

BUTTE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

A Resilience Plan for Butte County Communities





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COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Butte Resilience Collaborative, established on August 30, 2023, represents a landmark initiative in Northern California's Butte County, aiming to forge a resilient, inclusive, and socially just community network. This collaborative was brought to life through the formation of a steering committee, comprising representatives from a broad spectrum of organizations including county government, community-based organizations, representatives of our state legislators and other key stakeholders. These representatives, appointed by their respective organizations, convened twice monthly to co-create not just the partnership agreement but also this resilience plan.

The essence of the Butte Resilience Collaborative lies in its commitment to addressing the gaps in resources for historically marginalized and/or remote populations, with a vision centered on fostering community support, advocacy, and resilience in the face of crises. This plan, therefore, serves as a blueprint for building a network that is responsive, compassionate, and equipped to handle economic challenges, disasters, climate emergencies, and social inequities.

Guided by the principles of Collaboration, Communication, and Connectedness—the 3 C's—the Collaborative seeks to mitigate vulnerabilities and improve systems of care through an equity lens. Its formation marks a collective endeavor to ensure that every member of Butte County, regardless of their background or circumstances, has access to the resources and support needed to thrive in a resilient community. This document outlines the strategic framework, goals, and actions devised by the Collaborative to navigate the challenges and leverage the opportunities for building a more resilient Butte County.



BUTTE RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

African American Family & Cultural Center	Creating Behavioral and Educational Momentum (CBEM)	Oroville Hope Center
American Red Cross	California State University, Chico	Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association
Assemblyman James Gallagher's Office	Disability Action Network	Paradise Adventist Church
Butte County—Department of Employment and Social Services	Enloe Health	Paradise Recreation and Park District
Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians	Feather River Recreation and Parks District	Paradise Stronger
Bethel AME Church, Chico	First 5 Butte County	Passages
Butte County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	From the Ground Up Farms	Rebuild Paradise Foundation
Butte 211	Good Well Consulting	Safe Space Winter Shelter
Butte Environmental Council	Jesus Center	Senator Brian Dahle's Office
California Climate Action Corps	Enterprise Rancheria	South Chico Community Assistance Center
Community Action Agency of Butte County	Konkow Valley Band of Maidu	St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Camp Fire Collaborative	Magalia Community Center	True North Housing Alliance, Inc.
Chico Area Recreation and Park District	Mechoopda	United Way of Northern California
Chico Housing Action Team	New Beginnings Housing Foundation	Valley Oak Children's Services
City of Gridley	Northern California Conference of Seventh Day Adventists	Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disasters (VOAD)
Collaborative Commons	Northern Valley Catholic Social Services	Youth For Change
Community Housing Improvement Program	North Valley Community Foundation	
Connecting Dotz	North State Planning & Development Collective	

VISION FOR A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP: In our community, good leadership happens when we include everyone, recognize that people are different, and work together. We want everyone to feel like they belong, and we want our leaders to share a vision of fairness, respect, working together, and helping others.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION: In a network of community hubs, clear communication fosters strong interpersonal relationships ensuring well-established, resilient, and transparent community connections that are informed, empathetic, and accessible, thus increasing trust and unity in our collective mission.

EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES: Deeply rooted equitable practices carefully weighed against challenges and barriers is how we can create an inclusive and resilient community. One where opportunities are for everyone, access is paramount, belonging is the fabric that holds us together, and honoring dignity is foundational to partnerships.

PLACED-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE: A resilient community should focus on creating accessible resource hubs in neighborhoods, using existing community and cultural centers. These hubs help people communicate about disaster plans, remove barriers to providing services, and build organizational capacity.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION: Grassroots organizing demonstrates how our local communities come together and take ownership in shaping our future by mobilizing resources and driving positive change from the ground up.

