

# RESILIENCY HUBS FOR PARTICIPATORY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

## SOUTH BRONX RESILIENCY HUBS | NOS QUEDAMOS

### A LACK OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COSTS COMMUNITIES

Despite high risks of disruption and displacement in the South Bronx, public investments in neighborhood resilience are limited. As shown by the pandemic, disaster preparedness is lacking, which is costly for communities.

Disaster preparedness reduces these costs by improving the speed and effectiveness of emergency responses, saving lives, reducing suffering and other costs, enhancing local leadership, increasing financial resilience, and decreasing the energy needs of relief actions.

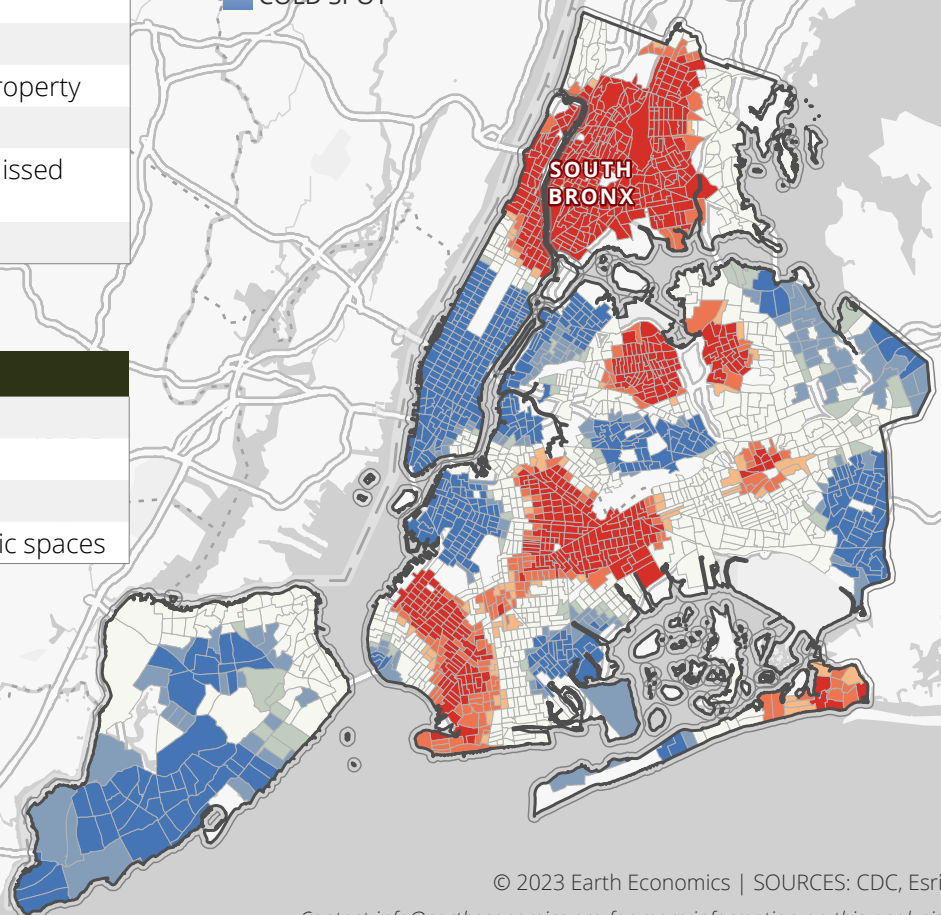
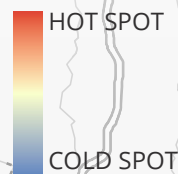
#### COSTS TO INDIVIDUALS

- Increased risk of injury, illness, and death
- Stress and mental health impacts
- Reduced access to emergency services, public transit, schools, etc.
- Social disruption
- Increased risk of displacement
- Damages to structures, infrastructure, property
- Time and money spent on cleanup
- Lost wages or business income due to missed work
- Longer commutes due to road closures

#### COSTS TO THE PUBLIC

- Decreased economic activity
- Business closures
- Decreased real estate value
- Contamination of water bodies and public spaces

#### SOCIAL VULNERABILITY



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## BUILDING ON COMMUNITY STRENGTHS REDUCES RISK

Research shows that community-led and participatory approaches to disaster preparation can improve local resilience and reduce stress by building on community strengths and supporting social cohesion.<sup>1</sup> Partnering with local communities to invest in emergency preparedness can also reduce future recovery costs.

