

# Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit

*Launch Webinar*  
*July 29, 2020*

**Welcome!**

**The webinar will begin shortly.**

# Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit

- **The webinar is being recorded.** A captioned recording and presentation slides will be available after the event.
- **Questions can be submitted through the “Question” feature on the right-hand side of your screen.** All microphones will be muted throughout today’s call. We will answer as many questions as time allows at the end of today’s presentation.
- **Technical issues?** Email [climate@georgetown.edu](mailto:climate@georgetown.edu) for assistance.



**Vicki Arroyo**  
Executive Director  
Georgetown Climate Center



# Today's speakers:



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Georgetown Climate Center



Jalonne White-Newsome  
Kresge Foundation



Lisa Anne Hamilton  
Georgetown Climate Center



Tiffany Ganthier  
Georgetown Climate Center



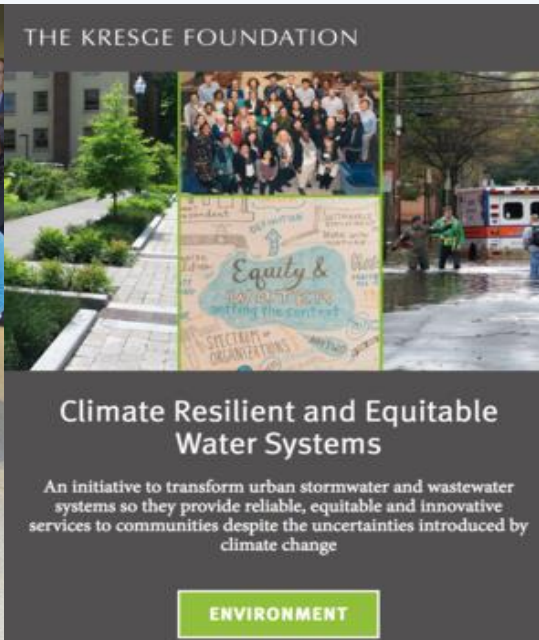
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- **James Williams**  
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- **Disaster Response**

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# Why equitable adaptation?