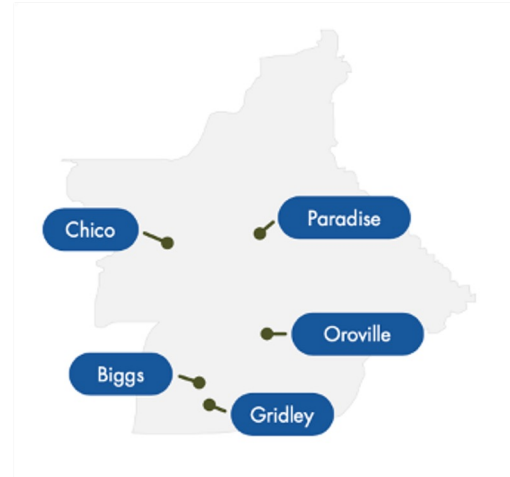




PROFILE: BUTTE COUNTY

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Butte County encompasses 1,640 square miles of the Sacramento Valley's eastern region. Before being largely displaced by settlers beginning in the 1830s, central Butte County was home to the Mechoopda Tribe around Little Butte Creek and the Konkow Tribe. The surrounding, mostly mountainous areas were also home to the Yana Tribe, Konkow Tribe and Maidu Tribe. Despite decades of restrictive "assimilation" laws and removal policies, the Mechoopda, Maidu, and Konkow Tribes now own multiple Rancherias in Butte County and support strong associations that aim to preserve their traditions. The Sacramento River flows through the east side of the county, while the west side features the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Half of the 205,592 Butte County residents live in Chico, while the county seat, Oroville, remains the second most populous community with 20,041 residents. About 1/3rd of the population resides in small, rural communities in the outskirts of Butte County. The population has declined significantly, by 12.4%, since 2018 mostly due to a series of ravaging fires that displaced a large percentage of Magalia, Concow, Paradise, Feather Falls, and Berry Creek residents. The poverty rate is higher than the national average, at 18.3%. The area is accessible via Highway 99, Highway 70, and is only a 20-minute drive from Interstate 5.





BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

BIGGS

Biggs originated from the 1871 establishment of a post office, Biggs Station, where it operated as a grain exporter. The Butte County Canal completed in 1905 helped Biggs have an agricultural boom that consisted of peaches, walnuts, prunes, alfalfa, and sugar beets. Today, approximately 2,000 residents remain, living mostly in widely-spaced residential areas. The commercial core includes small markets and the historic post office.

RICHVALE

Located just 7 miles north of BigGs and 6 miles west of the Thermalito Afterbay, Richvale is a small, unincorporated town of 240 people that mostly supports itself in the rice farming industry. The landscape is mostly clay-based, making it unideal for vineyards or orchards. Legend says the town name was coined by conmen attempting to deceive desperate dust-bowl farmers into buying unideal farming land at high prices.

DURHAM

Durham has about 7 miles of land zoned for agriculture that separates it from its more urban neighbor to the north, Chico. After originating in 1871 with a post office, Durham was established as a cooperative agriculture colony in 1917 under the California State and Settlement Act. Oftentimes residents are resistant to expansive projects, wanting to keep Durham a rural community within driving distance of commercial necessities in Chico. With about 5,800 residents, Durham features multiple parks, walnut and almond orchards. The average age of Durham is 50, and the poverty rate is significantly lower than the Butte County average at 5%.

GRIDLEY

Gridley is a small farming community of 7,500 residents located west-south of Butte County. It is located in the heart of the beautiful Sacramento Valley at the foot of the world's smallest mountain range, the Sutter Buttes. This community is home to organizations such as the Gridley Community Center, the building houses, the Gridley Teen Center, and several other community services. Veterans Memorial Hall is a facility for local veterans' groups, which is utilized by groups like the Gridley Rotary Club. Butte County Fairgrounds consists of 37 acres for the community to utilize for events, fairs, and for shelter during disasters. Esperanza Family Resource Center is a new family center to support families with children from zero to 5 and for the community to get resources for the community close to home.

CHICO

Chico is a small but bustling city of 102,000 residents on Route 99. It is the largest city in Butte County, holding nearly half the entire population of Butte County in the Sacramento Valley. Approximately 14,000 residents are college students who leave during the summer months and move frequently. Eastern neighborhoods are broken up by one of the world's largest urban parks, Bidwell Park, named after Chico's 1860 founder John Bidwell. Centrally located neighborhoods have a diverse set of demographics, while sprawled neighborhoods are largely segregated by socioeconomic class.

THE AVENUES & SOUTH CAMPUS

The Avenues are largely dominated by students and renters, but is also home to many small businesses, restaurants, churches, schools, and transit centers. It contains Chico's oldest residential neighborhoods and historic structures dating back to the 1860s.

CHAPMANTOWN

Chapman town is a low-income, working-class neighborhood on the Southeast side of Chico. Historically, this neighborhood was excluded from City services accessibility after years of taxation without representation. They have been annexed into Chico and able to vote in Chico City Council elections and access City services such as fire protection, sewer, and waste management since 2020. The neighborhood has numerous third spaces such as the Dorothy F. Johnson Neighborhood Center, neighborhood markets, churches, parks, and recreational sport facilities.

THE BARBER

Named after the manager of The Diamond Match Factory, O. C. Barber, many of the homes built in the early 1900s were built intentionally for Match factory workers, while mansions were built specifically for executives. Porch swings and vegetable gardens are common here.

NORD

Nord is a rural, higher-income neighborhood in the North and North-West areas of Chico. The neighborhood has a large percentage of white residents, and almost 40% of the population owns 4+ cars. The oldest developments are from the 1970s, but the vast majority of residential homes have been built after 2000 and large single-family homes.