## NOS QUEDAMOS SERVES AS A LEADER IN COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

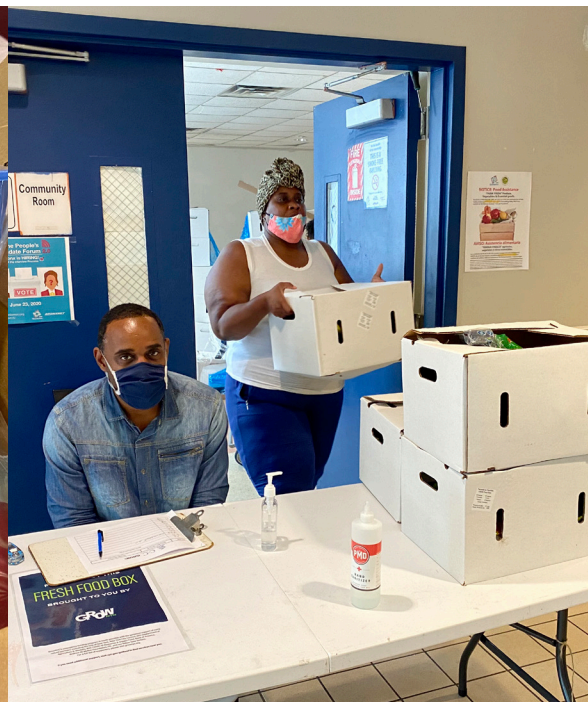
We Stay/Nos Quedamos, a South Bronx-based Community Development Corporation, is building community resilience in the Melrose neighborhoods. Nos Quedamos' mission is to maintain the health and culture of South Bronx neighborhoods by engaging with the community, transforming existing groups and opportunities, and empowering the area's marginalized communities to thrive. The organization has brought over \$500 million in investment value to the area including affordable housing for more than 4,000 families, infrastructure and broadband access, open space and parks, education and trade programs, environmental health and social justice advocacy.

*Nos Quedamos has been providing food relief since 2021, helping to fill in gaps in NYC's response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Similarly, the South Bronx Resiliency Hubs will support future disaster preparedness while providing everyday benefits that enhance community well-being and self-determination.*



*Nos Quedamos work began work in 1992 when New York City proposed the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Area, which designated 30 blocks in Melrose to be developed for middle-income New Yorkers. But this site was already home to roughly 6,000 low-income residents. Outraged by the injustice of their displacement, the local community banded together to draft and pass an unprecedented alternative proposal that created the Melrose Commons.*

*Nos Quedamos, a leader of community-led solutions in sustainable development in the Bronx, is investing in communities through the installment of The South Bronx Resiliency Hubs.*