RESOURCES

SECTORS

NETWORKS

MY CLEARINGHOUSE

ABOUT

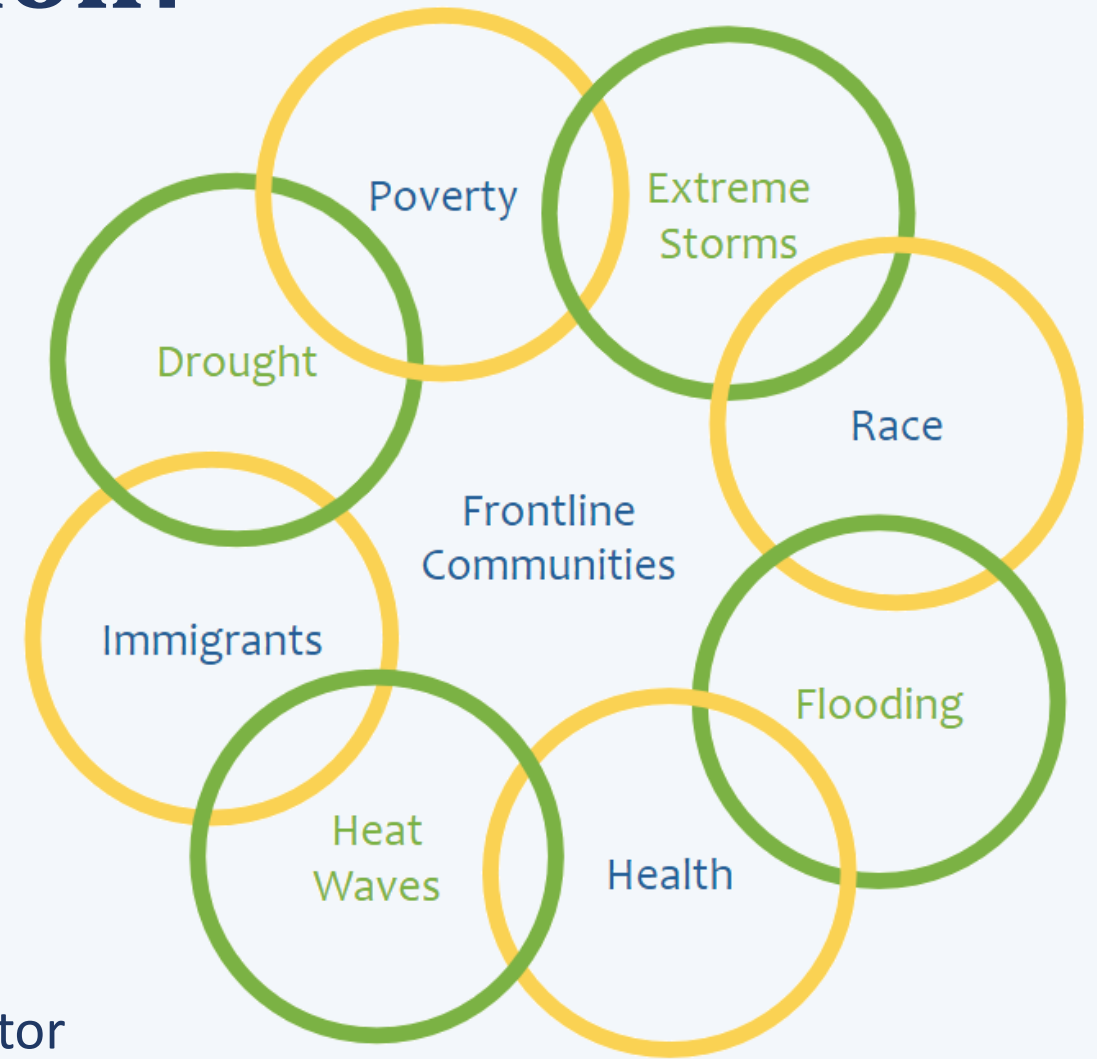


## Adaptation Equity Portal

Two of the biggest challenges facing the United States - and the world - are the growing inequalities that unfairly disadvantage large segments of the population, and climate change, which exacerbates existing risks in our communities. The effects of climate change including rising temperatures, more polluted air, and more frequent and severe extreme storms, will disproportionately affect poor and disenfranchised people. Policymakers need ways to focus not only on the physical impacts of climate change, but also on the ways that policies can have a disproportionate impact on certain individuals and communities. In this portal we will refer to people facing disproportionate climate impacts as "**frontline communities**" since these are groups that are on the front lines of the impacts from climate change.



**Lisa Anne Hamilton**  
Adaptation Program Director  
Georgetown Climate Center



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# What's in the Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit?



**Tiffany Ganthier**  
Adaptation Associate  
Georgetown Climate Center

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EQUITABLE ADAPTATION LEGAL & POLICY TOOLKIT

Many local governments and community-based practitioners are incorporating principles of equity into their climate adaptation planning and implementation. This toolkit highlights best and emerging practice examples of how cities are addressing disproportionate socioeconomic risk to climate impacts and engaging overburdened communities. This toolkit will further explore how cities are moving beyond equitable adaptation planning and implementing policies that address both social equity and climate resilience. The toolkit is intended to aid local governments and community-based organizations nationwide that are centering equity in their adaptation initiatives. In comparing promising practices and case studies across cities, the toolkit draws lessons from different approaches and provides frameworks to help practitioners craft similar legal and policy options for their own jurisdictions in ways that will help them advance equitable responses to the impacts of climate change.

Introduction

**Statement of the Problem:  
Implementing Equitable  
Adaptation**

Two of the biggest challenges facing the United States are the social inequalities that put the health and well being of marginalized populations at risk and climate change. The effects of climate change—including rising temperatures in urban areas, more polluted air, and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme storms—will disproportionately affect overburdened and low-income people and communities who are already facing significant economic and social challenges. A community's success or failure in preparing for the impacts of climate change will be measured by how it is able to address the needs of those on the frontlines of impacts and those already suffering from a range of challenges including lack of economic opportunity, racism, and pollution. Currently, many climate change adaptation plans and policies do not consider the specific needs of frontline communities and resilience does not take a holistic view of the challenges that communities face in implementing solutions that provide multiple benefits to people, the environment, and the economy. The following section



Public engagement session for RhodeMap RI.  
(Credit: Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program)