CONCOW

Known for its stunning views and secluded hiking trails, Concow sits between the Cirby Creek and Concow Creek just northeast of Paradise. Concow, named after the Konkow Maidu Native American tribe that inhabited the greater area, means “meadow”. The population peaked in 2017 at 762, but after the 2018 Camp Fire destroyed nearly all of the area's structures, about 300 residents remain in Concow.

YANKEE HILL

Founded in 1850 by Robert Gulch, Yankee Hill was originally called Spanishtown due to the amount of Spanish and Chilean settlers who arrived during the gold rush. During mining years, Yankee Hill had a bank, hotel, general store, schools, a saloon, and a winery. The original structures periodically burned in numerous fires after the 1940 purchase of it by Skeet and Skeeter Smith. Today roughly 300 residents live in town with a beautiful view of Lake Oroville.

CHEROKEE

Originally inhabited by the Maidu people, Cherokee was named after a group of displaced Cherokee settlers from the Southeast U.S. who were actively panning for gold and diamonds. In the mid-1800s, it was home to a hydraulic mine that covered 26,000 acres, making it the largest in the world, and inhabited by over a thousand. Today the population remains under 100 residents.

FEATHER FALLS

Feather Falls' greater area is mostly rural, unincorporated communities Southeast of Butte County. These towns have beautiful hiking spots to get to scenic sites such as Feather Falls Waterfall and Bald Rock Dome. Tribal communities in these general locations are the Berry Creek Rancheria and Mooretown Rancheria of the Maidu Indians of California. and Some of the most rural towns far east of Butte County are in the foothills. These foothill communities have been severely impacted by multiple disasters. In 2017 Wall Fire destroyed 41 homes, in 2020 North Complex Fire, destroyed 2,455 structures & 2023 Winter Storm. These persistent fires have contributed to a decrease in residence, although local businesses, such as Gold Flake Saloon, remain a vital community gathering space.

BERRY CREEK

Nestled on the shore of Madrone Lake 25 miles Northeast of Oroville, Berry Creek is a quaint mountain town of about 500 residents. The organization Hope on the Hill offers a food pantry and commodities for the Berry Creek community.

FORBESTOWN

With a current population of about 300, Forbestown was once a busy gold mining community of over 3,000 residents, but was largely abandoned in the 1930s. Many remnants of the old mines exist today, as well as the town-founders original 1850 store named after himself; B.F. Forbes. Forbestown Hall and Community Park is a facility initiated by community volunteers to provide community services and venue for the community

CLIPPER MILLS

The historic, rural town of Clipper Mills was established in 1861 and has an economy largely based upon lumber. The population is around 150 people and home to a community post office. At 3550 ft above sea level, the terrain is densely forested compared to the rest of Butte County, leaving many residents struggling to keep home insurance as companies claim fire risk as reasoning for non-renewal.

OROVILLE

Oroville is the county seat and home to all county-run facilities. Named "City of Gold ", it was established on the bank of the Feather River to supply resources to gold miners. At the end of the 19th century, about 10,000 Chinese immigrants arrived in Oroville via the Gold Rush or building the railroads. The 1873 Chinese Temple was built as a place of worship for those who practice Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The Yahi people of the Oroville area were one of the first Natives to suffer genocide because of the California Gold Rush due to their proximity to Oroville, and the brutality of settlers who came seeking wealth. Today, about 20,000 people live in Oroville.

SOUTH OROVILLE

"Southside" includes 2.964 sq miles of Oroville's landscape. There are roughly 3,235 residents with a median income of roughly \$66,150. Historically, South Oroville was considered a safe, beautiful place to live, specifically for young families of individuals who migrated here in 1961 to help build the Oroville Dam (efforts in building the dam were from 1961 to 1968). Unfortunately, as the 70's era came about, so did the rise in drugs and crimes which changed the image and population drastically. Currently, the percentage of residents living in poverty is at 27.1% - the majority being minority groups represented.

THERMALITO

About 5 miles Southwest of Lake Oroville, Thermalito is a community established in the late 1890s based largely on citrus agriculture. The residential community contains a high percent (~17%) of Native Americans residents. The Thermalito Forebay and Thermalito Afterbay provide recreation for the 6,000+ residents and visitors.

OROVILLE EAST

Oroville East encompasses the South and Southwest shore of Oroville Lake. It is the densest population of Oroville, and much of the 8,000+ residents rely on Oroville's commerce.

KELLY RIDGE

Oroville East encompasses the South and Southwest shore of Oroville Lake. It is the densest population of Oroville, and much of the 8,000+ residents rely on Oroville's commerce.

