

Guidance for Resilience in Comprehensive Plans

January 2022

The **Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act (SC Code Section 6-29-510)** was amended by the Disaster Relief and Resilience Act to add a required resilience element. SCOR has developed a working definition of resilience (right). This working definition should be kept in mind when meeting the Section 6-29-510(D) comprehensive planning resilience requirements below:

1

A resilience element that considers the impacts of flooding, high water, and natural hazards on individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, economic development, public infrastructure and facilities, and public health, safety, and welfare

2

Planning that promotes resilient planning, design, and development

3

Element shall be developed in coordination with all preceding elements in SC Code Section 6-29-510 and integrated into the goals and strategies of each of the other plan elements

4

The local comprehensive planning entity must undertake an inventory of existing resilience conditions

*The words “undertake an inventory of resilience conditions” should be taken in their plain and ordinary meaning which would involve an itemization or listing of present conditions of the things or systems that enable a community to anticipate, absorb, recover, and thrive when presented with environmental change and natural hazards. As a starting point, SCOR suggests that communities begin by looking at the 7 **FEMA community lifelines** as well as **Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC)** which provides resilience characteristics and scores for all South Carolina counties (University of South Carolina, n.d.)*

Resilience: The ability of communities, economies, and ecosystems within South Carolina to anticipate, absorb, recover, and thrive when presented with environmental change and natural hazards.

Note: The working definition will not be finalized until the Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan is submitted to the General Assembly.

5

Planning which is coordinated with adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies.

For the purposes of this item, “adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies” means those counties, municipalities, public service districts, school districts, public and private utilities, transportation agencies, and other public entities that are affected by or have planning authority over the public project.

For the purposes of this item, “coordination” means written notification by the local planning commission or its staff to adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies of the proposed projects and the opportunity for adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies to provide comment to the planning commission or its staff concerning the proposed projects. Failure of the planning commission or its staff to identify or notify an adjacent or relevant jurisdiction or agency does not invalidate the local comprehensive plan and does not give rise to a civil cause of action.

Timeline for Implementation: While the changes took effect upon approval by the Governor on September 29, 2020, recognizing that local governments are in different stages of their Comprehensive Plan update schedule, there is currently no hard and fast deadline for when a community must have a full resilience element developed.

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Community Lifelines

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[fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222)

Definition

A lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

Purpose

Root Cause Analysis

Interdependencies

Prioritization

Ease of Communication

Assessing

Status → What?

Impact → So What?

Actions → Now What?

Limiting Factors → What's the Gap?

Stabilization

Occurs when basic lifeline services or capabilities are provided to survivors (may be temporary solutions requiring sustainment).

COMPONENTS of Lifelines

