**Resilience Priorities Guide**

For many communities completing the MVP 2.0 process, it has been about five years since your community developed your original MVP 1.0 priorities. In that time, your community resilience priorities have likely evolved, based on progress towards those priorities, new information, or additional planning efforts. In particular, as you continue to get input from the wider community, and specifically from people who will be most impacted by climate change, it is likely that your community priorities may *need to evolve* to meet community resilience needs. It will be critical that your community resilience priorities reflect what you are hearing from Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations in your community or region.

Work together as a team to revisit your community’s old priorities, and update the priorities based on what you have learned. Updating your priorities could include modifying existing priorities, removing old priorities, or adding new priorities. You will then conduct community outreach and engagement to vet the priorities with the community and gather any feedback. Ultimately, you will end up with **one list of priorities** that includes any existing or updated priorities from MVP 1.0 and any additional priorities that have emerged.

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# **What makes a good priority?**

Community resilience priorities make your community’s intentions explicit. They build transparency in what the community is working towards, which allows for tracking progress towards those aims and adjusting those aims when needed.

In the context of the MVP Program, a community resilience priority should fall between a big picture goal and a very specific project. It needs to be specific enough to be actionable, while still providing longer-term direction. It may take a number of years and a number of projects to fully meet your priority. If you have gathered specific action ideas from the community, feel free to list them as possibilities underneath the priority. You will use your priorities to identify specific project ideas in the next step of the MVP 2.0 process – Selecting a Seed Project. Consider the examples below:

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| **Example Community Resilience Priorities** | |
| **Too broad:** | * Address flooding caused by heavy rain events * Reduce impacts from extreme heat * Expand food justice and food security |
| **Too narrow:** | * Create design plans to upgrade the culvert on North Street * Plant trees near the bus stops on Main Street |
| **Right level of focus:** | * **Priority 1:** Reduce flood risk in the Eastside Neighborhood through policies, projects, and initiatives with residents that increase flood resilience.   + Potential actions (optional):     - Adopt changes to zoning bylaws;     - Implement erosion control and ecological restoration of riverbanks;     - Launch education and home retrofit program with homeowners and renters. * **Priority 2:** Expand tree canopy within targeted areas prioritized by EJ and other priority populations. * **Priority 3:** Improve access to healthy and affordable food through expanding food access points and payment options and reducing transportation barriers.   + Potential actions (optional):     - Expand farmers market locations;     - Introduce a cargo bike share program;     - Work with vendors to accept SNAP payments. * **Priority 4:** Expand carbon neutral, resilient, and affordable housing options in the community or region.   + Potential actions (optional):     - Conduct an assessment of vacant properties;     - Establish a program to implement resilience upgrades to affordable housing. * **Priority 5:** Integrate trainings, education, and awareness around equity and climate justice within local government, organizations, and school curricula.   + Potential actions (optional):     - Work with the school board to integrate climate resilience curricula into K-8 schools;     - Require equity and climate justice trainings for all municipal staff. |

# **Reflecting on Community Findings**

Spend some time reviewing and reflecting on what you heard and learned through the Uncovering Social Resilience process (i.e., Step 5). Use your findings from each of the sections of the Social Resilience Roadmap to fill out the table below. As you identify priorities, consider:

* What are some of the assets or existing resources that already support community resilience? How could those be supported, expanded, or strengthened?
* What are some of the key factors that contribute to vulnerability for people who live and work in your community or region? What would it take to address that vulnerability?
* How would you describe what community resilience could look like for your community? What would be needed to get there?
* What do these answers tell you about priorities for building resilience in your community?

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| **What will be needed to build community resilience?** | | |
| **List one to**  **three priorities** | **What needs further investigation to understand better?** |
| **Housing** | |
|  |  |
| **Food + Water** | |
|  |  |
| **Health** | |
|  |  |
| **Jobs + Economy** | |
|  |  |
| **Ecosystems** | |
|  |  |
| **Transportation** | |
|  |  |
| **Community** | |
|  |  |
| **Infrastructure** | |
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# **Resetting Community Resilience Priorities**

**1**  What were your community’s resilience priorities from MVP 1.0? If your community has since updated your community resilience priorities in another planning process, use your most recent community resilience priorities instead.

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**2**  What actions have already been completed to address the priorities listed directly above? (Actions could be related to the original MVP 1.0 priorities or more recent priorities if updated since.)

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**3**  How well do the priorities listed under question 1 align with what you heard through the Uncovering Social Resilience process (i.e., Step 5)? What changes should be made, given the additional insight you have gathered from the community and any changes or progress since your priorities were last set? More specifically…

**3a**  Are there any that no longer feel like priorities? Why?

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**3b**  Are there any that should be modified or updated? Why?

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**3c**  Are there any that should be added? Why?

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**4**  List your set of updated community resilience priorities below, given the changes you identified. Consider these examples again, which are the right scale (not too broad and not too narrow):

* Priority 1: Reduce flood risk in the Eastside Neighborhood through policies, projects, and initiatives with residents that increase flood resilience.
* Priority 2: Expand tree canopy within targeted areas prioritized by EJ and other priority populations.
* Priority 3: Expand carbon neutral, resilient, and affordable housing options in the community or region.

Optional: If you already have specific action ideas, list them as bullets under your priorities.

You should end up with one list of priorities that combines the priorities from MVP 1.0 that are still relevant (or updated), along with any new priorities.

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**4**  Who stands to benefit most from addressing each of these priorities? If the answer is “everyone,” how might that continue to reinforce the way that climate change affects certain populations more than others? How could the priorities be updated to make sure they specifically address the needs of people who will be most affected, and help to reduce the disproportionate impacts of climate change?

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# **Vetting the Community Resilience Priorities**

Reach back out to community members to share the updated priorities and to get their feedback. You may want to also see if community members have any preliminary ideas for Seed Projects. In particular, make sure to consult with community members who will be most impacted by climate change, and specifically those who you talked to as part of Step 5. Revisit your Engagement Plan to help think through your approach for outreach and engagement. Attach any documentation or notes from your engagement activities to the end of this document.

**5**  What feedback did you hear? Outline any modifications to your community resilience priorities below.

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# **Updated Community Resilience Priorities**

List your updated community resilience priorities on the following page. The MVP team will use this page as a record of your community’s priorities. You can also use this page to share your community resilience priorities publicly with your community.

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**Municipality Community Resilience Priorities**

**Learn More about MVP 2.0:** https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mvp-20

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 1**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 3**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 2**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 4**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 5**

These actionable priorities were developed as part of the MVP 2.0 Planning Grant process. They are a result of dedicated community engagement, reflection on the evolving nature of community needs, and input from Environmental Justice and priority populations.

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 10**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 6**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 8**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 7**

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**Potential Actions**

**Priority 9**

**Learn More about MVP 2.0:** https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mvp-20

**Community Resilience Priorities Continued**

# **Documentation of Engagement Activities**

Document your outreach and engagement activities that you used for gathering feedback on your community resilience priorities in the table below. Feel free to copy and paste the table as many times as needed if you used more than one activity.

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| **Activity 1** | |
| **Name of activity:** |  |
| **Date(s) of activity:** |  |
| **Brief description** of the activity. Who were the participants? |  |
| **Add a link** to a folder with documentation of the activity (e.g., notes, photos, etc.) |  |
| **How successful was this engagement activity?** Consider your engagement goals and use the metrics or evaluation approach you outlined in your Engagement Plan to answer this question. |  |