

FOCUS AREA:

# FUNDAMENTALS FOR EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE



COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE  
CENTER  
AT THE WATER INSTITUTE

Ensuring communities have the fundamental knowledge, capacity, and technical support needed to address climate challenges underpins much of the Center's work. By working with communities to secure the key building blocks of climate resilience, we are helping to address specific barriers of today that also work towards larger transformational change.



## INCLUSIVE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE DECISION MAKING

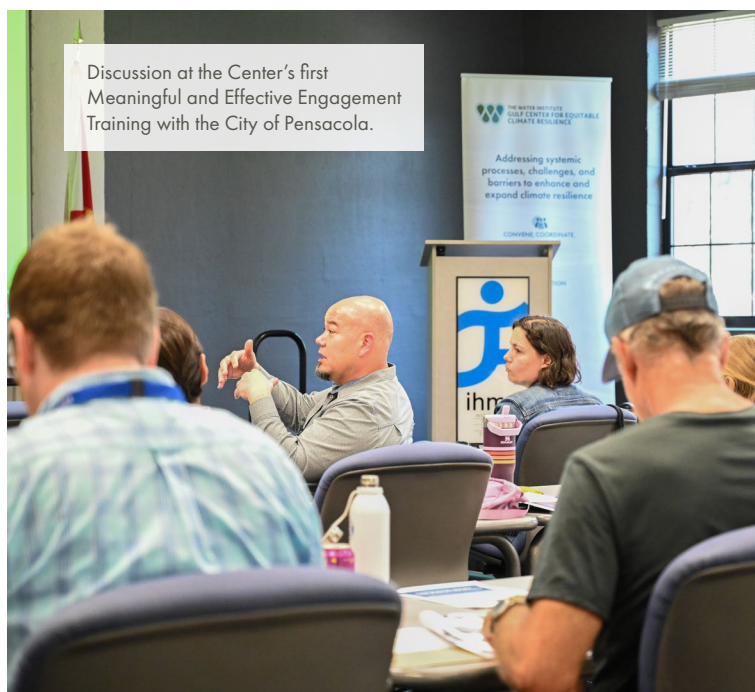
The Center develops, pilots, and shares processes, resources, and data for inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive decision making.

### GOALS

**SHORT TERM.** Local government partners understand processes, techniques, data, and tools they can apply to enhance equity in decision making.

**MID TERM.** Processes, techniques, data, and tools for more equitable decision making are adopted and applied, while community resilience projects and processes incorporate enhanced data and evaluation metrics.

**LONG TERM.** Community planning and actions provide greater co-benefits, begin to reduce structural inequities, and are more targeted and effective.



### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

**MUNICIPALITY TRAININGS.** The Center's Meaningful and Effective Engagement Training is designed for municipal leaders, administrators, and staff. The Center provides comprehensive training to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to drive meaningful and inclusive community participation. The trainings include a review of contextual, procedural, and distributional equity concepts and their relevance for planning and implementation.



## NETWORKS FOR RESILIENCE

The Center supports peer-to-peer learning and resilience networks, coordination, and collaboration.

### GOALS

**SHORT TERM.** More local officials and community leaders are connected with national, regional, and state networks.

**MID TERM.** Local officials and community leaders inform networks as experts in resilience, and the expertise, innovation, and capacity of networks are leveraged for resilience-building at the local level.

**LONG TERM.** Network and peer relationships help under-resourced communities reduce burnout, increase capacity, and navigate complex challenges through the integration of national innovations and assets, while broader policies better reflect and incorporate local input.



## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE ACTIONS

The Center builds capacity with community-based organizations and small, under-resourced local governments to effectively pursue climate resilience actions.

### GOALS

**SHORT TERM.** Communities gain understanding of processes, techniques, data, and tools for advancing resilience, including funding opportunities and requirements, climate and disaster resilience science, and identifying, prioritizing, and implementing targeted actions.

**MID TERM.** Under-resourced and marginalized communities pursue funding as well as prioritized resilience actions.

**LONG TERM.** Increased funding flows to under-resourced and marginalized communities and resilience building is locally led.

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

**COLLABORATION.** The Center is a key partner in the Resilient East Biloxi program, a collaboration with community leaders to address chronic flood risk and resilience issues in redevelopment plans for southeast Biloxi, Mississippi through capacity building and long-term community engagement.



## PROVIDE RESILIENCE SUPPORT

The Center provides targeted technical capacity to under-resourced communities for advancing resilience planning and action.

### GOALS

**SHORT TERM.** Under-resourced and marginalized communities have a greater understanding of the breadth and depth of how to advance equitable climate resilience.

**MID TERM.** In a minimum of four under-resourced and/or marginalized communities, local barriers to advancing planning and/or analysis for resilience are reduced.

**LONG TERM.** A minimum of four under-resourced and/or marginalized communities are more resilient.

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

**CATALYST INITIATIVE.** The Center is currently standing up the Catalyst Initiative, which will run a process to rapidly help under-resourced and marginalized communities take necessary steps to address specific resilience challenges. This resilience “hotline” will focus on communities in coastal Louisiana in its initial program of work.

### QUESTIONS?



Kathryn Keating  
Fundamentals Focus Area Lead  
[kkeating@thewaterinstitute.org](mailto:kkeating@thewaterinstitute.org)

Renee Collini  
Director, Community Resilience Center  
[rcollini@thewaterinstitute.org](mailto:rcollini@thewaterinstitute.org)