



A RESILIENT MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

The Mississippi Gulf Coast communities are made resilient by the people working together locally and regionally, learning from the past and prepared to face all challenges, large and small, sudden and slow-moving.

As part of the planning process for the Plan for Opportunity, it was important to determine potential threats, vulnerabilities, and solutions for each plan component to better prepare for future disruptions. The Plan for Opportunity will improve the resiliency of the Mississippi Gulf Coast by employing strategies that will lead to a more diverse economy, more transportation and housing options, and healthier residents and environment.

KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES



To become more resilient, we must foster a more engaged and informed public about the risks associated with coastal living.



To create a sustainable Mississippi Gulf Coast, our people and our communities must be flexible, adaptable, and self-reliant.



How we interact and make decisions as custodians of the environment is a key measure of the region's resilience.

A Resilient Mississippi Gulf Coast Requires:



A foundation of understanding and knowledge, sustainable practices and the ability to implement those practices within a culture of resilience that teaches self-reliance as well as collaboration on a personal and community-wide scale.



Community planning, preparation and collaboration to develop and retain the ability to respond to changes, adapt to changes, and thrive.



Capacity, the will and the resources to adapt to incremental changes or sudden traumatic events, to sustain remaining resources while incorporating changes and to emerge stronger.



RESILIENCY AND THE PLAN FOR OPPORTUNITY COMPONENTS



Food Systems

A resilient food system produces and delivers healthy, safe food choices to an informed public that demands healthy foods in their neighborhoods.

Some Indicators of Success:

- People are living longer and healthier lives
- More local produce is grown and consumed
- More neighborhood markets with fresh foods
- More food is recycled to feed people in need



Transportation & Land Use

A resilient transportation and land use system has multiple modes of transportation connected regionally to serve diverse mobility needs.

Some Indicators of Success:

- More people are walking, biking and taking transit instead of driving
- The number of trips and miles travelled declines
- More children are walking safely to school
- Transit services become regional with connections across the coast



Regional Economy

A resilient economy is prepared for change through a diverse, educated and trained workforce able to earn a livable wage.

Some Indicators of Success:

- People are less dependent on government assistance
- Locally owned businesses increase and expand
- The number of vacant and abandoned properties decreases
- New development creates infill in downtowns or mixed use areas



Water

A resilient water system has both quality and quantity to support regional growth and economic development through best management practices.

Some Indicators of Success:

- The quality of water continues to improve
- The quantity of clean water remains adequate for future generations
- Flooding has less impact on natural and man-made systems
- All waterways are environmentally stable, clean and actively support residents and tourism



Housing

A resilient housing system is safe, energy efficient, fair, and able to withstand sudden changes or events.

Some Indicators of Success:

- Housing stock is adapted to coastal exposures and energy efficiencies
- New investment developments support diverse housing across the coast
- Housing costs are affordable by having housing options close to employment
- Residents are in neighborhoods with amenities and resources for healthy living

NEXT STEPS

The Plan for Opportunity partnership will engage residents and communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in dialogue about the role resiliency plays in a more vibrant, healthy and prosperous region. You can share your ideas and perspectives by visiting the gulfcoastplan.org and by taking part at festivals and community forums.

The draft plan – to be completed in the fall – will outline specific actions steps, strategies and responsibilities to address the region's needs. Making the plan a reality will take a continuing commitment of the public, private and non-profit organizations working on the Gulf Coast. Every small part contributes to a more successful and livable Gulf Coast region.

"The Mississippi Gulf Coast is vulnerable and for any system to be sustainable, it must be resilient"

Source: Plan For Opportunity, Resiliency Report, Aug 2013



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The **Plan for Opportunity** is a collaborative planning project led by the Gulf Coast Regional Planning Commission that is intended to guide the economic growth and development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to improve housing, employment and transportation opportunities throughout the region. The Plan for Opportunity is key to strengthening the economy, improving quality of life for residents, and creating a more sustainable future for the region.

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