



ADVANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
PARTNERING ON SOLUTIONS

About Advancing Community Resilience

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Institute for Sustainable Communities—alongside agencies, private and social profit organizations, and individuals—are building the *Advancing Community Resilience Partnership*.

By tapping the strengths of existing relationships and fostering new collaborations, this effort works to collectively address pressing issues and community needs—ultimately helping build Maricopa County’s community resilience.

Whether it’s the great recession’s disruption on Arizona’s economy, gaps in coordination among social profits, or the persistent threat of extreme heat on Phoenix residents, it’s imperative that Maricopa County communities evolve and become stronger by overcoming economic, social, and/or environmental vulnerabilities. **This is community resilience.**



What Does the Advancing Community Resilience Partnership Do?

The Advancing Community Resilience Partnership works across sectors with groups who are driven to positively impact—collectively versus individually—a community need. These types of groups are passionate about learning from each other, adapting, and producing outcomes that collaboratively benefit society. This is often referred to as a *cause-centered community* or a *community of practice*. The Partnership convenes communities of practice and helps develop and facilitate goals such as how to: leverage the group’s strengths, innovate in ways that address the group’s weaknesses, and cultivate connections.

What is...?

Cause-Centered Community or Community of Practice

A group of people and/or organizations that share a common concern about or goal for a community issue or need. Group members engage, build relationships, and share knowledge, ideas, and resources.
Example: a group of organizations that each respectively serve the vision health needs of children in some way.

Community Resilience

The ability of people, communities, and systems to rebound from shocks and stressors through proactive planning, nimble actions, and openness to evolution. A resilient community leverages its assets to mitigate economic, social, and environmental vulnerabilities—for example racial disparities in income (economic vulnerability); costs of social needs exceed public resources (social vulnerability); and impacts of poor air quality (environmental vulnerability).

Social Cohesion

The willingness of society members to cooperate with each other to survive and prosper. Social cohesion contributes to a variety of social outcomes such as health and economic prosperity.

Social Network Mapping

Also called social network analysis, social network mapping is the measuring and mapping of relationships and flows between people, groups, organizations, technologies, and other connected information/knowledge entities. The nodes of the network are the people and groups, and the lines/links show the relationships or flows between the nodes.

Social Profit

A more progressive term for a nonprofit, refers to what a nonprofit is instead of what it isn't—a social profit organization works to benefit people and places; a social profit strives daily to care for and enrich the lives of those they serve.

Sustainability

The state in which society is able to: continue in the long term using fewer resources (environmental sustainability); manage and improve living standards (economic sustainability); and maintain or increase well-being, equity, and civic participation (social sustainability).

The Advancing Community Resilience Partnership Conveners

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, a place-based private foundation, supports organizations that enrich health, well-being, and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County, Arizona. Piper Trust concentrates its efforts in six areas: arts and culture, children, education, healthcare and medical research, older adults, and religious organizations. pipertrust.org

Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), an international nonprofit organization, has over 25 years of practical experience working in 30 different countries to lead more than 100 transformative, community-driven projects. ISC's programs are designed to facilitate peer learning, technical assistance, and best practices for local leaders charged with the work of making their communities more sustainable in cities like Detroit, Miami, and Baltimore. ISC works in Asia and the United States. iscvt.org

Background

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, in partnership with Institute for Sustainable Communities, conducted interviews, focus groups, and workshops on the topic of community resilience to learn firsthand about efforts underway in Maricopa County aimed at building resilience in the nonprofit and social sectors.

Learnings from these dialogues informed the report, *Building Community Resilience in Maricopa County*; the report details that while there are strong regional assets to build on, the region's community resilience is quite challenged. As such, the Advancing Community Resilience Partnership emerged as an effort to help contribute to and build Maricopa County's social capital by strengthening capacity, collaboration, and cohesion in the social profit sector. The *Building Community Resilience* report is available at advanceresilience.org.



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