

# Resilience Hubs

Promoting public health, equity, community cohesion, and saving lives at the same time.

Climate change is here. Punishing heat waves and smoke-filled skies are a reminder that we need to act now, and solutions need to work for *everyone*. Unfortunately, some of the current strategies actually [exacerbate inequality by putting the onus to adapt and recover on financially precarious populations](#).

Resilience Hubs, unlike cooling centers, build on the strength of existing community-based organizations that can help people in their community adapt to multiple perils including heat waves, wildfire smoke, floods, earthquakes and more. When established, Resilience Hubs will secure a strong safety net for communities that need it the most.



## Benefits of Resilience Hubs

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Resilience Hubs can improve public health by streamlining health programming and resources at a community-trusted site (in addition to existing health delivery sites.) In the event of disruption, Hubs can provide access to basic medical supplies and also act as centers for medical deliveries and support. Hubs will be powered by the grid and solar power, with battery storage as a backup. The lights will always be on. The O'ahu Resilience hub has been very [active in the Covid-19 Response](#). Supplying critical information and resources.

### SOCIAL EQUITY

Lack of meaningful community engagement around resilience can dramatically deepen inequity. Resilience Hubs should be developed and managed through processes that empower communities. Sites should be situated in

neighborhoods with priority populations and greater exposure to climate hazards, and either entirely managed or co-managed with members of the community. Services, resources, and opportunities available at Hubs should meet the needs identified by community members and focus on addressing disproportionate access to opportunities and resources. [Resilient Bayview serves as an excellent example](#).

### COMMUNITY COHESION

Resilience Hubs can serve as a safe space for community members to build and strengthen relationships, collaborate on projects, participate in decision-making, and foster a sense of place and inclusiveness year-round. The [Puerto Rico Mutual Aid Network](#), among many others have strongly emphasized this focus.

# Solving Problems

Low-income communities of color and other vulnerable populations bear the risks of climate disruption disproportionately. Hubs provide opportunities for communities to become more empowered and connected socially. They use a variety of strategies to solve problems like:



**THE THREAT: extreme heat events and wildfires threaten public health and safety and can lead to power outages.**

**HUBS WORK: Resilience hubs become a place of respite.** Powered by resilient electrical systems that switch between the grid-supplied electricity and solar with battery backup, the hubs can provide for uninterrupted essential services like hospital-grade air conditioning with superior air filtration systems, cold storage of medical supplies, and phone charging as vulnerable communities are taxed by heatwaves and poor air quality.

**THE PROBLEM: cooling centers are not effective. No one goes to them!**

**HUBS WORK: Hubs will be welcoming** providing resilient services and programming allows for a seamless integration of planning and general services, as well as first response and recovery efforts all in a space already utilized by a community.

**THE PROBLEM: too often vulnerable communities don't receive adequate and timely communication about resources.**

**HUBS WORK: Resilient Communications** provide community-led, supportive counseling and information that can be culturally relevant and appropriate.

**THE THREAT: COVID-19 has shown gaps in community services. Californians need to be physically distant – but not socially distant.**

**HUBS WORK: Hubs** can help distribute vaccines and meet the public's need to receive accurate and up-to-date information.

**THE THREAT: Earthquakes and floods can lead to acutely extended lapses in water supply.**

**HUBS WORK: Resilient Building & Landscaping** can provide water via storage bladders or from atmospheric water machines that draw potable water out of the air. The hub buildings can be made earthquake resistant and greywater collection/reuse for purposes like edible community gardens.

# The Challenge: Funding



Resilience Hubs, by design, are unique and tailored to community needs and a flexible model is essential for scaling the benefits of hubs. There are many new efforts to establish hubs in [Los Angeles](#), [Chicago](#), [New Bedford](#), [Washington DC](#), and [Austin](#). However, all of these cities face the central challenge of adequate funding to get their hubs off the ground. **With support services strained, infrastructure failing and extreme weather events growing in frequency and severity, residents and community-based organizations recognize the need to access hubs year-round to build and sustain community and personal adaptive capacity in a trusted location in their neighborhood.** Action by the state will help generate funding from the private sector. Enabling California to greatly expand the creation of hubs, protect public health, and enhance resilience to climate change and social equity.

## Next Steps

Interested in starting a hub? Interested in advocating for more resilience hubs? Contact Climate Resolve at [info@climateresolve.org](mailto:info@climateresolve.org). We're working to build resilience hubs in Southern California and create statewide policy to spur their development.

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