



Globe-Miami Resilience Priorities

From September through November 2025, Freeport-McMoRan opened a community survey across the greater Globe-Miami area. **The purpose of the survey was twofold:**

1. Identify community priorities for strengthening resilience in the Globe-Miami area—defined as the ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from challenges affecting the community’s quality of life.
2. Use the identified priorities to guide the Resilience Fund in supporting projects and initiatives that build long-term community strength and adaptability.

A total of 145 responses were received. Priority rankings are based on a weighted score derived from respondents’ selections of their first, second, and third priorities. While six key priority areas emerged from the survey, housing was identified as the most significant need. Comments by

respondents provided additional clarity on specific concerns within each category.

In addition to the six priority areas, **two strong themes were consistently heard throughout the survey responses:**

1. The need for intentional planning and a cohesive community vision.
2. The importance of collaboration among local governments, organizations, and residents.

As a result of this initiative, a shared objective moving forward is to strengthen coordinated planning efforts and cross-sector partnerships to more effectively address these priorities.

Following is a **summary of the six priorities** that emerged from the survey.

Housing

Key Concerns

- Severe shortage of homes and rentals
- Rents and home prices exceed local wages
- Aging and poorly maintained housing stock
- Flood-damaged and condemned properties exacerbating shortages

Relevant Data Points

The housing stock is aging, with only 17% of homes in Miami and 34% in Globe built since 1980.

Housing in Gila County has been below the Affordability Frontier for over a decade. The Affordability Frontier represents the best-case benchmark—places where households get the most affordable housing possible for a given income. This means residents in Gila County are paying more for housing than similar-income households elsewhere.

"Rent is very high even for homes that are not adequately maintained. Low-income housing usually has a long wait list. Overall shortage of housing for low-income and moderate-income persons keeps people from moving here and staying here."

Education

Key Concerns

- Difficulty finding qualified teachers
- Safety issues (bullying, drugs, fights)
- Inefficiency of having two school districts (duplicating administrative costs, and reducing enrollment per district—making it harder to qualify for certain state and federal funding)
- Challenges with some academic outcomes

Relevant Data Points

Miami Unified School District's high school student-teacher ratio matches the state average of 18:1, while Globe High School's ratio is 28% higher at 23:1.

Public high schools in the Miami Unified District have a graduation rate of 92%, while Globe High School reports a rate between 85-89%; both exceed Arizona's statewide graduation rate, which is approximately 77-78%.

"We need to pay our teachers more so we can fully staff our schools, combine Globe and Miami school districts to increase resources for students, and raise school testing scores."

Infrastructure

Key Concerns

- Failing systems due to delayed capital upgrades
- Need long-term planning rather than temporary fixes
- Flooding due to outdated drainage
- Roads and sidewalks in disrepair
- Sewer system failures after recent floods

Relevant Data Points

County estimates suggest that across southern Gila County—including Globe, Miami, and Roosevelt—there may be 500–600 remaining cesspools and another 800–1,000 older, high-polluting septic systems.

"Our infrastructure is the backbone of everything else, and right now it's showing clear signs of strain. The flood damage exposed long-standing vulnerabilities: aging structures, drainage issues, compromised buildings, and temporary fixes where long-term solutions are needed."

Community Services

Key Concerns

- Shortages of healthcare and behavioral health providers
- Limited access to mental health support
- Strain on nonprofits and emergency services
- Long response times
- Staffing shortages

Relevant Data Points

Per the 2024 *Arizona State Health Assessment*, "rural counties have higher mortality rates compared to the rest of the state."

Gila County is a designated "Medically Underserved Area," which means it does not have enough primary care providers, health facilities, or access to basic medical services to meet the needs of its population. This designation shows that many residents face long wait times, extended travel distances for care, and limited access to preventive and specialty services.

"Having services available to community members, both young and old to help them when they're in need is crucial to a strong community."

Economy

Key Concerns

- Lack of retail, services, and job diversity / overdependence on mining
- Barriers and red tape for businesses
- Low wages for non-mine workers
- Lack of career pathways and advancement

Relevant Data Points

Residents of Globe and Miami are primarily employed in construction, manufacturing, retail, education, health care, and hospitality.

Median Household Income is \$44,286 in Miami and \$66,545 in Globe.

"The economy has a large impact in if a family is willing to live in Globe/Miami or make the commute from the Valley. I think as the community has seen less businesses and restaurants come into the community it has impacted the choices for family to stay. I think it is important to support the small business and the city/town in encouraging the growth. It will keep the area growing."

Environment

Key Concerns

- Lack of preventative actions to mitigate flood risks
- Need emergency access and evacuation planning
- Poor post-disaster coordination and communication
- Fire scars increasing flood risk
- Environmental contamination / need for mitigation

Relevant Data Points

There have been eight wildfires recorded in Gila County since 2000. The 2021 Telegraph-Mescal fires burned 180,757 acres, with 37% of the soil experiencing moderate to high burn severity, which created hydrophobic soil conditions leading to increased flood risks.

In September 2025 there was catastrophic flooding in the Globe-Miami area; and approximately 29.2% of properties in Gila County are at risk of flooding over the next 30 years.

"More planning for flood mitigation would be helpful. With my community, we lack capacity for high level professionals to assist with engineering or planning for projects to reduce flooding."