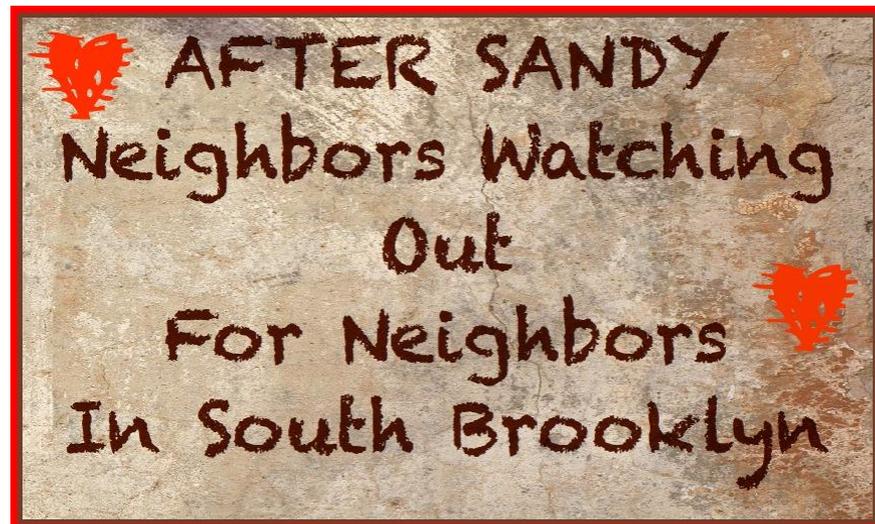


**Bounce Back  
or *Bounce Forward?***



# Storm Resilience Objectives for Low Income Communities

1. Preserve Safety of **People, Property and Community Assets;**
2. Position People, Property and Community Assets to withstand a storm and return to functionality with minimal disruption and cost;
3. Pursue Opportunities to engage residents in planning and execution of relief response and recovery rebuilding.



# **Remember:** Storms are Unpredictable and Chaotic.



# Components of a Storm Resilience Plan for Low Income Communities

The Goal is Safety and Functionality for:

**People:** Neighbors: Young, Able, Elderly and with Special Needs

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**Infrastructure:** Safety and Functionality

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**Housing:** Homeowners and Renters

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**Businesses:** Owners and Workers

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**Quality of life:** Community and Identity

# Plans Need to be Flexible and Scalable

1. Where?
2. For Whom?
3. What?
4. When and How?
5. *With What Resources?*

For a lower-income, under-resourced community, your greatest assets are:

- ✓ Ability to Communicate and Organize
- ✓ Your knowledge of the Community and where and how to direct assistance
- ✓ Your time and your energy.

## **People:** *Be Informed and Prepared to Navigate Chaos*

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- Identify who are the frail and vulnerable. What do they need for safety and how best to get them there.
- Backup generators or access to stable power for people who dependent on electricity to survive (ventilators)
- Pre-Storm Evacuation Checklist
- Waterproof Legal Documents (lease, deed, ID, pay stub, birth certificate, will, insurance coverage)
- Take pictures of your home inside and out
- Use Social Media and neighborhood networks to educate on how to access Relief and Recovery Assistance.

## **Infrastructure:** *Power, Transportation, Sustenance*

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- Trimmed trees prevent power outages
- Backup generators for power and communications
- Coordination with Local Government Emergency Management Services
- Transportation alternatives if public transit fails
- How to minimize disruption of Debris Removal, Roads, Bridges, Power & Communication, Water and Treatment, industrial facilities

## **Housing:** *Protect, Stabilize and Improve*

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- Emergency shelters. Coordination with Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way and Local Government Emergency Management Services
- Integrate resiliency requirements in building and safety code (eg: required elevated HVAC in flood zones)
- Renter Services: Temporary, Medium & Long Term
- Homeowner Services
- Housing for People with Special Needs

# Neighborhood Businesses:

## *Be Prepared to Protect and Serve*

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- Pre-Storm Checklist: Identify areas of risk of damage for water, wind, exposure to elements and/or loss of power.
- Communications Plan with Workers for safety and transportation
- Access to Power, Fuel and Supplies
- Waterproof Legal Documents (lease, deed, ID, contracts, incorporation, tax, insurance coverage)
- Accounting of Inventory & Assets via pictures and paper inside and out
- Identify how your business can serve resident needs during relief and recovery phases.

# Quality of Life:

## *Community Assets to Protect and Enhance*

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- What are the physical and/or intangible Community Assets that define Quality of Life to Preserve?
- What is your plan to protect and/or enhance these Assets and/or Qualities in the context of a storm?
- Government and Philanthropic Assistance works better when you have a plan that makes their missions easier to achieve.

# If You really Want to Get Detailed:

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1. Temporary Urgent/Emergency: Basic access to services, search and rescue, keeping public services active (police, fire, hospitals) providing supplies, power, care, shelter serving people impacted everywhere
2. Short Term and Immediate Services: Supporting return of industry and private businesses that serve general population critical needs such as grocery and gas, demolition of unsafe structures, infrastructure repairs for ingress/egress, security, school and governance system interim arrangements, needs assessments

## If You really Want to Get Detailed *continued*

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3. Shorter Interim Services Towards Permanent recovery: Assessment and service information forms an Action Plan, short term loans and grants to support temporary business, housing and repair needs.
4. Mid to Longer Term recovery: Identify participation levels in general Action Plan program areas (people and projects), clarify longer term mitigation strategies such as open space and revised infrastructure, get homeowners through application and construction program processes including income certification and lost records assistance, foreclosure and family financial distress assistance. Return to basic services and schedules.

# Approach a Resilience Plan like a *Community Organizer*

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- Identify Needs and Services to be provided;
- Assign roles and functions to your neighbors;
- Communicate and Organize to be prepared for assistance if it comes;
- Be ready to solve problems on you own if assistance does not come in a manner that you need.





**While the Forces of a Storm presents  
the power to do damage;**

**it also presents Opportunities to  
Organize and Improve a Community.**



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*Thank you!*

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