PARADISE

Legend has it that lumber mill crewmember William Leanard coined the town name when he returned to the area after delivering a lumber load, turned to his crew members and said “boys, this is paradise.” Paradise is located 12 miles east and up the hills from Chico and enjoys a beautiful mixed conifer forest abundant with pines and oaks. The original inhabitants, the Maidu tribe, mainly resided in Paradise during the summer and fall seasons, as winter snowfall moved them to lower elevations. With many rural residents depending on landlines and community alarms for disaster messaging, the greater Paradise area faced unique communication barriers in times of emergency. This issue of hard-to-reach residences in times of emergency and critical weather conditions resulted in the world's most deadly and destructive wildfires in American history. The 2018 tragedy resulted in thousands of climate refugees, lasting trauma for survivors, and a mass depopulation of the area from 26,000 residents to 5,000 residents. The crisis also revealed the astounding strength of grassroots organization and community activism, as mutual aid was abundant in Butte County as a response to the crisis. Community engagement is rich in Paradise, with events like Johnny Appleseed Day bringing hundreds of visitors. Historical sites such as the Gold Nugget Museum and the Paradise Depot Museum are valued deeply by the community.

BUTTE CREEK CANYON

Home to the iconic Honey Run River, Butte Creek Canyon frequently has Butte County locals coming to swim and inner-tube during the hot summer months. Road bikers traverse the road often in search of stunning views, which they get. Butte Creek Canyon is a small community of about 600, down from the pre-Camp Fire population of nearly 1,000 residents.

FOREST RANCH

Forest Ranch is about a 15-20 minute drive from Chico up Hwy 32, making it a frequently commuted road for its 1,500 residents who work in Chico. The town was once a lumber mill and established in 1873. CalFire Station 23 is located in the north end of Forest Ranch, and works alongside Sierra Pacific Industries, Forest Ranch Volunteer Company, Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council, and other community groups.

MAGALIA

Magalia is a small rural community of 9,000 residents (just over 13,000 prior to the Camp Fire in 2018). It lies just north of Paradise in the unincorporated area of Butte County and comprises several unique neighborhoods which are referred to collectively as the Upper Ridge. Magalia was literally split in half by the fire, with much of the southern half destroyed while the “Upper Magalia” area was left unaffected. Old Magalia, or formerly “Dogtown” is rich in gold mining history and is the location where the 52 lb gold nugget was discovered in the 1850’s. The Paradise Pines Property Owners Association subdivision was developed in 1971, bringing 3,300 new housing lots to Magalia west of Skyway. Older housing is mixed with smaller subdivisions to the east of Skyway. The commercial district was developed in the newer Paradise Pines housing area, which affords a large grocery store, pharmacy, and a variety of retail shops (a True Value hardware store & popular donut shop were lost in the fire). Recreation abounds, with a popular 18-hole disc golf course and Community Center established in 2020, and endless flume trails just north of town leading deep into the beauty of the forest. The Camp Fire also triggered a shift in demographics, from what was a predominant retirement community to a place where young families with children have found quality affordable housing. It is this affordability combined with outdoor mountain living that has attracted people of all walks of life, either choosing to live here as a healthy place to raise their children to older adults looking to simply live “off the grid.”

DE SABLA

Just northwest of Paradise Lake, travelers can enjoy a smaller, lesser known gravel dam reservoir called De Sabla Lake. Those staying in the allocated campground enjoy day fishing Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, and Sunfish. De Sabla was named after one of Power Gas and Electric (PG&E) founders as a result of the reservoir and powerhouse construction.

LOVELOCK

Lovelock lies just northeast of De Salba on Skyway. It was settled by a man named George Lovelock who established a ranch and lumber mill. It previously had a store, a school, and a slaughterhouse. Today, a restaurant and hotel called Lovelock Inn houses travelers coming for the fresh mountain air and solitude.

BUTTE MEADOWS

A 30 minute drive up Highway 32 from Chico lands you in the beautiful, densely forested mountain town of Butte Meadows. The area is frequented by travelers trying to find snow in the winter season. It is the northernmost community in Butte County, and has the highest elevation sitting at 4,340 feet above sea level.

BUTTE VALLEY

Butte Valley is home to mostly rural agriculture farmers, with plenty of prime grazing flatland. Located just northwest of Oroville, many adults commute to the local community college, Butte College, from surrounding populous communities. The area is also home to a regenerative, eco-friendly worm farm named Butte Valley Garden Supply.

CENTERVILLE

Accessible via the historic Honey Run Road, Centerville is home to about 160 residents and a plethora of beautiful hikes. It is home to a post office that operated between 1880 and 1913, named after its first postmaster John Adams. A small cemetery is on the northeast side of town, and a small, hydroelectric power plant built in 1900 still generates electricity from the flow of Butte Creek.

