



Resilience Hubs: Five Foundational Areas

USDN's Resilience Hubs structure is designed around five Foundational Areas:

1. Resilient Services & Programming
2. Resilient Communications
3. Resilient Buildings & Landscape
4. Resilient Power
5. Resilient Operations

These foundational areas emerged from over a decade of direct support, planning, and implementation with USDN members, community members, and partners. These five foundational areas are the core components of any Resilience Hub. Essentially, they are the line art or outline that the community will fill in with patterns, color, and content that reflect their unique experience, spaces, and needs. The foundational areas also provide structured pathways for external partners, government agencies, and funders who seek to support Hubs to find where they “fit in” within the holistic approach.

The benefits of working within this framework support:

- **Prioritize marginalized communities and human needs over hazards, data, and infrastructure.** The five foundational areas ensure that social cohesion, community services, proactive action, and community connectivity are prioritized in addition to structural elements.
- **Reinforces accountability to community members throughout all three Operational Modes.** The foundational areas intersect with the operational modes to ensure community needs are identified and prioritized in each mode: everyday, disruption, and recovery.
- **Provide structure for funding and partners.** The foundational areas provide input points for investors and partners at different scales to find ways to work with local communities and support Hub design, planning, and implementation.

Fundamental Principles to Apply the Five Foundational Areas

Resilience Hubs are **co-developed and co-designed** with community members and grounded within hyper-local needs and desires. The five Foundational Areas can be utilized as a **mechanism to unite and align a variety of partners and funders** by enabling them to see themselves in this work and to identify specific areas to plug in and offer support.

Resilience Hub components across the five foundational areas are **evolving over time** to reflect changing climate conditions, needs, and desires over time. *Baseline* or minimum criteria Resilience Hub elements that are fundamental to the functioning of the site are prioritized first while *optimal* and *Ideal* elements that offer enhanced services and more ambitious opportunities, are integrated over time.





The Five Foundational Areas at a Glance

Foundational Area	Core Function	Illustrative Components	Key Considerations
Resilient Services & Programming	Offering additional services and programs that build relationships, promote community preparedness, and improve residents' health and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare and Pre-K care Health & mental health services Senior programming Tool checkout Food pantry/ distribution Workforce development/training Culturally relevant cooking classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider how core offerings shift and evolve in the event of disruption. What services currently exist already, and can be expanded or improved?
Resilient Communications	Ensuring the ability to communicate within and outside the Hub and service area year-around and especially during disruptions and throughout recovery. Proactive connectivity and relationship-building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkie talkies Free Wi-Fi + access to computers Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and CERT 11 Proactive outreach Emergency radio Charging stations Radio broadcasting studio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are translation services available in all locally spoken languages? Prioritize and integrate proactive relationships building & check-ins. Ensure communications networks are proactively identified and established throughout all three operational modes. Consider mechanisms for feedback across the three operational modes to ensure ongoing co-development.
Resilient Building & Landscape	Strengthening the resilience of the building to ensure that it meets operational goals in all conditions. Connect building with opportunities for increasing resilience in surrounding areas/landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse and urban gardens Air filtration Weatherization HVAC upgrades Rainwater harvesting Commercial kitchen(s) Tree planting & rain gardens Permeable pavement & bioswales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities to prioritize spaces that foster connectivity and innovative green solutions. Are ongoing operations and maintenance considered in contracting/funding engagements? Focus on flexibility and adaptability of spaces to accommodate a variety of uses and site activation.
Resilient Power	Ensuring reliable backup power to the facility during a disruption while improving the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of operations in all three operating modes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backup power (battery preferred) Solar + storage EV charging stations Community solar opportunities Energy efficiency upgrades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities to bring in communities via workforce development opportunities. Ensure ongoing monitoring and maintenance is included in implementation contracts.
Resilient Operations & Maintenance	Ensuring personnel and processes are in place to operate the facility in all three modes. Site must function well for all members of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility ramps and accommodations throughout Visual and audio support Security check-in (entrance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are personnel and processes in place to operate the facility in all three modes? Consider opportunities to prioritize youth and formerly incarcerated community members in site workforce development and operations opportunities.

