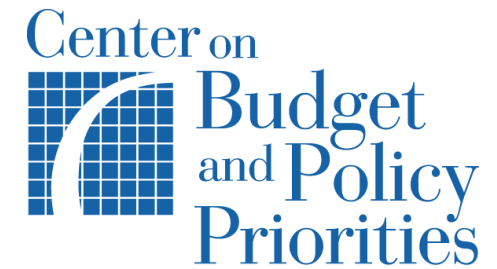


# The Need for Federal Leadership on Climate Change Adaptation

Aligning and coordinating across scales of  
government to increase security and  
prosperity

**Rachel Jacobson**

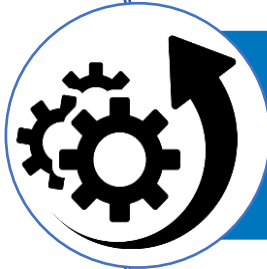
April 4, 2024



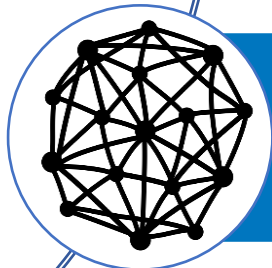
# Building on Previous Themes



Center the people who are impacted the most.



Reform policy at multiple scales simultaneously and in coordination with one another.



Think in systems to avoid harm and maximize benefits for all.

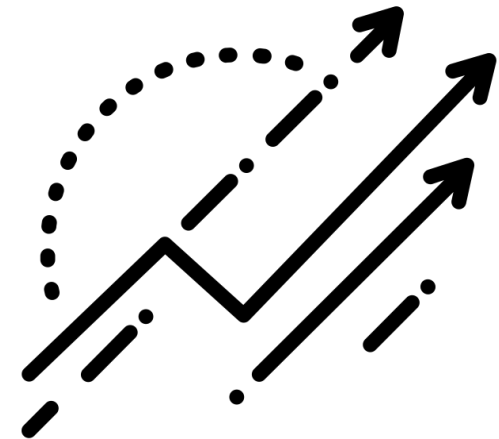
# Progress Update: 2021 vs 2024



**Fund** the actions we know we need



**Reform** existing policies to avoid maladaptation



**Transform:** accept emerging realities and envision our future

# IRA & IJA Fund Critical Adaptation Programs.

## Inflation Reduction Act

- EPA: National greenbank, Environmental and climate justice block grants
- DOT: Neighborhood access and equity grants
- DOE: Incentives to establish building codes
- HUD: resilience upgrades to affordable housing
- NOAA: Funding for coastal resilience, drought, and land conservation
- USDA: Rural electric cooperative loans
- BIA: Tribal and Native Hawaiian adaptation and resilience programs

## Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

- EPA: water, stormwater, wastewater, green infrastructure
- DOT: PROTECT program, active transportation, healthy streets, at-risk coastal infrastructure
- DOE: grid resilience, weatherization, codes, renewables co-benefits
- NOAA: coastal flooding, habitat restoration and community resilience, fire, climate data, NIDIS
- Army Corps: coastal storms, inland flood risk, transportation infrastructure flood mitigation, water infrastructure upgrades
- DOI: western water, community relocation, adaptation, resilience, and relocation for tribes
- FEMA: flood insurance, pre-disaster mitigation

# Getting federal dollars where they're needed requires public investment at all scales + private investment.

## States' roles in the flow of federal climate dollars:

### New Mexico lawmakers approve bill to match federal funds for infrastructure

by: [Curtis Segarra](#)  
Posted: Feb 14, 2024 / 10:29 AM MST  
Updated: Feb 14, 2024 / 10:29 AM MST



Image representing money in Ne

SHARE



SANTA FE, N.M. (KRQE) – Federal programs regularly offer millions in funding for projects around the country, but sometimes those offerings require a local match. Now, lawmakers have approved legislation to help New Mexico communities put up those matching funds.