COHASSET

Cohasset is derived from the Algonquin language of Great Plains and Great Lakes Native Americans, meaning “long rocky place”. The population is around 500, which has declined significantly due to wildfire disasters compared to the population of ~1,000 in 2017. After the mass murder and relocation of Maidu Native Americans in the 1870s, Cohasset was largely a lumber and apple farming industry. Residents see it as a peaceful place for quiet living.

HELLTOWN

Helltown is located 4 miles Northwest of Paradise, and a 10-minute drive past Centerville. It is one of the many towns founded by miners in the mid-1800s gold rush. In the 1970s it was home to a small “hippie” community who prided themselves on self-reliance on the land, swimming in the creek, and raising families together. Despite being partially destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire, Helltown is known for 4 heroes who stayed to fight the fire with the guidance of 1 friend who was an off-duty firefighter. Dharma, Jeb, Jason, and Sam were able to save the Helltown schoolhouse, a cluster of residential homes, and significantly slow the progression of the fire with their firefighter friends' help and business equipment such as shovels and bulldozers.

INSKIP

Inskip is nestled well off Hwy 32 between Lovelock and Butte Meadows. Considered a mining ghost town, only a few people still live in Inskip and one of the last remaining buildings is the Inskip Hotel and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The west branch of the Feather River runs at the bottom of the ravine.

LOMO

Lomo, or Spanish for “hill”, is located 4.5 miles down Hwy 32 from Butte Meadows. It was originally established in 1864 by Henry Wakefield, and originally named “Wakefield”. It originally served as an accommodation station for travelers along the Humboldt Wagon Road. It used to have a hotel, school, and lumber mill, but today only a few occupied dwellings remain.

POWELLTOWN

Named after R. P. Powell who established a ranch and lumber mill, Powelltown is one of many ghost towns in Butte County that thrived for a handful of years based upon 1 industry.

STIRLING CITY

Stirling City has a population of about 295 residing along the Paradise Ridge. In 1903, it was the founding site of the Diamond Match Factory and mostly revolved around the lumber cutting industry. The purchase of 40,000 acres of forest and establishment of a modern sawmill financed the construction of the Butte County Railroad between 1901 and 1903. The initial boilers that arrived were called “Stirlings”, giving this subcommunity its name. Today, the land that has been deforested is used for cattle, nut, and fruit agriculture.

PALERMO

Named after Palermo, Italy for its perfect olive-growing climate, Palermo is home to 5,500 residents who work largely in agriculture. About 21.6% of the residents live in poverty. An annual September fundraiser at Palermo Park to support the Palermo Community Council's Sheriff Substation.

BANGOR

Near the Yuba County border, Bangor is Butte County's most Southern community. In 1855, the first colonizers to the area, the Lumbert Brothers, named the area after their hometown of Bangor, Maine. The population consists of 600+ people. Located in the center of the North Sierra Wine Trail, Bangor has soil and climate prime for the wine industry, which is capitalized on. Bangor Community Church remains a vital place for gathering and mutual aid for residents.

RACKERBY

Rackerby's population has sharply declined from the roughly 1,000 residents who lived and mined together, often gathering at one of the 8 local hotels, bowling alley, or one of the 7 bars inside of the town stores. Today, about 300 people live in Rackerby.

HONCUT

Honcut was named after the Native American village of Hoankut, which was once situated on the Yuba River. The community has a direct route to Hwy 70, and the population is currently around 300 people.



VULNERABILITIES

Highlighting the acute vulnerabilities exacerbated by institutional limitations and the ongoing strain on our food, water, and supply systems, these challenges underlines the pressing need for a unified response. By understanding these vulnerabilities in detail, we aim to forge a comprehensive strategy that enhances Butte County's resilience against both current adversities and future threats. Through collective action and strategic planning, we strive to create a sustainable and resilient future for all community members.

CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS

A rapidly changing climate is exacerbating vulnerabilities, reordering life in unpredictable ways & causing predictable life-threatening disasters.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY/BANDWIDTH

Lack of institutional capacity and bandwidth including high staff turnover at community-based organizations; limited knowledge of other community resources; barriers to collaboration; inadequate representation of marginalized communities; need for immediate, flexible, and accessible funding; and temporary disaster response and recovery that doesn't bridge the gap between emergencies.

HEALTH

The health vulnerability for Butte County encapsulates Physical, Mental, & Emotional wellbeing. All are impacted by the historically high levels of trauma & compounded by multiple disasters. This challenge is then met with a lack of access to care for all, community cohesion, & continued exposure to disasters.



FOOD, WATER, AND SUPPLY SYSTEMS

Overstressed food, water & supply chains are a problem on an ongoing basis, particularly when disaster strikes, as food, water, medicine, and supply chains are disrupted during major emergencies making it difficult to access needed supplies and distribute them equitably throughout the county.