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Public Health

Financing and Funding Tools: Paying for Equitable Adaptation

Printer-Friendly Toolkit



# What's in the Equitable Adaptation Toolkit?

## **I. Introduction to the Problem:**

Implementing Equitable Climate Adaptation

## **II. Procedural Equity:**

Tools for Planning, Engagement and Governance

## **III. Equitable Adaptation Solutions:**

Tools for Implementing Equitable Adaptation

## **IV. Financing & Funding Tools:**

Paying for Equitable Adaptation



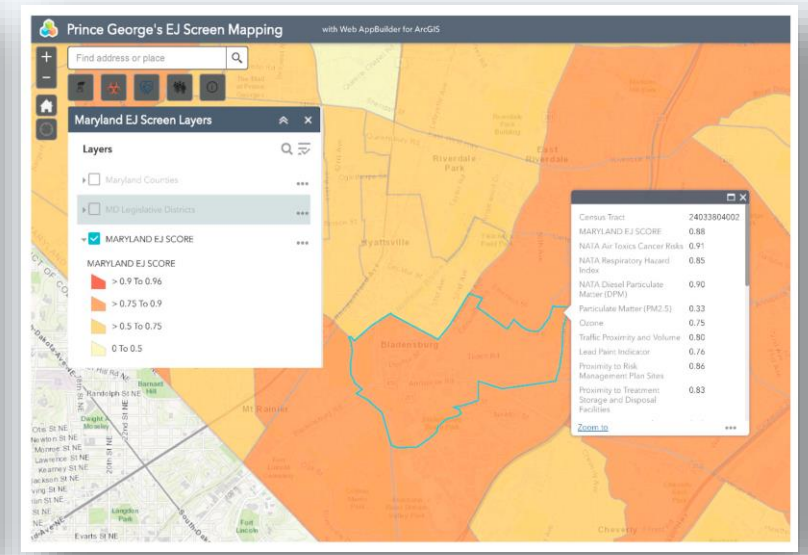
## II. Procedural Equity



Community  
Engagement &  
Social Cohesion



Governance  
& Budgeting



Data, Metrics  
& Monitoring

# III. Equitable Adaptation Solutions



Economic Resilience



Resilient Water



Natural Resilience  
& Green Space Access



Resilient Energy &  
Utility Industry  
Measures



Resilient Affordable  
Housing,  
Anti-Displacement &  
Gentrification



Disaster Preparedness,  
Response & Recovery



Public Health

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EQUITABLE ADAPTATION LEGAL & POLICY TOOLKIT

[EDIT]

## Community-Driven Engagement Processes

### Introduction

Many climate change adaptation plans and related policies do not currently consider the specific needs of frontline communities. Approaches to resilience have not traditionally taken a holistic view of the social, economic, and cumulative environmental challenges that communities face. As a result, governments often overlook the needs of the marginalized and underrepresented communities when planning and implementing climate adaptation solutions even though these communities are the most vulnerable to climate impacts. In recent years, an increasing number of governments have recognized the value of community engagement but unfortunately, when governments and decision makers do engage communities, it is typically at the end of the decisionmaking process. Rather than investing in robust and authentic community engagement at the earliest stages of project design and planning, decisionmakers often engage in community consultation as an afterthought by simply “checking the box” once the planning process is substantially completed. When decision makers engage in such cursory



Jerome Ave Community Workshop, Bronx, NYC.  
Credit: NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

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Resilient Water
Equitable Disaster
Public Health
Financing and Equitable Adaptation

### Procedural Equity Principles and Action Items

There are a number of procedural equity principles that influence decisionmaking and include discrete tasks that should be implemented to ensure that community engagement mechanisms are included in adaptation planning processes.

<b>Principle #1: Center Equity</b>	Local governments can center equity when beginning planning processes and implementing resilience initiatives.
<b>Principle #2: Support Empowered Communities</b>	By including the insights and first-hand knowledge of community members, policymakers can incorporate community insights in decisionmaking about project objectives and outcomes while building capacity and knowledge about climate impacts and potential adaptation solutions.
<b>Principle #3: Engage Effectively</b>	When local governments hold effective engagement convenings and processes to collect input from all valued experts, including community members, the project is more likely to achieve desired outcomes and communities are more likely to benefit from the outcomes.
<b>Principle #4: Be Accountable and Transparent</b>	Be accountable and transparent about promises and outcomes of engagement.
<b>Principle #5: Build Social Cohesion</b>	Design engagement processes with a goal of building a socially cohesive society that is one that works toward the well-being of all members, promotes trust and belonging, and provides opportunities for upward social mobility.