- Accepting federal funds.
- Getting grants for which they're directly eligible.
- Creating an enabling policy environment for federally funded projects.
- Technical assistance to increase local and tribal capacity.
- Equitable distribution of formula and block grant funding.

# The federal government is making progress on using future climate information & avoiding maladaptation.

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Explore the map | Methodology & data | About | Contact

## Explore the map

Share data sources with CEQ

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Get the data

Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.

How to use the map:

Zoom in +, search, or locate yourself and select to see information about any census tract.

Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They

Justice40 Initiative creates infrastructure to monitor who benefits from federal programs

### Timeline for the Development and Deployment of Updated Authoritative Precipitation Frequency Estimates Nationwide

Historical and future intensity-duration-frequency estimates (IDFs)

1900 1920 1940 1960 1980 2000 2020 2040 2060 2080 2100

trends factors 1-day 2-year

- 2022/2023**
  - Feb. - Aug 2022** - Published methodology and briefed stakeholders.
  - Sept. 2022** - Distributed Public Notification Statement (PNS) and collect public feedback.
  - Jan. 2023** - Hosted technical workshop with federal partners.
  - Apr. 2023** - Award contracts and grants and initiate product development.
- 2024**
  - Development** - Evolve framework. Create Quality Controlled National Precipitation Database. Evaluate Climate Model Projections.
  - Pilot** - Deliver Atlas 15 Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 pilot over Montana.
  - Collect and adjudicate feedback on preliminary estimates and Web dissemination strategies.
- 2025**
  - CONUS** - Distribute preliminary CONUS estimates for Atlas 15 Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 (lower 48 states).
  - Initiate 60-day peer review for Atlas 15 Vol. 1 and Vol. 2.
  - Collect feedback and adjudicate comments on product.
- 2026**
  - CONUS** - Complete Atlas 15 Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 and deliver estimates, documentation and supplementary products to stakeholders.
  - oCONUS** - Initiate peer review for oCONUS (e.g. Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam).
  - Collect feedback and adjudicate comments on product.
- 2027**
  - oCONUS** - Complete Atlas 15 Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 and deliver estimates, documentation and supplementary products to stakeholders.

The **FLOODS Act** signed into law in December 2022 and known as [Public Law No. 117-316](#), authorizes NOAA to establish a program, to be known as the NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States. This program would compile, estimate, analyze, and communicate the frequency of precipitation in the United States and update these precipitation frequency estimates no less than once every 10 years.

For additional information, please contact OWP at [hdsc.questions@noaa.gov](mailto:hdsc.questions@noaa.gov).

IIJA and the Floods Act are enabling precipitation data updates

# Policy reforms are needed at multiple scales to make critical infrastructure climate-secure.

## Reforms and coordination needed for climate-secure energy systems:



A crew works to restore power in Pecan Mott, TX on Feb 17 2021. Photo: Jonathan Cutrer (Flickr).

- Policies, priorities, and practices of utility asset owners
- State utility regulations
- Local land use regulations
- State and federal regulations for siting and permitting
- Climate preparedness and disaster recovery funding

# Progress on transformation?

Moving from awareness to action



Newtok, 2012. Photo: Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

## Voluntary Community-Driven Relocation Program

- Prioritizes most impacted communities
- Funding from IIJA & IRA
- Coordination across BIA, Denali Commission, & FEMA
- Outcome of cross-agency task force on community-based relocation

*“Relocation has been in talks as far as I can remember, and it’s happening before our eyes. Climate change has impacted the people of Newtok. It’s a new beginning for our people.”*

- Calvin Tom, Mertarvik Tribal Administrator.