COMMUNICATION

Communication in a community is challenged due to lack of trust, central location, outlets, & access to information. It is even more of a challenge to vulnerable groups.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Lack of economic stability exists within our community with over 1 in 5 people living in poverty in Butte County. There is an unacceptable amount of people that lack the ability to access basic living necessities. The resources & access to them are not equitably distributed.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Vulnerable transportation, safety and communications exists throughout the county in terms of access of transportation on roads, air, buses, etc. Safety during evacuations needs improvement to roads, powerlines and alerts through broadband.



CHALLENGES

In crafting a vision for a resilient Butte County, the Butte Resilience Collaborative has identified several key challenges and roadblocks that could potentially hinder our progress towards achieving a community that is inclusive, equitable, and prepared for future adversities. These challenges span across various domains, including communication barriers, resource distribution inequities, and the complexities of fostering widespread collaboration amidst diverse stakeholders. Moreover, entrenched systemic issues, such as fixed mindsets and biases, add layers of difficulty to our mission, emphasizing the necessity for innovative approaches and persistent efforts. Acknowledging these roadblocks is a critical first step in our journey, setting the foundation for targeted strategies that address and overcome these obstacles, ensuring our community moves closer to realizing its resilient potential.

Ineffective communication due to insufficient knowledge, outdated information, and fragmented messaging. This leads to services being undervalued and misunderstood. There is a need for comprehensive and up-to-date resource guides.

Inequitable distribution of resources caused by lack of cultural competency, accessibility issues, bureaucracy, self-interest, and competitiveness rather than collaboration. This results in exclusion and inadaptability.

Fixed mindsets and biases causing conflicting values, unwillingness to adapt, and negative assumptions. This contributes to lack of leadership, resource hoarding, political divides, and scarcity thinking.

Disconnected and siloed efforts due to isolation, broken relationships, lack of collaboration, misunderstandings, neglected partnerships, and uncoordinated services. This leads to inefficiency, decentralization, and disconnect between organizations.

Additional challenges include change resistance, funding competition, tired employees, and need to step outside comfort zones.



FOCUSED PRIORITIES

As the Butte Resilience Collaborative envisions a future where our community's resilience is both robust and inclusive, we recognize the importance of structured priorities. In response to our known vulnerabilities and acknowledging the barriers that may impede progress, we have distilled our efforts into four focused priorities. These pillars serve as the foundation for co-creating actionable goals and strategies, aiming to guide Butte County towards a resilient and thriving future.

STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION

To be resilient our community will have an inclusive, equitable, and just system of collaboration where ideas, knowledge, and resources will be shared and made available.

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

In order to utilize the resources available, our community will outline an accessible network through asset mapping, equitable distribution and organize the human resources, and consistently identify barriers to access and utilization.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Inclusive and equitable communication across the resilience collaborative will strengthen trusted messengers as the cornerstone for resilience effectiveness throughout Butte County.

INCREASED PERSONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

To build individual and organizational resilience, our community will develop clear and accessible educational opportunities to build the internal capacity.

STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION

GOAL #1: ESTABLISH A RESILIENCE NETWORK

While the work to develop this emerging Butte Resilience Collaborative has already started, more work needs to be done to engage other communities and resource hubs throughout the county.

Objective

Develop and implement a network of service providers, community centers, and resource hubs to provide services to marginalized and/or remote communities.

Key Result Area

A clearly defined network of community centers, resource hubs and service providers with roles and responsibilities within Butte County

Initiative 1.1

Expand a clearly organized structure to build, support, strengthen and creatively standardize a resilience network

Initiative 1.2

Identify and engage trusted partners in marginalized and remote communities into an integrated community of resource providers

Initiative 1.3

Build an integrated network of trusted place-based community centers, libraries, school sites, religious centers and community hubs with service and resource providers.

Initiative 1.4

Create and expand a funding cohort to build the capacity of member organizations to access more funding opportunities



STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION

GOAL #2: INTEGRATE A COHESIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR COLLABORATIVES AND COALITIONS

Butte County has several emerging collaboratives and coalitions around health, economic growth, education and social services. This goal aims to enhance collaboration among these groups.

Objective

Create and implement a cohesive engagement strategy to enhance collaboration among various collaboratives within the county, fostering deeper and more impactful joint efforts.

Key Result Area

A county-wide network of community-based organizations with the collaborative competencies to work and support each other to ensure equitable access to services.

Initiative 2.1

Identify an adaptable backbone organization to apply for collaborative grants, manage data and offer administrative support

Initiative 2.2

Create a comprehensive understanding of the goals of other collaboratives, coalitions and networks to leverage the resilience collaborative without creating duplication of efforts



STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION

GOAL #3: DEEPEN COLLABORATIVE MINDSETS AND SKILL SETS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ORGANIZERS

Community leaders trained in cross-sector collaboration can address community challenges more holistically, encouraging alignment in goals and strategies for the overall benefit of the community.

