

Session 3: Community Resilience Priorities and Solutions

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Josh Ghaffari is the Comprehensive Plan Program Manager at the District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP). Mr. Ghaffari is leading the update process for the Comprehensive Plan, which is DC's 20-year framework that guides future growth and development. Mr. Ghaffari is developing resilience policy, which is being integrated into DC's Comprehensive Plan for the first time. Mr. Ghaffari has worked in the Government of the District of Columbia since 2007 in various capacities. Mr. Ghaffari holds a Master of Arts Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Westminster in London, England and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography and Environmental Planning from Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Mr. Ghaffari is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) as well as the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and has certification as a Certified Public Manager (CPM) and as an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP).



Abstract

Resilience Planning in Washington, DC

The term resilience is a broad concept that has become a more deliberate and important aspect of community planning in recent years. The District of Columbia faces numerous resilience challenges and is home to over 700,000 residents with local neighborhoods as diverse as the people, cultures and systems found within them. It is the center of the regional economy and the hub for the metropolitan transportation system which together create unique social and financial vulnerabilities. The Office of Planning is currently updating the District's Comprehensive Plan and resilience is being incorporated for the first time. A number of other District agencies are actively working to address resilience in their own specific plans, such as through a Resilience Strategy and Hazard Mitigation Plan. A primary objective of the new Comprehensive Plan focus on resilience is to leverage and build upon the District's existing key strengths and initiatives related to resilience. In addition, to promote continued cross-agency collaboration on resilience policies and actions that result in coordinated strategies and equitable outcomes for the entire city.