

NORTHEAST FLORIDA ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TASKFORCE

Taskforce Charge:

In responding to the coronavirus pandemic and current economic disaster, the taskforce will comprehensively assess the conditions that local communities in Northeast Florida are dealing with. Once context is established, and baseline economic conditions are clearly understood, the taskforce will recommend actionable strategies that will assist member governments and communities in meeting short-term economic recovery objectives relating to the coronavirus pandemic. In developing these recommendations, taskforce members will review existing economic damage surveys, data, and reports; and will make inventory of available strategies that can increase the region's resilience to disruptions moving forward. Following implementation of a "Coronavirus Economic Recovery Action Plan," the taskforce will expand its scope to address challenges relating to long-range economic resilience planning. Through support from NEFRC staff, the taskforce will identify long-term objectives and strategies that will protect Northeast Florida from a broad range of future shocks and stresses; including, but not limited to, coastal storms, future pandemics, economic disruptions, supply chain shocks, and sea level rise. Once an inventory of historical and future hazards is established, the taskforce will develop a "Regional Economic Resilience Plan," for Northeast Florida, that is holistic, action-oriented, equitable, and capable of being executed. Upon implementation of the plan, the taskforce will evolve into a body that will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress made.

Membership Involvement:

- Regional Community Institute (RCI) of Northeast Florida
- Northeast Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee
- Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Board of Directors
- Representation from each Northeast Florida county

Principal Staff:

- Sean Lahav, NEFRC Resiliency Coordinator

Supporting Staff:

- Margo Moehring, NEFRC Director of Policy & Planning
- Jack Shad, NEFRC Economic Development Project Manager
- Robert Jordan, NEFRC GIS Planner
- Kate Haigh, NEFRC Communications Specialist
- Sheron Forde, NEFRC Executive Assistant/Human Resources

Taskforce Deliverables:

- Coronavirus Economic Recovery Action Plan (Published by Spring 2021)
- Northeast Florida Regional Economic Resilience Plan (Published by Spring 2022)

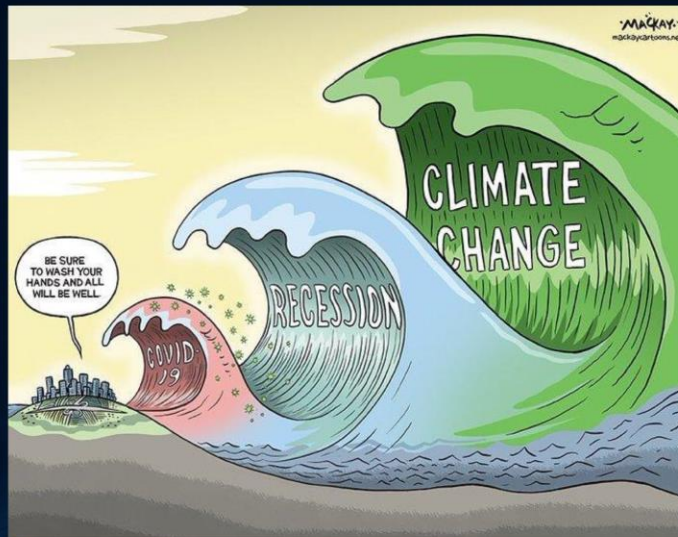
Funding Source:

- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) 2020 CARES Act Award

Defining Economic Resilience

- **Economic resilience** refers to the ability of local economies to “bounce back” to normal conditions after losing function because of an uncontrollable event. Resilient economies have the capacity to quickly respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations such as a public health crisis or high-intensity storm.
- From a long-term perspective, resilient economies find ways to adapt to changing conditions, such as disruptions to major supply chains, so that future losses are minimized, and continuing stresses are adequately managed.
- In addition to a built capacity to withstand shocks, resilient economies take necessary measures to prevent and avoid major disruptions.
- For economic resilience strategies to be successful, **equity** must be an integrated component of long-range plans – ensuring that ALL who live and work, within a given community, have access to a good education, affordable housing and transportation, and are able to prosper.

Beyond the Horizon: The Compound Effect



Responsive Initiatives

Some examples of **responsive** economic resilience initiatives include:

- Establishing a process for regular communication, monitoring, and updating of business community needs and issues (which can then be used after an incident)
- Establishing/using a capability to rapidly contact key local, regional, state, and federal officials to communicate business sector needs and coordinate impact assessment efforts

Source: U.S. Economic Development Administration

Steady-State Planning

Examples of **steady-state** economic resilience initiatives include:

- Engaging in comprehensive planning efforts that involve extensive involvement from the community to define and implement a collective vision for resilience that includes the integration and/or alignment of other planning efforts (e.g., hazard mitigation plans) and funding sources
- Promoting business continuity and preparedness (i.e., ensuring businesses understand their vulnerabilities—including supply chains—in the face of disruptions and are prepared to take actions to resume operations)

Source: U.S. Economic Development Administration

EDA Cares Act Award – Work Plan

Immediate Response Activities:

- Economic Damage Assessment; Establish Action Plan
- REMI Economic Forecasting
- Establish Inventory of Contacts, Needs, and Priorities
- Monitor Economic Conditions

EDA Cares Act Award – Work Plan

Short-Term Recovery Activities:

- Establish and Convene “Economic Resilience Taskforce”
- Work with Taskforce to Develop Long-Term Economic Resilience Plan
- Support Local Governments and Community Partners

EDA Cares Act Award – Work Plan

Long-Term Planning Activities:

- Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate Regional Economic Resilience Plan
- Develop Public Outreach Campaign and Engage Stakeholders
- Facilitate Economic Resilience Webinars that Promote Best-Practices
- Document Process to Inform Future Efforts

Existing Northeast Florida Framework

- Federal Partnership with EDA
- Northeast Florida CEDS
- NEFRC Board of Directors
- RCI Board of Directors
- P2R2 Committee
- Economic Development Organizations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Rotary Club District
- Partnership with REMI Economic Modeling

