



# Creating climate resilience plans for unique community needs

Aparna Bole, MD

Special Expert, Office of the Director, Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality

Senior Consultant, Office of Climate Change and Health Equity

Presented by



# Session objectives

- Identify resources to support health systems in resilience planning
- Describe lessons learned from two health systems' experiences creating climate and community resilience plans
- Define methodologies for considering unique regional vulnerabilities in the resilience planning process
- Explain how to integrate community needs into resilience planning

Presented by



# White House/ HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge

1. Reduce organizational emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050, publicly accounting for progress on this goal.
2. Designate an executive-level lead for work on reducing emissions and conduct an inventory of Scope 3 (supply chain) emissions by the end of 2024.
3. Develop and release a climate resilience plan for continuous operations by the end of 2023, anticipating the needs of groups at disproportionate risk of climate-related harm.

Presented by



# WHO's Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems

- A climate-resilient health system is “capable to anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to climate-related shocks and stress, so as to bring sustained improvements in population health, despite an unstable climate.”



<https://bit.ly/3IqBJPP>



# Elements of a climate resilience plan

- Prospective risk assessment
- Health equity & community engagement
- Assessment and remediation of vulnerabilities in infrastructure and operations
- Collaboration between healthcare organizations
- Interdisciplinary planning, oversight, and evaluation

Presented by



# Resiliency measures: AHRQ roundtable

- February 2023 roundtable of health system leaders and public health preparedness & resiliency experts to discuss how healthcare delivery systems are currently measuring, reporting, and acting on resilience
- Conclusion: no current consensus on climate resilience measures (describing a healthcare facility's ability to maintain core functions and services during and after a climate emergency)
- Key themes & associated references available here:  
<https://bit.ly/3pSYmG9>



Presented by



PRACTICE  
Greenhealth

 CleanMed  
PITTSBURGH 2023

# AHRQ Special Emphasis Notice (SEN)

- AHRQ recently announced an interest in receiving health services research grant applications that address the intersection of climate change and healthcare, in three primary areas:
  - Reducing the healthcare sector's greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint.
  - Creating resilient healthcare systems and communities that can plan, prepare, respond, and adapt to climate-related threats.
  - Addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change.
- Notice Number: NOT-HS-23-006

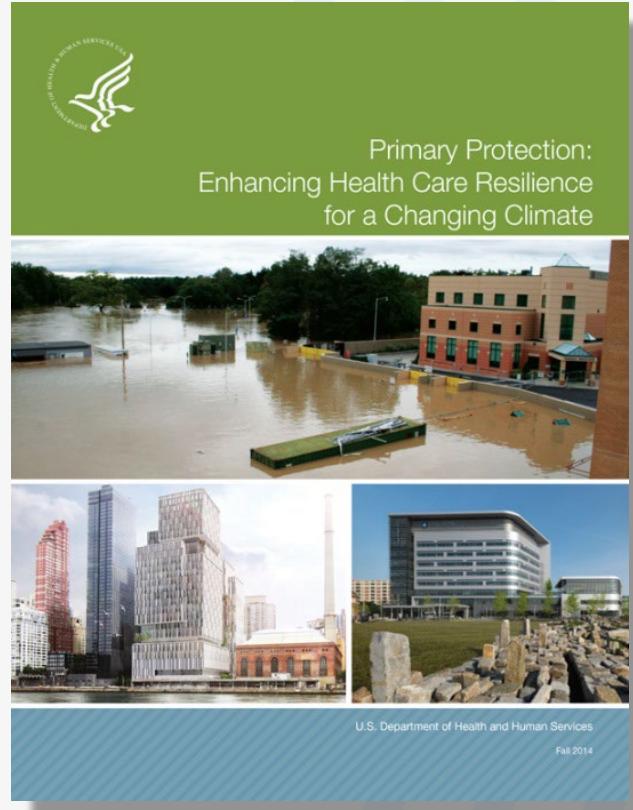
Presented by



# Sustainable & Climate Resilient Healthcare Facility Toolkit

- How-to guide
- + Case studies
- Update underway
  - Alignment with other HHS EP tools
  - Attention to navigability
  - Updated case studies
  - Diversity of facility types

<https://bit.ly/45funbx>

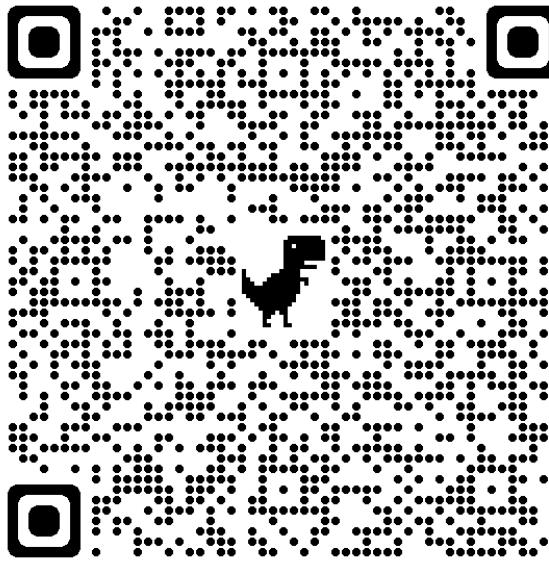


Presented by



# Quickfinder for Leveraging the IRA for the Health Sector

1. Background on climate change and health equity
2. Overview of investments and actions potentially facilitated by the IRA
3. Summaries of relevant IRA programs
4. Appendices on “visualization” use cases and general advice for grant applicants



# New OCCHÉ resource

## Protecting Vulnerable Patient Populations from Climate Hazards: A Referral Guide for Health Professionals

This resource is intended to inform education and referrals in clinical settings for patients who are vulnerable to climate change's health impacts, and can be used by health and human services providers to address climate-related threats to their clients' well-being.

This guide summarizes resources that can address patients' social determinants of health and mitigate health harms related to climate change. These resources include social services and assistance programs to which patients can be referred, as well as references for anticipatory guidance and counseling to help patients prepare for potential hazards.

Back to

[bit.ly/3WesTKz](https://bit.ly/3WesTKz)



- Published May 15
- Summarizes federal programs for patient referrals
- References for anticipatory guidance
- Background information and data for providers
- Case stories from two community health centers

# Onward to our panel discussion!

[OCCHE@hhs.gov](mailto:OCCHE@hhs.gov)