Objective

Provide training and resources to community leaders and organizers to enhance collaborative skills and foster a mindset of cooperation at the neighborhood level.

Key Result Area

Design and deliver a series of collaborative skill-building workshops and training sessions for community leaders and organizers.

Initiative 3.1

Develop a community leadership program focused on cross-sector collaboration

Initiative 3.2

Train and develop a diverse cohort of community facilitators



EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

GOAL #1: STRENGTHEN A CENTRALIZED SOURCE OF UPDATED RESOURCE INFORMATION

In order to respond to increased demand on resources, expanded efforts to collect, manage and regularly update resources available and how to access them is an important step.

Objective

Enhance a centralized platform for resource information, ensuring it is regularly updated and relevant to the needs of local communities.

Key Result Area

Upgraded and maintained user-friendly database accessible to local community hubs, including real-time updates and a wide range of resources.

Initiative 1.1

Support and expand upon the existing centralized source of updated resource information

Initiative 1.2

Create a sustainable long-term data sharing and management plan

Initiative 1.3

Identify and develop a centralized hub for data management and data access



EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

GOAL #2: DEVELOP COORDINATED AND REGULAR COMMUNITY SCANS FOR RELEVANT DATA

There are various efforts each year to collect data. Organizations often need to support their programs through the collection of relevant data including the various health organizations who are obligated to conduct community health assessments. Coordinated efforts will help avoid overlapping and will help our community-based organizations support their work strategically.

Objective

Implement systematic community scans for accurate resource mapping and needs assessment.

Key Result Area

Clear and consistent data to understand where resources could best be targeted for marginalized communities.

Initiative 2.1

Coordinate current community scans and assessments

Initiative 2.2

Develop a local community scan cohort trained to collect relevant data in diverse and multilingual communities



EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

GOAL #3: ESTABLISH A COUNTY-WIDE RESOURCE COUNCIL

A strengthened network of service providers and case managers will help streamline and the distribution of resources.

Objective

Establish a county-wide resource council to ensure the equitable distribution of essential resources and create a neighborhood-level safety net for vulnerable families and individuals.

Key Result Area

An equitable distribution of resources particularly among marginalized communities

Initiative 3.1

Identify and engage representatives from diverse communities and organizations of front-line case managers, school counselors and resource navigators to develop access to basic and unmet needs

Initiative 3.2

Develop a streamlined and easy-to-access resource portal for front-line case managers, school counselors and resource navigators to request and access basic resources for those they serve



EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

GOAL #4: STRENGTHEN AN EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE VOLUNTEER INFRASTRUCTURE

A valuable resource in Butte County is human resources through volunteer networks. People want to help, and community-based organizations often need greater support to extend person-to-person care to rural communities.

Objective

Enhance the effectiveness and reliability of the volunteer infrastructure to ensure seamless coordination and support during community initiatives and crises.

Key Result Area

A robust volunteer infrastructure and strategy to support activities and needs of the resilience collaborative

Initiative 4.1

Identify and document existing volunteer opportunities, groups, training, requirements/certifications and costs that support resilience efforts

Initiative 4.2

Develop a volunteer hub to vet, train and match volunteers with appropriate opportunities to serve, ensuring a diverse pool of ready-volunteers

Initiative 4.3

Establish a reliable and expanded pool of medically trained and certified volunteers to assist in critical community emergencies



CLEAR COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

GOAL #1: CREATE SHARED COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Inclusive and equitable communication across the resilience collaborative will strengthen trusted messengers as the cornerstone for resilience effectiveness throughout Butte County.

Objective

Establish shared communication channels for organizations to facilitate collaboration, including the implementation of communication agreements between participating entities.

Key Result Area

Develop and launch a platform or system that allows organizations to communicate seamlessly on areas of collaboration, fostering mutual understanding and coordination.

Initiative 1.1

Develop an integrated communication platform for community organizations

Initiative 1.2

Develop equitable protocols for emergency communications across organizations through the Butte-Glenn VOAD



CLEAR COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

GOAL #2: CREATE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION TOOLS FOR RESOURCE AWARENESS

A clear communication strategy is needed to continue to strengthen the resilience collaborative.

Objective

Develop and implement effective public communication tools to inform families and individuals about available resources during personal or community crises.