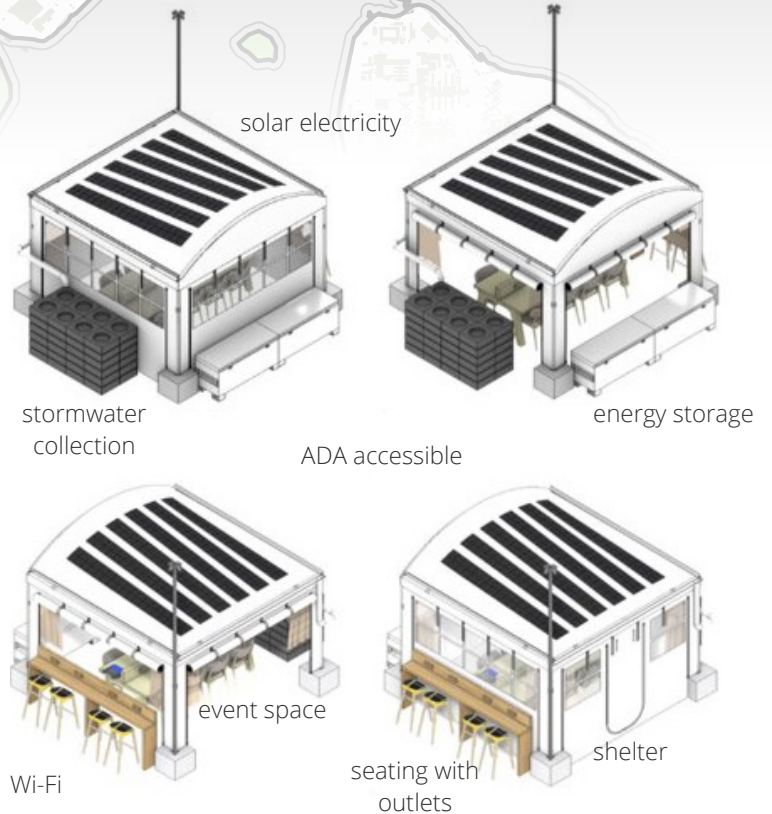
## PROPOSED RESILIENCY HUB LOCATIONS



## SOLAR CANOPIES AND COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE RESILIENCY HUB ASSETS

Resiliency Hubs support residents and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during, and after disruptive events, such as power outages. Hubs are gaining popularity as an effective means of bolstering social and built infrastructures and bridging community and public services to provide rapid community-centered crisis relief.<sup>2</sup>

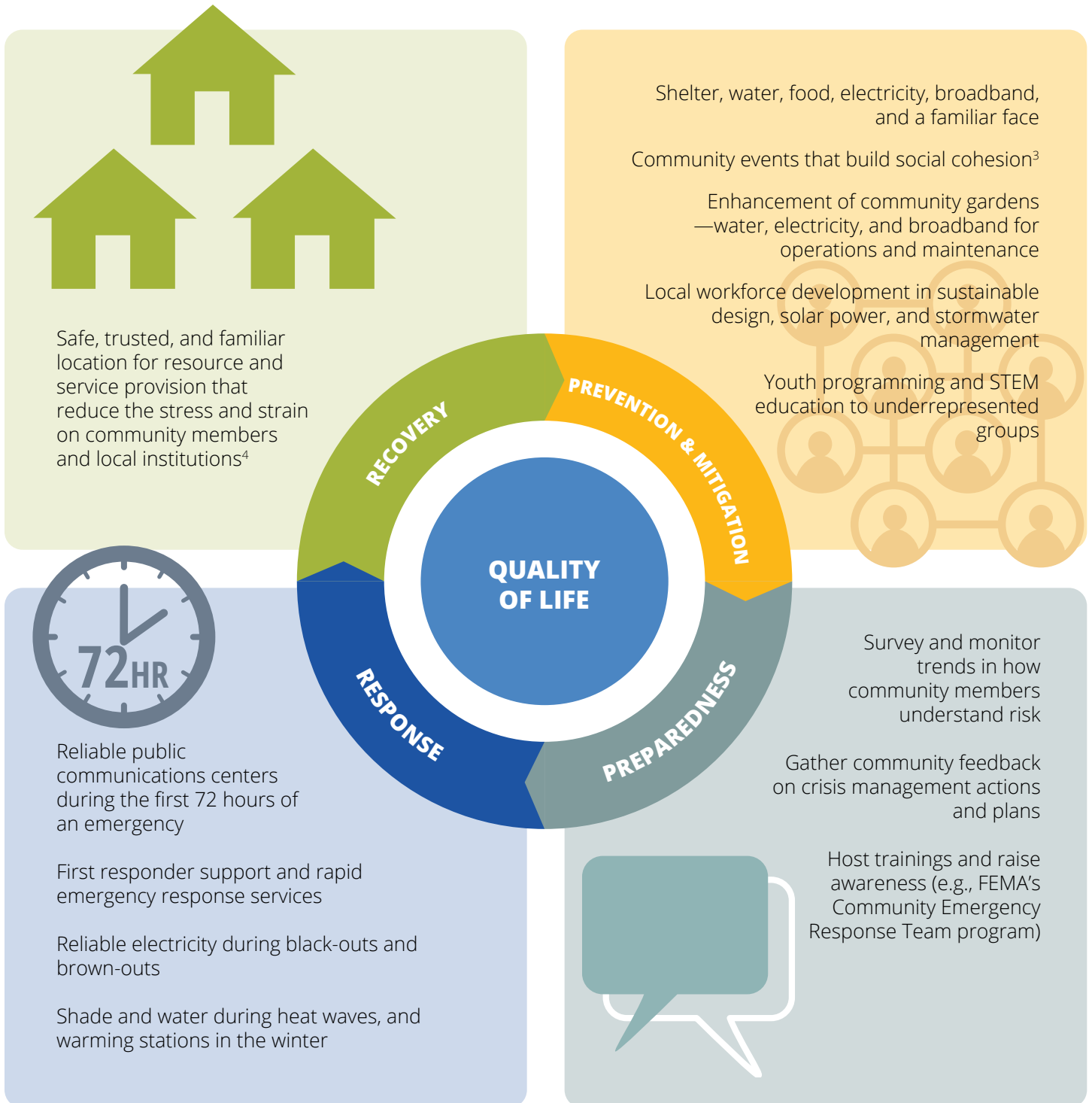
Nos Quedamos is leading an innovative approach to Resiliency Hub planning by enhancing existing community spaces with a low-cost, scalable solution. By providing portable, expandable, and safe areas where residents can gather and organize, they serve a key role in emergency preparedness and response.



