Resilience Hubs

Participatory Mapping Results and Implementation through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Infrastructure Program

People & Environment Recovery Board

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THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Background

2020	2021	2022-2023	2024-2025	2026
Climate Emergency Declared by council, set course for community-facing engagement, staff research, and next steps	**Listening + Learning** *Key recs:* • Community-Led Resilience Hubs • Green Economy • Effectively Engage Frontline Communities	**Incorporation into City Operations** • Climate Data Map • Screening Tool • Organizational Work Plan (OWP) project • Municipal Climate Action Plan Activity #19	**External Programming** • Engagement Academy • Community Space Upfit Projects • Elevate AVL • Climate Action Toolkit • Neighborhood Case Studies	**RH Mapping & DR Allocation** • Participatory Mapping Project • $2.125M allocated from CDBG-DR • Issue Notice of Funding Opportunity

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



ELEVATE AVL



Overview

82	29	5	6
Organizational Surveys	In-Depth Interviews	Listening Sessions	Key Findings Identified

Key Findings:

1. The network is decentralized which supports geographic and population coverage
2. The network doesn't rely on one central group. Instead, many different groups pitch in, helping to reach more places and more people.
3. The impacts of long-lasting internet and cell service loss were significant.
4. Grassroots groups are especially good at reaching people that other help often doesn't reach.
5. Many organizations weren't fully prepared to adapt during a disaster.
6. Organizational funding is a serious problem.

Recommendations

1

Invest in Physical Hub Facilities

Invest in community-led facilities that provide year-round services and can respond during emergencies

2

Establish a strong coordination network

A strong collaboration framework for a community hub network with clear roles for local government, nonprofits, and network participants.

3

Improve everyday public spaces and programs that build trust and connection.

A sustained and coordinated network of trusted places, programs, and strategies that brings Asheville residents together.



Implementation Opportunity:

Invest in community facilities that provide year-round services and can respond during emergencies through Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Infrastructure Program

CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program Background

- CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program's goal is to facilitate long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and mitigation efforts.
- In February 2026, $2.125M was reserved for resilience hub investments.
- CDBG-DR funds will allow the City to invest in privately-owned facilities, which is highly restricted with steady-state city resources.
- Federal regulations still apply! Will requires additional administrative capacity to utilize.

CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program Funding Limitations

- Funding limited to specific site improvements
- Cannot fund operations or maintenance
- Facilities can be public or private but must be open to public year-round
- Time-limited, funds must be spent and activities complete by 2031
- Recipients must comply with 2 CFR 200 regulations which regulates how things are purchased, permitted and constructed
- Is a reimbursement-based program
- Must support a HUD National Objective

CDBG-DR Resilience Hub Investments Project Approach

- **Identify Eligible Initiatives:** Allocate funding to eligible activities that align with Mapping Project recommendations.
- **Diverse Facilities:** Invest in a different kinds of sites to bolster the decentralized community hub network.
- **Create Pathways for Participation:** Develop strategies to reduce the administrative and operational burden on participating facilities.
- **Develop Meaningful Criteria:** Reflect network development priorities through funding selection criteria.

Identify Eligible Initiatives to Align with the Mapping Project



- **Redundant Power Infrastructure**: Solar panels and battery backup systems.



- **Communications Infrastructure**: Satellite-based broadband service system, emergency notification systems, flood warning systems, remote monitoring or internet fiber enhancements.



- **Landscape & Site Infrastructure**: Ecosystem enhancements that improve food production capability, biodiversity, onsite rainwater capture and water management such as rain gardens, rain barrels, bioswales, greenhouses, or pollinator habitat.

