

STRENGTHENING COASTAL COUNTIES' RESILIENCE: AN INTERACTIVE, MULTIMODAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objective:

- Increase resilience of coastal communities in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Connect local managers and elected officials with federal programs in a coastal resilience network.

Focus:

- Create a training guide for coastal managers and local officials.
- Conduct two training workshops on coastal resilience planning.
- Provide technical assistance to communities.

Approach:

- Work with regional partners in the Gulf.
- Focus on the relationship between local managers and elected officials.
- Gather input from county and state officials and a national advisory council.

PROJECT DETAILS

- The National Association of Counties (NACo), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and Coastal States Organization (CSO) have partnered through a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant to deliver technical assistance to counties in four Gulf of Mexico states and develop an online tool for elected officials.
- Each county was paired with project team members from NACo, ASFPM, and CSO for a year-long technical assistance project to pursue resilience priorities, beginning with a workshop in Mobile, AL in October, 2018, and culminating with a capstone Coastal Resilience Capacity-Building Workshop coinciding with the CSO meeting in November, 2019, in South Padre Island, TX.
- CSO was paired with Cameron and Willacy counties, TX, to identify and develop implementation strategies on shared goals and priorities around beach erosion, flooding, and water quality protection.
- Technical assistance is ongoing. The project team held a webinar workshop on August 18, 2020 on engaging local officials on floodplain and coastal management. The recording is available [here](#). CSO is working with ASFPM to organize an online CHARM/NAI workshop in early 2021.
- Project partners have also been developing a web-based training program called the "[Local Government Guide to Coastal Management](#)." The Guide provides modules on how to engage and work with local elected officials on coastal issues, and for elected officials to learn the basics of coastal hazard management.