# Case Study:

## A Guide to Community-Centered Engagement

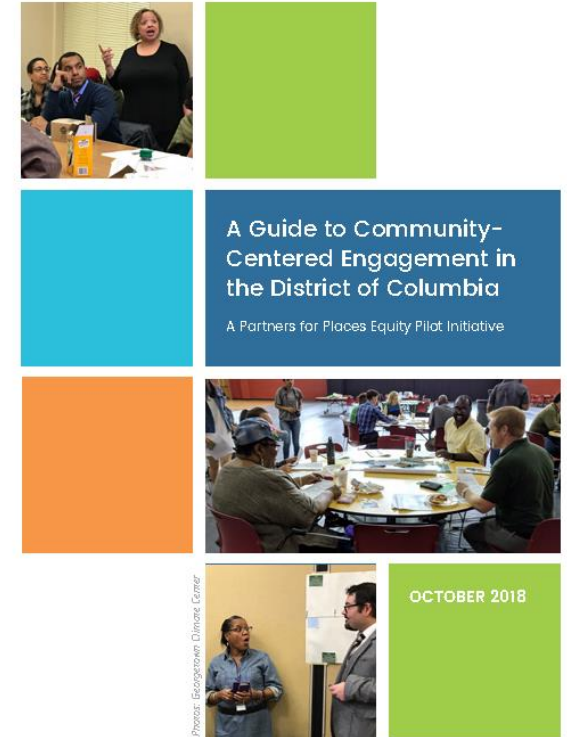


**Melissa Deas**

Climate Analyst

District of Columbia

Department of Energy & Environment



# Breaking down the chapters:

## Chapter

### Equitable Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

## Legal & Policy Tools

### Planning Tools

### Equitable Opportunities for Relocation in Response to Disaster

### Supporting the Development of Resilience Hubs

### Equitable Recovery Tools

### Funding Tools

## Case Studies

- Baltimore's Disaster Preparedness & Planning Project
- Resilient Boston
- Philadelphia Community Heat Relief
- Oakland CORE
- NJ Blue Acres Program
- LA SAFE
- Minot, North Dakota Affordable, Resilient "Buy-in" Program
- Directing Funding to Receiving Communities: Lumberton, NC
- USDN Guide to Developing Resilience Hubs
- Miami, FL Resolution on Climate Gentrification
- MD Resiliency Hub Grant Program
- The Texas Title Project
- Three Years After Hurricane Sandy
- Our Power Puerto Rico
- Princeville, NC Heritage-based practice
- San Diego: Annex Q Evacuation
- Miami Catalyst Disaster Savings Account
- HUD CDBG-DR



## EQUITABLE ADAPTATION LEGAL & POLICY TOOLKIT

# Equitable Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

## Introduction

One of the most apparent consequences of climate change is the increase in the frequency and intensity of severe weather-related and disaster events that have already posed — and will continue to pose — significant threats to the health and safety of people and to communities.<sup>1</sup> According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a disaster event can include natural catastrophes, technological accidents, or human-caused events that have resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. In the case of severe weather events, more and more disasters are no longer just “natural” given anthropogenic influences. Examples of these severe weather events that have been, or are expected to be, exacerbated by climate change include heat waves, hurricane intensity, floods, wildfires, and droughts.



Aerial view of damage in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria (2017).  
(Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Low-income, color, are more likely to be more likely to be and to recover. Lower Ninth residents per the amount of between those negatively as

### Catalyst Miami Disaster Matched Savings Account

The Catalyst Miami Disaster Matched Savings Account was established as a resource for low- and moderate-income individuals within Miami neighborhoods that help families build financial stability to better withstand disaster events. The purpose of Catalyst Miami's Disaster Preparedness Program is to encourage savings behavior and offer the 1-to-1 match as an incentive, but also to provide important information about hurricane season along with resources available from local government and community partners both before and after storms. The program helps households build assets and savings through the use of financial coaching, credit coaching, and lending circles. In addition, Catalyst Miami distributes disaster preparedness kits to those who partake in the Program by saving the full amount of the cost of the kit. By supplying communities with these disaster preparedness kits, as well as with teaching participants how to bank and save responsibly, Catalyst Miami helps low-income, underserved communities better withstand the shocks — economic and otherwise — often associated with disaster events.

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Based on a [report](#) done by the United Way, in Florida, 45% of households are only one disaster away from falling into poverty or financial crisis. In some cities, including Miami, based on households surveyed, this percentage is as high as 63%. Essentially, this means that in many households and families are not economically stable, and would not be able to withstand many of the financial hits associated with disaster events, such as repairs or rebuilds, medical care, lost electricity, etc. Many of these families are uncomfortable with banking systems, either because they are not knowledgeable about the benefits of savings accounts, or because they have historically not had access to them nor do they fully trust them based on historic discriminatory practices by banks.

To encourage active participation in the program's financial coaching sessions, and ensure that clients are able to create and continue to contribute to their savings accounts, Catalyst Miami offers incentives, such as providing matching funds. Along with this financial planning assistance, the program also provides participants with disaster preparedness kits, which contain things like solar-powered radios, collapsible water jugs, and first-aid kits. With the Program's help, families are better prepared physically and financially for the next hurricane or disaster event.

## CATALYST MIAMI

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# Case Study:

## Community-Based Disaster Matched Savings Account



**Mayra Cruz**

Climate Resilience Program Manager  
Catalyst Miami



**CATALYST**  
M I A M I

### Catalyst Miami's Disaster Preparedness Participant Agreement

*This Agreement is between Catalyst Miami henceforth referred to as "Catalyst Miami" and the savings program participant listed on the bottom of this agreement, henceforth referred to as the "Participant." Both parties understand that participation in this program is voluntary and involves opening up a savings account and completing program requirements.*

#### Responsibilities of the Participant

# Questions & Discussion

# Thank you!

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Legal & Policy Toolkit online:

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