

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



TOP PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS IN THE NEXT YEAR WITH SUPPORT FROM THE RAFT

❑ ENHANCE COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESILIENCE PLANNING

This effort will include increasing community education and resilience funding information sessions for vulnerable populations, increasing community awareness around available services and programs, training community members and volunteers prior to emergencies, and leveraging existing groups and organizations capacities and networks for support in emergency preparedness and in reaching a broader audience. This effort will also include identifying, creating and feeding projects into the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's "Fight the Flood" program and collaborating with nonprofit community partners such as the Middlesex Foundation.

❑ INCREASE SUPPORT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

Create a strategy to evaluate, locate, and engage individuals with behavioral health needs (such as substance abuse) and work to lower barriers to access for community services, particularly among vulnerable populations. Engage with community service providers and nonprofits to collaborate on these efforts and make the community as a whole more resilient.

❑ UPDATE WATER SUPPLY PLAN TO ADDRESS COASTAL HAZARDS

Update and review the County water supply plan to consider coastal hazards, particularly impacts to drinking water.

❑ IMPROVE EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR VULNERABLE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Work with area partners, including county leadership, nonprofits, and state agencies such as VDEM and VDOT to identify and improve the resilience of vulnerable transportation infrastructure, map post-emergency recovery networks and hub locations for essential services, and develop training resources for post-emergency community support networks.

❑ PLAN FOR FUTURE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Identify and engage with the scale of the potential wastewater infrastructure issue by tapping existing area networks (realtors, septic service companies, VDH) to map septic systems, work with agency partners (DCR, VDH, DEQ) to clearly define jurisdictional responsibilities for septic systems and wastewater, and provide resources to community members to improve county-wide septic system repair and maintenance.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on January 28th, 2022. This document is intended to be static and record the outcomes of that workshop. However, the checklist items and their details may evolve over the course of the year-long implementation of The RAFT in response to the changing circumstances and needs of the community.

**RAFT team recommends the creation of a Resilience Committee as a way to create and sustain momentum to build resilience in the long term. We recognize, based on our experience with coastal communities in Virginia, and consistent with best practices in resilience planning and implementation, that communities benefit from more comprehensive and coordinated approach to building resilience. Establishing a Resilience Committee is key to establishing a foundation for sustained efforts in building resilience. The RAFT team has developed a [worksheet](#) to assist communities in establishing a Resilience Committee structure and framework, and if you decide this would benefit your community we can facilitate your discussion.

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For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ienvirginia.edu

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