This report is part of the RAND Corporation tool series. RAND tools may include models, databases, calculators, computer code, GIS mapping tools, practitioner guidelines, web applications, and various toolkits. All RAND tools undergo rigorous peer review to ensure both high data standards and appropriate methodology in keeping with RAND's commitment to quality and objectivity.
1. Focus on Assets

- Consider the following the assets available to my community:
  - Competencies
  - Money
  - Infrastructure
  - Equipment
  - Services
  - Relationships
  - Data

What else can I do? Are there assets that my community has, which have not been identified in these areas?

- Conduct an assessment focused on community-level assets.
  Refer to these resources for help planning an assessment:
  - University of Wisconsin – Identifying, Mapping and Mobilizing Our Assets
    http://www.uwex.edu/ces/lmcourse/pdfs/assets.pdf
  - Healthy NOLA
    http://www.healthynola.org/
  - MedMap
    https://medmap.hhs.gov/

- Build assets into my next community health needs assessment.
  Refer to these models showing key asset categories:
  - http://extension.missouri.edu/about/fy00-03/assetmapping.htm
2. Improve the community’s plan for long-term recovery

Include the following items in my plan:

- Recovery activities that extend beyond the acute phase of disaster.
- Supports for the long-term behavioral health consequences of disaster, as well as the immediate physical impacts.
- Recovery activities that extend until normalcy resumes.

What else can I do? What steps for long-term recovery planning has my community not yet taken?

- Develop a coordinated, community-wide, long-term recovery plan.
  
  Your plan should consider the following:
  
  - Data for tracking progress.
  - Long-term behavioral health needs.
  - Adaptations for your community.

- Exercise and improve my community’s long-term recovery plan.
  
  Follow these steps:
  
  1. Plan an exercise.
  2. Conduct the exercise.
  3. Use findings to improve plan.

3. Consider the effects of climate change

Include the following items in my plan:

- Descriptions of the slow-moving effects of climate change.
- Plans for community-level adaptation, such as floodplain management.
- Public communication on climate change as part of your community’s general emergency preparedness dissemination.

What else can I do to address climate change issues?

- Conduct a community-wide assessment.
  
  To improve your community’s focus on climate change, conduct a community-wide assessment to determine vulnerabilities and risks in the face of climate change, as well as the community’s assets.
  
  For more, check out the Coastal Community Resilience Index.
  
  http://www.masgc.org/pdf/masgp/08-014.pdf
Prepare the public for slow-moving changes.

Work with a community planning group to identify the best resilience-building messages and channels to reach your audience.

For communication tips, check out climatechangecommunication.org.

### 4. Address behavioral health before, during, and after disaster

Include the following items in my plan:

- A plan to assist with community-wide efforts to map behavioral health assets and vulnerabilities.
- Professional development/training opportunities addressing evidence-based practice for responding to disasters (e.g., psychological first aid).
- Plans for increasing capacity and infrastructure by addressing issues of pre-disaster workforce development and preparedness.

What else can I do to help address behavioral health issues in my community?

- Assess self-care practices within your organization and work to increase opportunities for those types of events.
- Educate employees about behavioral health promotion opportunities within your organization as well as the plans for accessing those resources during a disaster.
- Offer activities on how to create supportive work environments.

### 5. Help community members plan for the social and economic impacts of disaster

Include the following items in my plan:

- Information on rapidly providing economic supports to disaster-affected individuals.
- Ways to estimate long-term economic effects and strategies for accessing relevant funding.
- Support for those who may be considered socially isolated (via distance, vulnerabilities, etc.).

What else can I do to support social and economic recovery after a disaster?

- Develop a plan for disseminating information about economic preparedness and recovery.
- Map and plan for those at greatest “social risk.”
6. Develop data systems to track preparedness and recovery planning

☐ Include the following items in my plan:
  ☐ Sources of data on community assets and vulnerabilities.
  ☐ Plans for accessing organization and community-level information on how resources are distributed after a disaster.
  ☐ Information on the health and well being of individuals before and after a disaster.

What else can I do to build or strengthen data systems?

☐ ☐ Use assets and vulnerabilities data to inform community planning and decisionmaking.
  ☐ Synchronize data systems that will provide information on community recovery.

7. Plan for sustainable development after disaster

☐ Include the following items in my plan:
  ☐ Discussion of how your community will rebuild new service lines and more-resilient infrastructure.
  ☐ Partnerships that support redevelopment of relevant services, infrastructure, etc.
  ☐ Development of a community rebuilding team.

What else can I do to plan for smart rebuilding after a disaster?

☐ ☐ Develop plans for supporting innovative rebuilding in community.
  ☐ Identify public-private partnerships for strengthening ongoing health and social resilience.