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## RESILIENCY HUB RENDERING

# RESILIENCY HUBS PROVIDE RISK PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY BENEFITS



Adapted from Peters et al. (2019). *Financing Common Goods for Health: Core government functions in health emergency and disaster risk management.*



## RESILIENCY HUBS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE NYC PLANS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

South Bronx Resiliency Hubs are an increasingly popular, collaborative approach to promoting disaster preparedness and revitalizing communities. Nos Quedamos' Resiliency Hubs can help NYC invest existing available funding more effectively while also helping advance participatory efforts to design effective disaster preparedness programs. Hubs build social cohesion and local capacity, which promotes both local economic development and disaster preparedness. Future interventions should prioritize collaborative, community-centered initiatives such as Resiliency Hubs alongside efforts to address the main components of risk, including natural hazards and community exposures, vulnerabilities, and capacities.

### CITATIONS

<sup>1</sup>Idris, I. (2018). Cost-effectiveness in humanitarian work: Preparedness, pre-financing and early action (p. 14). Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC). [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c6fd53de5274a0eccf6bfc3/461\\_Cost\\_Effectiveness\\_in\\_Humanitarian\\_Work\\_Preparedness\\_Pre-financing\\_and\\_Early\\_Action.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c6fd53de5274a0eccf6bfc3/461_Cost_Effectiveness_in_Humanitarian_Work_Preparedness_Pre-financing_and_Early_Action.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Baja, K. (2018). Resilience Hubs: Shifting Power to Communities and Increasing Community Capacity (p. 10). Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). [www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/resources/resilience-hubs-shifting-power-to-communities-and-increasing-community-capacity.html](http://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/resources/resilience-hubs-shifting-power-to-communities-and-increasing-community-capacity.html).

<sup>3</sup>Hazards Vulnerability and Resilience Institute. (2023). Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC). University of South Carolina. [www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/artsandsciences/centers\\_and\\_institutes/hvri/data\\_and\\_resources/bric/index.php](http://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/centers_and_institutes/hvri/data_and_resources/bric/index.php)

<sup>4</sup>Berardi, M. K., Hernandez, T., & Brennan, M. (2022). A Community Approach to Disaster Preparedness and Response. Penn State Extension. <https://extension.psu.edu/a-community-approach-to-disaster-preparedness-and-response>

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