

# Summary of Disaster Preparedness Qualitative Questions from EHSRC Needs Assessment

## Disaster preparedness

Think about the people, places, organizations, and leadership in your community. Imagine a natural disaster hit your community (for example, flood, derecho, tornado, blizzard, etc.). What assets does your community currently have that would help you recover from that disaster? (open ended)

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Places                       | Libraries, churches, shelters, community building   |
| Leadership                   | Emergency services director, first responders, new mayor, "amazing public works dept"   |
| Organizations                | Charity orgs, red cross, salvation army   |
| People                       | "They are a small, <u>close knit</u> community. I believe there would be food provided and attempts to provide housing."                                    |
| Physical infrastructure      | Buried electrical lines, "...dikes for floods, tornado early warning systems. My community (Topeka, Kansas) takes preparedness seriously."                  |
| Recovery materials           | Flood pumps, <u>sand bags</u> , flares, canned food   |
| Experience                   | "We have been through many of these. Blizzard is the hardest as our city leaders do not spend enough on snow removal and it make it hard for all citizens." |
| Communication Infrastructure | Tornado sirens, warning systems   |
| Nothing                      | "Hardly any. The derecho hit Cedar Rapids <u>hard</u> and we should have had more help."  |
| Don't Know                   |   |

## Disaster Preparedness

What characteristics about your community could be strengthened to improve its ability to recover from a natural disaster? (open ended)

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Structural improvements | Have: Old buildings, water/sewer lines; Need: better roads, alternate water/power sources, shelters, fewer windows  |
| External support        | Strengthen Red Cross, FEMA; "more response from outside agencies."  |
| Training                | Train first responders; improve knowledge of community; "I think it would be good to have training. I'm not sure if my community could provide this but recovering from a natural disaster is not something I think about often." |
| Communication           | Public announcements, local media coverage, PSAs on radio/tv, "if there is a plan, we should all know it."  |
| Funding                 | Disaster relief funds, more government funding, grants for sustainability   |
| Supplies                | Sandbags, emergency generators, bottled water, canned food, <u>flash lights</u> , batteries   |
| Planning                | Coordination between relief units/teams, planning to get systems up and running   |
| Community relationships | "talk more within the community and make sure we all have each other's back instead of worrying on individuals"   |
| Leadership              | More city employees, better/more response teams, "have a republican city council."  |
| Nothing/don't know      |   |