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Community and Regional Resilience Institute Releases Roadmap to Community Resilience

With Support from the Department of Homeland Security, Report Includes 3 Years of Academic Research with Insights from 150 Leaders in Multiple Fields

Washington, DC (September 7, 2011) – The Community and Regional Resilience Institute today released a roadmap that provides America’s communities with a set of tools and processes that will help them prepare for disasters and improve their resilience. The report, titled “Community Resilience System Initiative (CRSI) Steering Committee Final Report – a Roadmap to Increased Community Resilience,” builds on over 3 years of academic research, broad collaboration with partner communities and other national stakeholders, and practical experience.

Supported by the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate – and convened by the Community and Regional Resilience Institute at Oak Ridge National Laboratory – over 150 researchers, community leaders, and business executives were convened over an 18 month period to produce a web-friendly process and support tools for American communities.

The web-based system can help any community assess its capacity to withstand significant disturbances and help them create an approach to recovery. By creating a vision for the future and establishing the necessary actions to improve overall resilience to disasters and other disturbances, this system will help people prepare for – and recover from – any challenge.

“Communities today face an increasing number of challenges, ranging from natural and man-made disasters to environmental hazards and economic declines,” said Warren Edwards, Director of The Community and Regional Resilience Institute (CARRI). “We know that a community will be resilient when it can bring together the people, processes, and technology that help them anticipate risk and build an executable plan. With insights from the foremost experts, we have created a roadmap for helping communities anticipate risk, adapt to challenges, and bounce back stronger and faster.”

The creation of this roadmap and report was supervised by a steering committee chaired by noted resilience expert Dr. Stephen Flynn, President of the Center for National Policy, and supported by the Meridian Institute. With the release of the report detailing the efforts of the working groups and outlining a “Community Resilience System,” the initiative moves into the next phase – piloting the system in a number of communities across the United States.

These communities, whose leaders and citizens are committed to engaging the full fabric of their society to foster preparedness and resiliency, will help inspire others to ultimately follow their example. Selection of these pilot communities will be announced at the 9/11 Tenth Anniversary Summit – Remembrance, Renewal, and Resilience on September 8 at the Newseum in Washington, DC.

The roadmap can be viewed and downloaded at www.ResilientUS.org.

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