



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release
October 22, 2019
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New benchmark measures the resiliency of a community's housing stock

Issued by the Alliance for National and Community Resilience, these benchmarks help U.S. communities prepare for disasters

Las Vegas, Nev. – At the International Code Council's Annual Conference, the Alliance for National and Community Resilience (ANCR) announced the release of their housing benchmark. ANCR develops benchmarks to evaluate a community's resiliency; these benchmarks help local leaders assess and improve resilience across all aspects of the community.

The housing benchmark addresses the availability of affordable housing, the quality of housing, the availability of shelter, and continuity planning in the event of a disaster. All residential structures including single family and multifamily are included in the benchmark, which also addresses the needs of various groups such as older residents, families, and residents with physical and mental disabilities requiring supportive housing needs. Communities rely on safe and resilient housing to support the workforce, provide a tax base, and facilitate commerce.

The housing benchmark was developed by a diverse committee of subject matter experts led by co-chairs Laurie Schoeman of Enterprise Community Partners and Adam Gordon of Fair Share Housing Center.

"Our nation is facing an unprecedented affordable housing crisis—millions of vulnerable Americans don't have an affordable place to live. Complicating the issue, risks from a changing climate threaten the affordable housing stock we do have," said Schoeman. "The Housing Resilience Benchmarks are a key tool to help communities better prepare, adapt, and preserve their affordable homes to protect low-income families now and into the future."

"Communities throughout the country are facing critical decisions about how to grow in a way that promotes equity and sustainability," added Gordon. "We hope this new benchmark helps provide guidance in key issues to consider in shaping those policies and decisions."

"The availability and affordability of housing has become a considerable challenge for many communities. Through the housing benchmark, we're providing communities with tools to address day-to-day needs while also setting them up for success in response to disasters," said ANCR Executive Director Ryan M. Colker.

In addition to announcing the housing benchmark, during his presentation to conference attendees, Colker released a new white paper on the contributions of the International Building Code (IBC) to Resilience. It is the first in a series examining how specific International Codes (I-Codes) support resilience. The next installment will be on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which is set to be released in November 2019.

ANCR also recently welcomed two new members to its board: Lauren Stienstra and Hank Hodde. Stienstra is the program director for the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices Homeland Security and Public Safety Division. Hodde is the Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator for Pinellas County, Florida.

To download the housing benchmark, [click here](#). To download the resilience white paper, [click here](#). To read more about the new board members, [click here](#).

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About the International Code Council

The [International Code Council](#) is a nonprofit association that provides a wide range of building safety solutions including product evaluation, accreditation, certification, codification and training. It develops model codes and standards used worldwide to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

About the Alliance for National & Community Resilience

The [Alliance for National & Community Resilience](#), a member of the [ICC Family of Solutions](#), is a coalition of public and private entities working to create the nation's first whole-community resilience benchmarking system.