



# Implementing a Network of Resilience Hubs for a More Resilient Connecticut

## What are “Resilience Hubs?”

“Resilience hubs” are community-serving facilities that support residents by coordinating and supplementing resource distribution and services before, during, and after natural hazard events (modified from Baja, 2018). Resilience hubs can enhance bottom-up community-led resilience efforts by leveraging combinations of existing facilities with new designated community-trusted spaces. These hubs can therefore take many forms and scales. Functions include supporting local emergency response with flexible back-up power systems; emergency shelter options where appropriate; cooling during extreme heat events; distribution of supplies; and logistical support for connecting community members to information and services before, during, and after a disaster. Hubs can likewise improve community connectivity and deliver year-round support that can foster preparedness and response to climate hazards. This improved preparedness can happen through improved communication with municipal staff and leadership, equitable access to grant programs, direct access to technical assistance, learning opportunities, health services, and workforce training opportunities.

## What are the main features of a Resilience Hub?

### 1. Community Services

Provides education, meals, childcare, job training, and climate-controlled spaces during everyday or “blue sky” operations.



### 2. Emergency Readiness

Ensures access to food, water, backup power, and recovery resources during crises.



### 3. Safe, Accessible, Multi-Use Spaces

Designed for inclusivity, comfort, clean air, energy efficiency, and easy accessibility.



### 4. Adaptable & Community-Driven

Customized to meet local priorities and evolving needs.



## What are the main benefits of a Resilience Hub?

**Strengthened Community Capacity and Social Connections**



**Enhanced Energy Security and Lower Carbon Emissions**



**Improved Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery**



**Strengthened Support for Vulnerable Communities**



*Adapted from Center for Climate & Energy Solutions, 2025*



*Resilience hub image: Urban Sustainability Directors Network*



## What is Resilient Connecticut?

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) initiated the *Resilient Connecticut* project in 2018 working with state agencies, Councils of Governments (COGs), and municipalities. This project originally focused on communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy and was later expanded to cover more regions of Connecticut. Activities included science-based risk assessments, community outreach, and pilot project development for addressing flooding and extreme heat events. Products include map viewers, policy recommendations, academic research, and identification of areas for focusing community resilience. The goal of this work is to help decision-makers prepare for sea level rise and changes in flooding, precipitation, and heat; and to advance planning for more resilient communities relative to housing, transportation, and infrastructure. Refer to <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/> for more information. Fourteen pilot projects have been launched in Danbury, Norwalk, Ansonia, Fairfield, Stratford, Fair Haven, Branford, Portland, East Haddam, Jewett City, Mystic, East Hartford, Piper/Webster Brook, and the Yantic River. Developing community resilience hubs has been identified as a recommended action across several of these projects.

## What is CIRCA?

CIRCA is a multi-disciplinary, center of excellence that brings together experts in the natural sciences, engineering, economics, political science, planning, finance, and law to provide practical solutions to problems arising as a result of a changing climate. The Institute helps vulnerable communities in Connecticut and throughout the Northeast better adapt to changes in climate through assessment and planning to support community infrastructure while protecting valuable ecosystems and the services they offer to human society (food, clean air and water, and energy). CIRCA combines the world-class research capabilities of UConn and the progressive policies and practical regulatory experience of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) to translate sound scientific research to actions that can ensure the resilience and sustainability of both the built and natural environments of the coast and watersheds of Connecticut.

