



USRC BECOMES FOUNDING PARTNER OF ANCR

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US Resiliency Council, ICC and The Meridian Institute Found The Alliance for National and Community Resilience

There are over 89,000 communities across the country – cities, towns, and counties ranging in size, demographics, economic priorities, environmental challenges, and financial constraints. Every day, communities and businesses depend upon the ability to use roads, access hospitals, get to work and school, receive mail, and communicate with friends, family, colleagues, customers, and clients. None can ultimately succeed unless all succeed. When disaster strikes, all of the gears of the local system must continue to function. A city with the lights on cannot effectively operate if the streets are impassable. A business that has survived hurricane winds cannot thrive if the banking networks have crashed. A household with running water cannot be sustained if the grocery store shelves are bare. Communities are complex, interconnected systems that urgently need a way to comprehend what it means to be resilient, and their need to become more resilient could not be greater or more pervasive.

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Governments can lead, encourage, facilitate, and assist communities as they seek to become more resilient, but communities cannot expect government alone to make the investments necessary to be truly resilient. Cities, businesses, and households need support to be able to effectively adapt to increasing environmental, health, economic, and social hazards. While some tools exist to help cities and communities become more resilient, no systematic resiliency toolkit or benchmarking system exists to help localities understand where they may be vulnerable. The Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) is developing such a tool to support governments, businesses, and people across the country.

The **US Resiliency Council** is proud to be a founding partner of ANCR. The USRC Building Rating system provides information to building stakeholders, in order for them to make rational and objective decisions about constructing, buying, selling, leasing or insuring buildings. The USRC is working closely with ICC, the Meridian Institute, and ANCR's other partners, to establish the processes by which community resilience can be measured and communicated. ANCR recognizes that the biggest motivation for communities to improve their resilience is being able to quantify concrete value propositions for future investments and identify economic incentives to promote resilience. USRC brings its more than five years of work developing and implementing a building rating system to ANCR as we formulate a community resilience program that has at its heart Credibility, Consistency and Value.

ANCR will provide the information that communities need to understand their resilience through the Community Resilience Benchmarks (CRB) system. With understanding comes the incentive to do better, to fix problems, and to address challenges. It will help mayors, business leaders, infrastructure operators, health care systems, as well as teachers, parents and social service providers find the tools and processes to cooperate across the entire fabric of the community so that no single element limits the potential of a community to thrive. Ultimately, decision-making will be informed and enhanced by this resilience benchmarking system.

By providing a resilience score, the Community Benchmark would:

- Motivate communities to take a "Whole community approach" that considers all parts of the community. Every U.S. community is highly interconnected in a way that means that the recovery of its economy depends as much on social capital as on financial resources.
- Enable significant incentives to improve the community's resilience position – largely financial through expanded individual, business, and government access to credit and insurance – but also social with greater civic pride, and the increased ability to attract jobs and people to a safer, more vital community.
- Provide investors – whether bond financiers, business lenders, banks, or insurance companies – with the ability to more accurately assess and price risk.

The **USRC Rating System** is the first component of the ANCR Community Resilience Program with which communities can get a jump start on resilience planning by rating their key buildings. ANCR will help build America into a country that can face the challenges of the 21st Century – one community at a time. Learn more about ANCR at www.resilientalliance.org

The U.S. Resiliency Council® (USRC) was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and launched in November 2015 to establish and implement a rating system for the performance of buildings in earthquakes and other natural hazards. The system is currently applicable to earthquake performance but the vision is for it address other hazards including wind, flood and blast. The USRC issues ratings, certifies practitioners and best practices, and technically reviews ratings shared with the public so its ratings are both credible and consistent.

Improving local community and regional resilience in natural and manmade disasters is a national imperative. Key to the success of this challenge is the need to understand the performance of the nation's building stock in terms of safety, repair cost and recovery. The vision of the USRC is to make the public more aware of their potential risks in natural disasters, and provide them with information to make better-informed decisions on owning, renting, leasing and insuring properties, so that market forces will drive the building design, and procurement process toward more resilient building design.



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