

Alliance for
National & Community
Resilience®

Request for Interest

Community Resilience Benchmarking Pilot

The Alliance for National & Community Resilience® (ANCR®) is developing the Community Resilience Benchmarks® (CRB) to support communities¹ in evaluating their current resilience and identifying strategies for improvement. The ANCR CRB system is unique in that it looks across social, organizational and infrastructural aspects of communities to enable examination of the community's vulnerabilities and strengths.

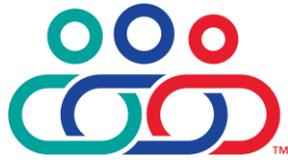
To date, ANCR has completed development of the Buildings, Housing and Water Benchmarks. It is seeking community partners to pilot these Benchmarks and provide ANCR valuable feedback to improve them and inform the development of CRBs for other essential community functions.

Community Benefits

Communities will realize multiple benefits from participation in the ANCR Pilot Process.

- Communities will receive valuable insight which can inform resilience planning and applications for mitigation funding.
- Communities can use benchmarking results as part of their economic development packages and other public communications highlighting their initiatives to be a great place to live and work.
- Pilot Communities will be recognized on the ANCR Website.
- Communities that meet the requirements of the Benchmarks will be recognized among the first ANCR Resilient Communities. The first cadre of ANCR Resilient Communities will be publicly recognized at an upcoming International City/County Managers Association meeting.
- ANCR will work with the community to identify an expert to work with the community in gathering information required by the benchmarks and providing feedback on using the results to inform resilience planning.

¹ ANCR defines communities broadly to include neighborhoods and university or corporate campuses with responsibility for or influence over the functions contained within the CRB system.



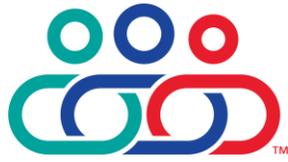
- ANCR Pilot Communities will also receive early access to new Benchmarks as they are released to allow further enhancement of their community resilience.

Opportunity Description

ANCR will work with selected communities to identify an ANCR Professional to help them undertake the benchmarking process. Applicants will work with ANCR and other community stakeholders to walk through the benchmarking process, collect feedback and offer insight into opportunities to improve the community's resilience. The community will also provide feedback to ANCR to inform improvements to the CRB system.

The ANCR Professional will collaborate with a designated community representative to plan and facilitate the following activities:

- Provide an introductory webinar (1 hour) on ANCR, the CRB System and the intent of the pilot program.
- Conduct a half-day kickoff meeting with key community officials, stakeholders and partners to understand current resilience initiatives and priorities, as well as walk through the piloting process and the grantee's responsibilities. This site visit will also allow one-on-one engagement and assistance in identifying and collecting acceptable evidence for completing the benchmarking process. *NOTE: ANCR is prepared to conduct the kickoff meeting and all other interactions with participating communities via virtual means as long as the COVID-19 pandemic remains an obstacle to travel.*
- Following the kickoff meeting, the ANCR Professional will work with community partners to complete the benchmarks and compile the acceptable evidence.
- Once the benchmarking process is complete, a wrap-up meeting will be scheduled (likely a half-day) to evaluate results and discuss recommendations to improve both the benchmark process and the feedback communities receive.
- Completion of periodic electronic surveys throughout the piloting process to help better understand local needs, successful activities and capture feedback on the benchmarking process.



Eligibility

All U.S. communities are eligible to participate and be recognized as an ANCR pilot community. However, given the nature of the benchmarks to be piloted, successful communities should have some existing organizational programming and infrastructure addressing buildings, housing and water policy. Communities are encouraged to consult the [Building, Housing and Water Benchmarks](#) to understand their scope.

Pilot Objectives

1. Support communities' ability to understand and communicate the importance of resilience from a whole-community perspective and provide tools to evaluate their current resilience and develop a strategy for improvement.
2. Pilot the ANCR Community Resilience Benchmarks covering Buildings, Housing and Water.
3. Receive feedback on the Buildings, Housing and Water Benchmarks and the Community Resilience Benchmarks system.
4. Establish an initial cadre of ANCR Resilient Communities that can serve as mentors for communities that go through the CRB process in the future.

Project Duration

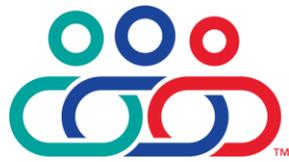
The piloting process is expected to be completed within 3 to 6 months.

Submission Materials

Communities hoping to participate as an ANCR Pilot Community should complete the interest form at <http://www.resilientalliance.org/Pilots>. If selected to move forward, communities will be asked to submit a letter of interest signed by the highest executive official in the community.

Submission Deadline

There is no formal deadline for communities interested in serving as an ANCR Pilot Community. Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis.



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Evaluation Criteria and Process

Community expressions of interest will be evaluated based on demonstration of the following:

- Commitment from the community and stakeholders to participate in the piloting process and provide feedback to ANCR to help improve the Community Resilience Benchmarks system.
- Understanding of the value of a whole-community approach to resilience and the role of various community functions in achieving community resilience.
- Ability to benefit from the benchmarking process and the results to improve the resilience of the community.
- Interest in sharing their experience with peers and serving as a mentor to communities with similar characteristics.

Interest form submissions will be evaluated by the ANCR Board of Directors based on the objectives and requirements outlined here. The ANCR Board of Directors may request additional information from submitters including in writing or via a conference call.

Notification

Applicants will be notified via email of the Board's decision within 30 days of submission.

Contacts

Both technical and submission questions may be submitted to ANCR@resilientalliance.org.