



Plan Overview

Freeport-McMoRan sponsored this Graham County Resilience Action Plan to help the community identify risks that could negatively impact residents and public and private operations. Interviews with community leaders were used to identify risks. Challenges were identified related to the economy, climate, housing, mental health, and nonprofits.

This plan outlines strategic actions to mitigate risks and enhance overall community resiliency. Each strategy includes specific actions and resources for project leads and partners to utilize to create a resilient future.

Economy

Graham County relies on the mining industry, yet dependence on a single sector can be risky, as it leaves the community vulnerable to fluctuations in the copper market and potential mine closures in the long run. To enhance resilience, it is crucial to diversify the local economy by promoting businesses that export goods and services beyond the region. Supporting the growth of existing businesses and operations can have a substantial impact on job creation and tax contributions, ultimately enhancing Graham County's economic resilience.

1 | Business Expansion Program

Market research and strategic planning to support the growth of second-stage export-oriented companies for industry diversification.

Lead: Graham Economic Partnership

2 | Commercial Space Resources

Resources to ease the transition from a home-based setup to commercial space provides businesses visibility and room for growth.

Lead: Graham Economic Partnership

3 | B2B Support

Facilitation of business-to-business services and products reduces reliance on external suppliers and strengthens the local business ecosystem.

Lead: Graham County Chamber of Commerce

Water Availability

Graham County's climate risks are drought, wildfire, and riverine flooding. Drought poses threats to water resources vital for agriculture, industry, and daily life. Wildfire risks are exacerbated by long-term droughts, threatening lives, and property. Many properties are at risk of flash floods.

Housing

The need for workforce housing hinders expansion efforts of local employers. Various factors, including a slow housing market that results in a lower price per square foot compared to peer counties, construction costs, and market dynamics, deter developers from investing in housing projects. Despite evidence of housing demand in Graham County, lower returns for developers necessitate incentives and support measures to encourage housing development that aligns with local demand.

1 | Tamarisk Removal

Tamarisks contribute to drought, wildfire, and flooding, impacting climate resilience. Support tamarisk removal and native vegetation restoration.

Lead: Gila Watershed Partnership

2 | Water Wise Program

An educational and rebate program to promote water conservation among residents and agricultural producers.

Lead: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

1 | Housing Needs Assessment

A study of current and future housing needs and market dynamics to inform policy and prompt new development.

Lead: SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

2 | Regional Housing Conference

A platform to explore innovative housing solutions and foster partnerships to facilitate the development of housing strategies tailored to the region's needs.

Lead: SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

3 | Prepackage Development Projects

Local governments and landowners collaborate to identify parcels, streamlining permits, and market land to increase developer interest.

Lead: Graham Economic Partnership

Mental Health

Graham County's mental health care infrastructure is limited, with a high provider-to-population ratio, and high rates of deaths related to despair and suicide. Good mental health fosters community resilience by enhancing individuals' ability to cope with stress, adapt to challenges, and contribute positively to their community during times of crisis.

1 | Crisis Management Procedure

Healthcare providers and emergency responders create a coordinated procedure for serving patients experiencing a mental health crisis.

Lead: Graham County Health Department

2 | Mental Health Resources

Promote mental health resources to community and insurance carriers who provide mental health coverage to local employers.

Lead: Graham County Health Department

3 | Support Groups

Support groups provide valuable emotional and practical support for individuals facing similar challenges, fostering a sense of community and shared understanding.

Lead: Graham County Health Department

Nonprofits

Local nonprofits are vital in aiding socially vulnerable populations. However, nonprofits often struggle to secure the necessary operational funding, which hinders their capacity to provide essential services and support to at-risk individuals, highlighting the importance of addressing nonprofit financial sustainability to enhance community resilience.

1 | Joint Fundraising Event

A joint fundraising event is a cost-effective way to reach a wider audience, increasing public awareness about their causes and missions.

Lead: United Way of Graham & Greenlee Counties

2 | Nonprofit Training

Provide nonprofits with resources and training to enhance their operational sustainability, bolstering their capacity to make a significant community impact.

Lead: United Way of Graham & Greenlee Counties