Making Waves in Equitable Coastal Resilience:
A National Workshop on Social Equity and Coastal Resilience
November 2022

Recommendations for Encouraging Collaborations to Address Equitable Coastal Resilience through Engaged/applied Research and On-the-ground Projects/Programs

① Support for communities and community partners
Create pathways and resources for community empowerment, capacity building, and advocacy
- Emphasize activities that enable communities to develop tools, resources, knowledge, and capacity to advocate for themselves beyond a project.
- Provide resources or support (e.g., grant writing services, contract management, procurement assistance, etc.) for communities to apply for and manage grants.
- Create a framework for helping communities/community organizations partner/collaborate with researchers by providing a clear understanding of types of relationships, expectations, and commitments.

② Funding for on-the-ground projects and programs that address community needs and equity
Ensure equity in submission, prioritization, evaluation, award, and the types of on-the-ground projects and programs that benefit specific communities
- Conduct equity assessment before the funding programs or opportunities are created.
- Assess the equity focus of current funding programs and opportunities, and the extent that funding distribution considers equity dimensions. Re-evaluate funding programs to ensure the goals, RFPs, grant requirements, and selection processes are equitable.
- Direct funding to non-structural projects that support the resilience of coastal communities.
- Create flexible funding application processes with reduced application and administrative burdens (e.g., allowing groups of communities or localities to apply for grants, creating simpler grant applications, reducing cost share requirements).

③ Incentives, infrastructure, and institutional support for academic research
Provide institutional and administrative support, and incentives to foster community-based, engaged, and applied research that addresses equity in coastal resilience
- Educate university leaders and administrators on the importance of community-based engaged/applied research and the need to provide institutional support and resources.

- Create incentive structures and guidelines (e.g., tenure expectations) that recognize and reward community engagement efforts, value engaged/applied research, and prioritize relationship building as important outcomes.
- Establish staff positions (e.g., extension or engagement specialists, community liaisons, community coordinators) to support community engagement activities that underpin successful engaged/applied research.
- Provide administrative and project management support for engaged/applied research.

④ **Increased and flexible funding for engaged or applied research that addresses community needs and equity**

Increase funding for engaged or applied research and allow more flexibility for research to be co-produced with communities or community partners

- Build a long-term focus and requisite resources into funding and program requirements (e.g., time to build relationships, compensating community partners for participation, long-term monitoring, checking back on communities).
- Fund action-based research or funding to implement research findings.
- Shift focus from scalability/replicability to contextual community impact.
- Fund infrastructure to support engaged and applied research.
- Explicitly call for co-production and engagement with communities in RFPs.
- Prioritize an equity focus for funding opportunities by providing clear definitions, measurement guidance, and incentives.

⑤ **Research and project infrastructure**

Create and disseminate tools and metrics for project assessment that emphasize equity and mechanisms for collaboration-building processes

- Establish definitions and metrics of successful engaged and applied research and community-university collaborative projects.
- Identify existing and develop new tools for measuring different aspects of equity and coastal resilience.
- Create a repository for data collection, dissemination, and information sharing.
- Develop partnerships with professional organizations that can help disseminate research findings and project results.
- Establish mechanisms for creating connections between universities, communities, government and nonprofit agencies, funding programs, and industry where information is transferred, translated, understood, and accessible.
- Identify examples of successful equity-focused programs that can be applied in coastal communities to build resilience, determine how they can be replicated or scaled up, and disseminate information from these programs.
- Provide resources to help researchers conduct community-based applied/engaged research, including guidelines or training for building relationships with and engaging communities.

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More information about the workshop:

https://sites.wp.odu.edu/workshop

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