Key Result Area

An effective flow of communication to the public about available resources to navigate personal challenges or community crises

Initiative 2.1

Develop a cross-organization communication strategy to effectively share information to the public available in multiple languages

Initiative 2.2

Develop consistent and shared communication tools for disseminating relevant and helpful information



CLEAR COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

GOAL #3: STRENGTHEN AN EFFECTIVE, RELIABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENCE CENTERS

Community centers and resource hubs need strengthened communication infrastructure especially in moments of crisis. As community hubs, a strong communication infrastructure will help communities respond and recover.

Objective

Ensuring that every resilience hub has reliable access to critical communication infrastructure the opportunity to receive critical communications during community crises.

Key Result Area

Upgraded existing communication systems, including emergency alert systems, with a focus on accessibility and reliability within the resilience network.

Initiative 3.1

Establish a communication strategy across the resilience collaborative to withstand disasters and infrastructure disruption

Initiative 3.2

Identify the needs of resilience hubs to properly equip each with a reliable communication infrastructure

Initiative 3.3

Upgrade and equip each resilience center throughout Butte County with reliable broadband and telecommunication networks and well as emergency communications equipment



CLEAR COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

GOAL #4: DESIGNATE CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS TO POLICY MAKERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

This network needs consistent and trusted relationships with policy makers to ensure the challenges and needs of the communities represented in the resilience collaborative.

Objective

To help path a pathway of systemic change by providing necessary information to those with the power to implement and enforce systemic change

Key Result Area

To remove structural barriers that prevent or complicate the resilient action taken by involved partners.

Initiative 4.1

Designate a committee to identify the policies and systemic practices that serve as barriers to community resilience efforts.

Initiative 4.2

Determine an avenue of communication to accurately provide information on inhibiting policy and practices to institutional decision makers.



INCREASED CAPACITY

GOAL #1: PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AIMED AT BUILDING HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE

Household resilience requires an increase of personal capacity of individuals and families to help create economic stability and health and wellness support

Objective

Offer targeted workshops, webinars and outreach initiatives to enhance personal and family resilience among disadvantaged communities, focusing on economic stability, health & wellness, relationships, and preparedness.

Key Result Area

Increased individual and family trauma resilience

Initiative 1.1

Organize and equip a diverse team of trainers who are culturally competent and able to provide workshops in native languages

Initiative 1.2

Launch mobile education units to reach isolated communities, including those with limited access to transportation



INCREASED CAPACITY

GOAL #2: CREATE A TRAINING FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONG COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Coordination with disaster preparedness agencies establishes a direct conduit for the flow of information, ensuring that resilience centers have timely and accurate data to inform their preparedness efforts. Building strong networks with these agencies fosters trust, facilitating collaborative initiatives and resource-sharing during disaster scenarios.

Objective

Develop and implement a training framework for community-based organizations with climate experts, local government agencies and social scientists through human-centered design trainings

Key Result Area

Increased understanding, preparedness and planning for community organizations to best support and contribute to a strong resilience effort to prepare for disaster events

Initiative 2.1

Coordinate disaster preparedness agencies and programs with direct access to resilience centers to provide a conduit for strong trusted networks

Initiative 2.2

Develop a consistent and adaptable training curriculum for preparedness to include climate disaster simulations, health emergency scenarios and communication disruption planning

Initiative 2.3

Conduct local ready summits to educate local communities and neighborhoods on disaster preparedness



INCREASED CAPACITY

GOAL #3: BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR NONPROFITS

Equipping nonprofits with the skills to develop and execute effective strategic plans, ensures long-term sustainability and alignment with community needs.

Objective

Strengthen the capacity of local nonprofits to ensure sustainability and resilience in the face of uncertainty and disasters.

Key Result Area

Develop and implement a capacity-building program for nonprofits, addressing areas such as strategic planning, financial management, and crisis response.

Initiative 3.1

Develop and implement a capacity-building program for nonprofits, addressing areas such as strategic planning, financial management, and crisis response

Initiative 3.2

Provide mentorship opportunities and programs linking new nonprofits with established ones

Initiative 3.2

Develop and implement resilience support training and resources for employers and employees in the resilience collaborative





CONCLUSION

The Butte Community Resilience Plan stands as a testament to our collective commitment and proactive approach towards building a community capable of withstanding and thriving amid the challenges of today and tomorrow. Through the Butte Resilience Collaborative, we have laid down the framework for Strengthened Collaboration, Equitable Distribution of Resources, Clear Communication Strategies, and Increased Personal & Organizational Capacity. These strategic priorities, supported by concrete goals and actionable strategies, are our path forward in transforming challenges into opportunities for growth and resilience.

As we move towards implementation, our collective resolve will be tested, and our adaptability will be crucial. Yet, the spirit of unity and shared purpose that has characterized our journey thus far assures us that Butte County is not only poised to endure but also to emerge stronger from the trials we may face. This plan is not an endpoint but the beginning of an evolving journey towards a sustainable and resilient future for all who call Butte County home.

