

FOCUS AREA:

COMMUNITY-LED MIGRATION LEGAL FRAMEWORKS & APPROACHES



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
CENTER
AT THE WATER INSTITUTE

Communities across the Gulf have identified a need for alternative migration strategies, policies, and processes. Partners want approaches that are less burdensome, are responsive to ways in which people already are migrating in the region, enable communities to determine their own migration plans, and result in more equitable outcomes. We are working to understand and improve existing climate migration policies, bureaucracy, and practices while working towards larger transformational changes.



ADDRESSING POLICY AND LEGAL BARRIERS

The Center will identify and understand the specific policies, practices, and legal interpretations that act as barriers to equitable, community-led migration.

GOALS

SHORT TERM. Stakeholders have a better understanding of the specific legal and policy barriers to equitable community-led migration and potential ways to overcome them.

MID TERM. Policies, practices, and legal interpretations are updated at the local, state, and federal levels to reduce barriers to equitable community-led migration practices.

LONG TERM. Communities have greater opportunity to participate in self-determined, equitable, community-led migration.

Jessica Henkel, Director of Research Operations at The Water Institute, leads a discussion around resilience planning.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

LEGAL AND POLICY BARRIERS ANALYSIS. Existing state and federal programs related to migration are often difficult and time-consuming for households and communities to navigate, do not often support community-led planning, and sometimes result in inequitable outcomes for participants. The Center will conduct legal and policy research to identify and better understand the common barriers to equitable, community-led migration—the specific rules, regulations, practices, and interpretations that hinder current programs. We will then work with state and federal agencies, local communities, and practitioners to identify targeted policy changes to overcome the barriers.



COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES

The Center will support the development and piloting of novel community-led approaches to migration.

GOALS

SHORT TERM. One to three communities make progress in community-led migration.

MID TERM. There are more processes in place that support community-led migration in the Gulf.

LONG TERM. Community cohesion and culture are preserved as communities adapt to climate change.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS. Community land trust models provide a promising mechanism to support cohesive and intentional community-led migration plans. Community land trust frameworks that connect land communities are moving to and from could allow communities to maintain stewardship of the land in perpetuity, ensure long-term affordability of housing, foster generational wealth building, and better enable community-driven time frames for migration.



A community-led event produced by the Resilient East Biloxi program, a program supported by The Center. Participants painted rain barrels and cleaned up trash in John Henry Beck Park.



Center staff work with public and private health institutes, local officials and community-based organizations in Nueces County, Texas, in a meeting focused on SDOH and health equity.



COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

The Center will research and share effective communication approaches that support community-led migration.

GOALS

SHORT TERM. Practitioners and community leaders have an increased understanding of the strengths and limitations of different communication strategies.

MID TERM. The efficacy of communication around community-led migration and available processes and resources is increased.

LONG TERM. There is greater participation in and alignment with community-led migration efforts.

QUESTIONS?



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