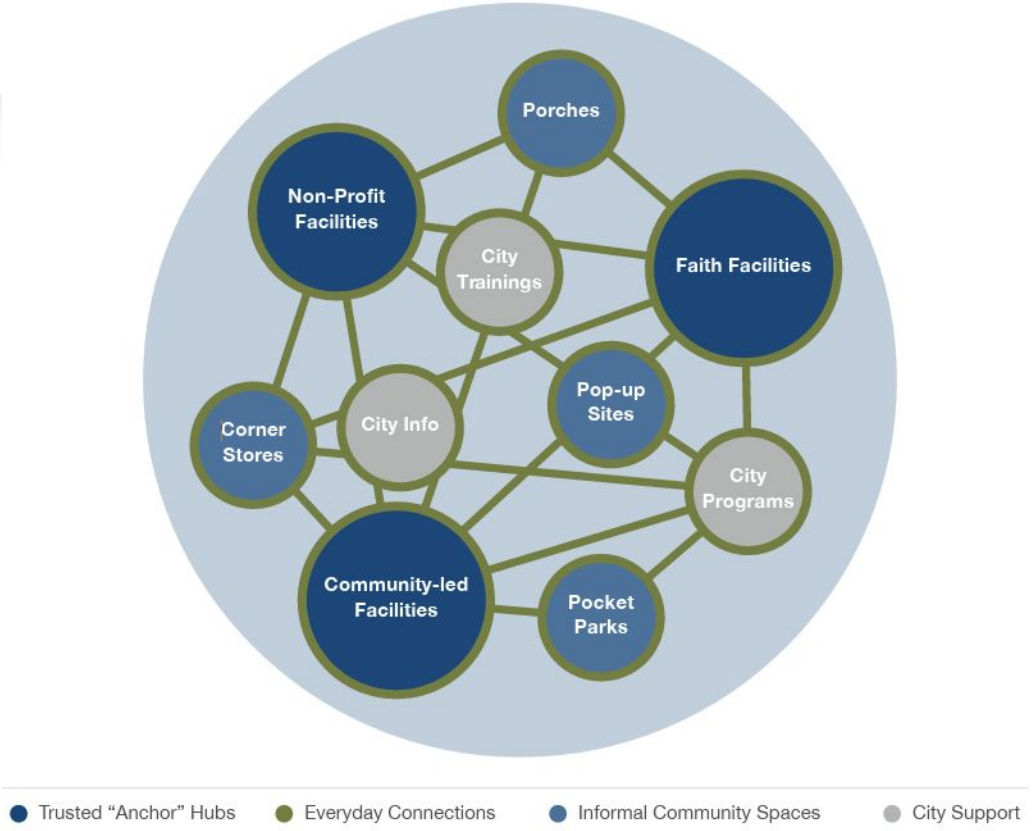


- **ADA Accessibility Enhancements**: On-site improvements that increase ADA accessibility such as ramps, handrails, bathroom facility enhancements, resource relocation to accessible locations, and similar efforts to remove barriers for differently-abled residents.

Diverse Facilities

Invest in a varied array of sites to bolster the decentralized community hub network including:

- Nonprofit Facilities
- Faith-based organizations (non-worship spaces that are open to the public)
- Public Facilities, particularly select City facilities
    - Limit to 10% of reserved capacity ($212,500)



Create Pathways for Participation

Reduce the administrative and operational burden on participating facilities by:

- Offering 2 pathways to access funding:
  - Track 1: Single Applicant managing its own procurement, grant compliance and oversight
  - Track 2: Consortium Application where one organization acts as the “prime” and manages procurement, grant compliance and oversight for the rest of the organizations within the group
- Strategic Allocation: Reserve the flexibility to distribute all funding during the initial notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) or to retain a portion for a subsequent funding round

Develop Meaningful Criteria

Recognizing the fragility of the network, what features do we prioritize to invest one-time funding that will advance network durability?

Possible considerations based on Mapping Project findings:

- Facilities with long-term stability
- Hubs that have capacity to serve, and potentially expand to, a larger population
- Hubs with ability to address gaps in population(s) or extend programming reach
- Geographic distribution of infrastructure

Board Discussion

Understanding the complexity of managing the federal dollars:

- What are your priorities for supporting hub facilities within the CDBG-DR infrastructure program?

- What insights do you have in helping us structure the $2.125M funding opportunity such that a variety of organizations can effectively take part?







Images from Community Conversation- Building Strength Through Resilience Hubs Event Photo credit: Still Smiling Photography LLC

What we will do with the input received today

- Input will be shared with City Council's August 18 Planning, Economic Development and Environment Committee.
- Input will inform the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- The questions identified today will be used to inform our communications to the public.



Image from Resilience Hubs Participatory Mapping Project, Photo credit: 40Hearts

Project Timeline and Milestones

- **August 18, 2026:** Gather Planning, Economic Development, and Environment Committee input.
- **Late Summer 2026:** Review feedback and prepare the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- **Fall/Winter 2026:** Issue the NOFO to prospective applicants.
- **Spring 2027:** Finalize and execute recipient contracts.