**Equity Storytelling Exercise**

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

To bring equity into the discussion when thinking about resilience actions. This storytelling exercise will aid brainstorming by illustrating the many types of actions that exist and orient the discussion towards implementation. It also will foster an atmosphere of sharing experiences and listening.

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:** community participants, facilitator, recorder

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

**How long will it take:** 30 minutes-1 hour

**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. Then take turns sharing, listening, and taking notes. If you have time, go through a second round of prompts in the same or different groups.
2. **Prompt:** Tell a 5-minute story about the following prompt: Share an experience about how you and/or others helped identify and address an inequity. It could be an experience from this community, from before you came here, or a story about a larger group you worked with.
3. Notetakers, take notes on the storytelling in the space below.
4. Facilitator leads everyone in a large group to discuss the questions below.
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).

**Large Group Discussion Questions**

1. What were the common factors or themes across the stories that came up about integrating equity into implementation?
2. What stood out as an impactful way of advancing equity?
3. What is most difficult about putting any one of these principles in practice?
4. How can the moments your small group discussed inform real-world solutions to encouraging diverse and trusting participation on the core team and in planning workshops?
5. If time: are there other challenges/issues that you can think of that didn’t come up in this activity that you think are important to consider?

## What to do next

Return to the ERB and use the responses to the discussion prompts to answer Question 2 in the Key Takeaways Form on Strategizing. Then, move onto the next activity: Create Vision Statement.