## Participatory Processes: A Checklist for Resilience Planners

The goal of whole-community resilience planning is to engage all segments of the community – including the most vulnerable – in creating a resilience-based vision of the future. Socially vulnerable populations have historically been excluded from, and may have distrust for, community-based decision-making processes. Additional efforts may be needed to ensure meaningful participation. A participatory process designed to engage socially vulnerable populations should have the characteristics listed below.

### Up-front and Collaborative
- **Engage early in the planning process.** Consultation should begin with the design of the engagement process to ensure that it is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

### Cognizant of Unique Contributions to Governance Processes
- **If socially vulnerable people act as technical consultants to the resilience planning process, the planning team may need to consider compensating them for contributing unique knowledge.**

### Barrier-free
- **Structure meetings in ways that eliminate barriers to participation.** Barriers might include late notice of meetings; culturally insensitive or inaccessible locations; meetings held during work hours; lack of childcare, transportation, or translation.

### Capacity-building
- **To ensure inclusion, consider providing socially vulnerable people with additional capacity (e.g., technical assistance) on par with other members of the community who may have greater historic capacity.**

### Partnerships
- **Partner with trusted local organizations, especially those that represent or serve socially vulnerable populations.**

### Ongoing
- **Build ongoing relations with leaders of organizations that serve and represent socially vulnerable populations.** Conduct routine debriefings with such leaders during the course of the planning process to ensure that messages from socially vulnerable populations are being “heard.”

### Interactive
- **Create opportunities for a two-way exchange of ideas and allow ample time for questions, answers, and discussion.**