



THE RAFT

(RESILIENCE ADAPTATION FEASIBILITY TOOL):

LESSONS LEARNED FOR EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP



University of Virginia

Institute for Engagement and Negotiation

William & Mary Law School

Virginia Coastal Policy Center

Old Dominion University

Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience

School of Public Service, Strome College of Business



THE RAFT GOAL

To help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while striving to thrive both economically and socially



THE RAFT PROCESS: INCORPORATING EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

1. Scorecard

Resilience Assessment

Social equity incorporated throughout Scorecard components

2. Community Workshop

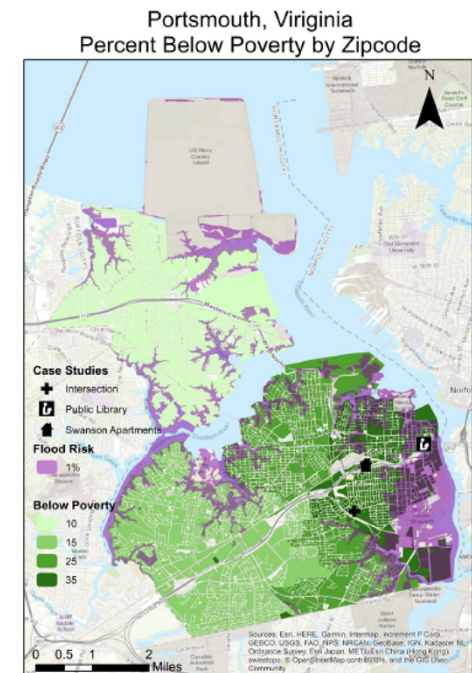
Resilience Action Checklist

Vulnerable populations are one focus in developing the Resilience Action Checklist

3. Implementation

Ongoing Assistance

“Connecting the dots” for services and programs that work with vulnerable populations or address equity concerns



LANGUAGE AND FRAMEWORK CONSIDERATIONS

Use of “social equity” instead of “environmental justice”

Environmental justice terminology may not be appropriate for or resonate with rural communities

Broaden the conversation to larger community resilience issues

Low-resource rural communities may not see coastal hazards as a primary concern



BROAD AND DURABLE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Broaden participation beyond local government staff
- Seek out community volunteers for specific projects
- Broaden the invitation list to get more community interests represented



MEANINGFUL ACTION AND CHANGE

Be more strategic by emphasizing actions to improve resilience

*Including “easy wins” in implementation may not reflect long-term **strategic** priorities*

Shift prioritization criteria to including a mix of short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategic impacts

Shift from “doable” in 1 year to “initiate in 1 year”



CONNECTING COASTAL RESILIENCE

Communities have broader concerns of social and economic resilience

- Physical and mental health, access to medicines health care, food
- Jobs, ability to cope
- **Vulnerable populations and coastal resilience**
 - Service agencies deal with opioids, suicide, pregnancies, health, transportation, etc.
 - But not preparation for and response to coastal hazards

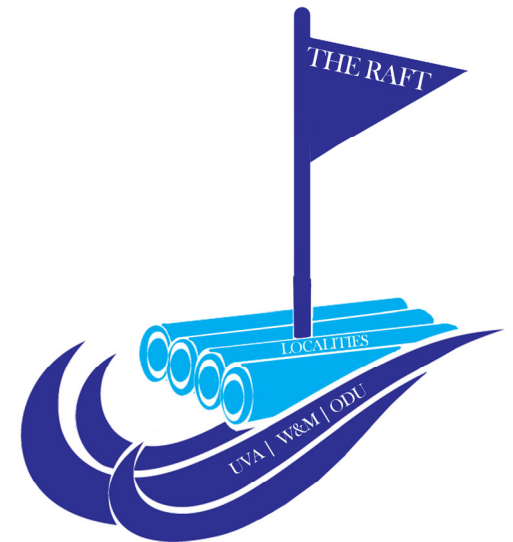
Connecting dots is significant step



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KEY LESSONS LEARNED FOR EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

- The RAFT team brings academic objectivity to the assessment, prioritization, and implementation process
- Terminology is extremely important – Environmental justice or social equity?
- Resilience to coastal hazards takes back seat to more pressing economic and social resilience
- Frame coastal resilience in the context of broader community resilience and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations



MORE INFORMATION

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