**Implementation Storytelling Exercise**

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

To help your core team, community groups, and other local government agencies implement actions intended to build equitable resilience.

Participants should feel free to opt out of the activity. It may be emotional, especially for people who have experienced trauma from past disasters or chronic social and environmental problems. To learn more, see Trauma-informed Approach on the Resources tab.

## What you will need

**Who:** core team, invited participants, activity lead (facilitator), recorder

**Where:** in-person or virtual meeting

**How long will it take:** 1-1.5 hours

**Materials:** this handout, writing supplies

## Instructions

1. Before beginning, the facilitator takes time to create a space where people feel comfortable sharing openly and listening attentively. The facilitator gives instructions for completing the activity (see the Facilitator’s Guide for suggested language).
2. Break up into groups of three and distribute the storytelling hand-outs. Each person takes on a role, switching with each turn:

**Storyteller:** Share an experience that addresses one of the prompts.

**Notetaker**: Write down notes on important points of the story.

**Listener:** Listen. After the storyteller is done, ask follow-up questions.

1. Give everyone 5 minutes to prepare their stories using the prompts below.
2. One person shares their story, while the second interviews and the third takes notes. After 10 minutes rotate roles so a new person can share their story. [30 minutes]
3. If there is time, organize participants into new groups of 3 and do a second round with a new story prompt. [30 minutes]
4. The facilitator leads large group discussion. [20 minutes] Discuss the following:
   1. What are the biggest considerations we need to keep in mind for successfully implementing resilience plans?
   2. Share lessons and discuss key themes that were identified during the storytelling exercise. Example themes: financial cost, maintenance, grant requirements, opportunity costs, political will, team dynamics, local opposition.
   3. Identify a list of key considerations to incorporate (or avoid) as part of the implementation planning process.
5. The recorder writes down group discussion results and collects the handouts with notetakers’ notes (if participants agree, see Data Ethics on the Resources tab).

## Storytelling Prompts

Storytelling Prompt 1: Tell a ***5-minute story*** about an experience you have had with a previous planning process (for resilience, equity, or other topic) where actions were successfully implemented. For example, you might tell a story about a time at work or with an organization you belong to.

Listener: After the sharer tells their story, ask a 1-2 follow-up questions, such as:

* What factors made the process particularly successful?
* Did everyone agree it was successful, why or why not?

**Note-taking space**

Optional Storytelling Prompt 2: Tell a ***5-minute story*** about a previous planning process (for resilience, equity, or other topic) where actions were not successfully implemented. If you had a magic wand, what would you have changed about this process?

Listener: After the sharer tells their story, ask a 1-2 follow-up questions, such as:

* What made the implementation unsuccessful?
* What resources would you have needed to improve this implementation?

**Note-taking space**

## What to do next

Return to the ERB tool and use the stories and discussion from this activity to answer Question 1 in the Key Takeaways Form on Strategizing Actions. Then, move onto the next page in ERB: Define Action Areas.