

SHREVEPORT DISASTER RESILIENCE COMMUNITY NETWORK: WORKSHOP SUMMARY

📅 FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 2025 ⌚ 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
📍 SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY - BROADMOOR BRANCH

Community members, organizational leaders, and neighborhood representatives gathered to share lessons from past disasters, identify resilience priorities, and co-develop strategies for a stronger, more resilient Shreveport. Participants represented Mooretown/Morning Star Baptist Church, the MLK neighborhood (with Willow Chute as a hub), the Highland Center, Shreveport Green, and LSU Institute for Nonprofit Admin and Research.

The workshop emphasized the urgency of developing solutions and responses to power outages, extreme weather events, public health risks, and food insecurity while investing in youth leadership, workforce training, and resilience hubs across neighborhoods.

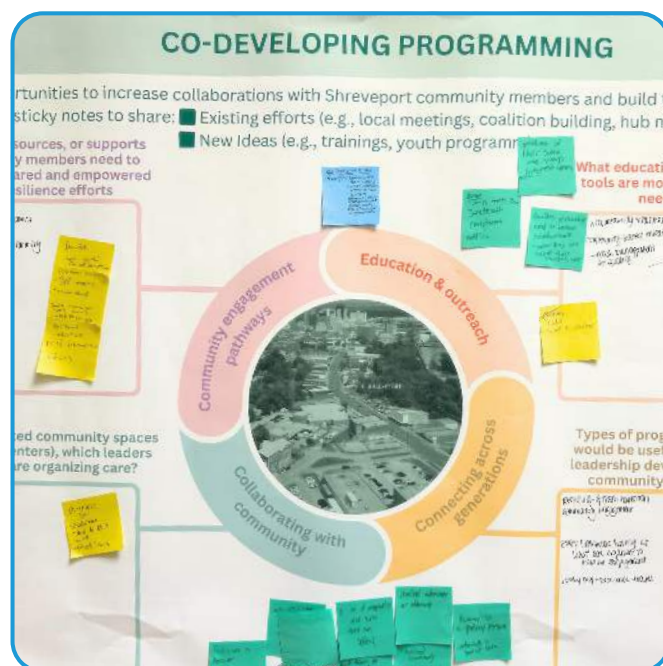
WORKSHOP GOALS

1. **Map Community Assets and Challenges:** develop a geospatial service asset map and co-create a community challenge summary.
2. **Foster Collaborative Planning and Design:** co-create resilience network design concepts, build collaboration wish lists.
3. **Strengthen Community Voices and Capacity:** capture networking and capacity-building interests.



NEXT STEPS

- **Refine Project Ideas:** Focus on resilience hubs, workforce/education pathways, and food/energy security.
- **Address Climate Priorities:** Power outages & clean energy, disaster preparedness, and extreme heat/health.
- **November Zoom:** Reconvene to refine ideas, assign roles, and confirm resources.
- **Toolkit:** Develop a step-by-step guide for hubs and partners.
- **Paper/Brief:** Draft to spark interest and attract support.
- **Story Map:** Share local impacts and solutions visually.



KEY PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

1. Build and Strengthen Disaster Resilience Hubs

- Expand trusted sites (Morning Star, Highland Center, Willow Chute, Friendship Houses) with solar panels, backup power, refrigeration, shelter, and communications capacity.
- Ensure hubs provide cooling/heating centers, food security, trauma-informed services, and medical backup (e.g., CPAP, refrigerated medicine).
- Invest in adequate staffing and volunteer pipelines to avoid burnout and ensure sustainability.

2. Address Public Safety and Preparedness Needs

- Address rising utility costs, food insecurity, maternal health, displacement, and mental health needs through programs anchored in hubs and faith/community partners.
- Scale community gardens and food banks pre-stocked 24–72 hrs before disasters.
- Strengthen culturally rooted outreach and education: door-to-door canvassing, QR-code surveys, financial literacy classes, tenant rights classes, and trauma-informed trainings.

3. Invest in Youth & Workforce Development for Climate Resilience

- Create job and leadership pathways in renewable energy, hub operations, disaster preparedness, and green infrastructure (e.g. stormwater, tree canopy restoration, rain gardens).
- Seek non-federal sources of funding to replace programs lost (e.g., job corps) with adequate funding for training, stipends, and mentorship.
- Link youth/student involvement directly with resilience hub development to equip the next generation to be community preparedness leaders

TOP CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS



Power Outages & Grid Failures: Repeatedly named the #1 concern across participants. Urgent need for clean energy solutions: solar panels, generators, battery storage, and reliable cooling/heating access.



Disaster Preparedness, Response, & Hazard Mitigation: Communities emphasized better planning, coordination, and targeted support during hurricanes, floods, freezes, and heat waves. Past experiences showed volunteer shortages, food supply gaps, and disorganized response.



Extreme Heat & Loss of Green Spaces: Heat waves are getting worse, especially in neighborhoods with limited tree canopy and green cover. Communities want urban greening programs, cooling centers, and tree planting.



Blue & Green Infrastructure: Stormwater management, drainage, and flooding are persistent concerns. Interest in bioswales, rain gardens, cisterns, and pollinator gardens as nature-based solutions.



Environmental Pollution & Ecosystem Protection: Concerns over water and air pollution. There are links to broader environmental health issues related to pollution (e.g. respiratory health, maternal health, food contamination).

Looking for more information or have questions?



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