# Addressing climate change and housing simultaneously requires strong coordination and brings many benefits.

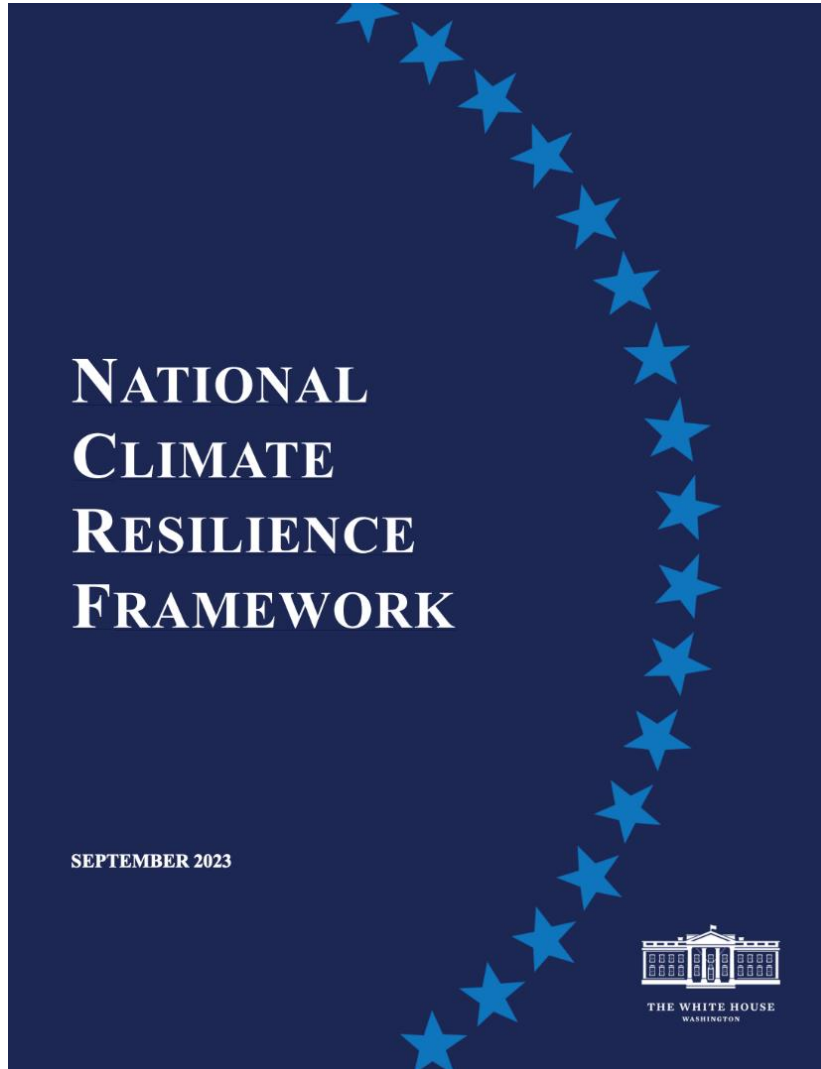
## Federal agencies with roles to play in climate-secure housing:

- HUD
- FEMA
- EPA
- DOE
- NOAA
- HHS



Phoenix homeless encampment during a 2023 heat wave.  
Photo: Mark Henle/The Republic.

# A framework is a helpful start but we need a durable plan.



**Key Strength:** Holistic approach that addresses both acute and chronic impacts and actions needed in all sectors of society

**Key Weakness:** Does not address root causes of disproportionate impacts and inequitable access to resources

# Governance and Leadership Mechanisms to Activate Alignment & Coordination

Mechanism	Existing	Needed
Leadership	Individual champions in specific offices	Federal government-wide Chief Resilience Officer
Priorities	White house resilience framework & agency adaptation plans	Whole-of-government adaptation strategy & implementation plan
Federal coordination	Ad hoc interagency working groups	Durable & intentional interagency working groups
Multi-scale & cross-sector coordination	Ad hoc and issue-specific task forces	Sustained cross-sector leaders council

# Centering community vision brings security and prosperity.



Healthy Ontario vision board that informed the city's Transformative Climate Communities work.  
Photo: City of Ontario, CA.

**Rachel Jacobson**

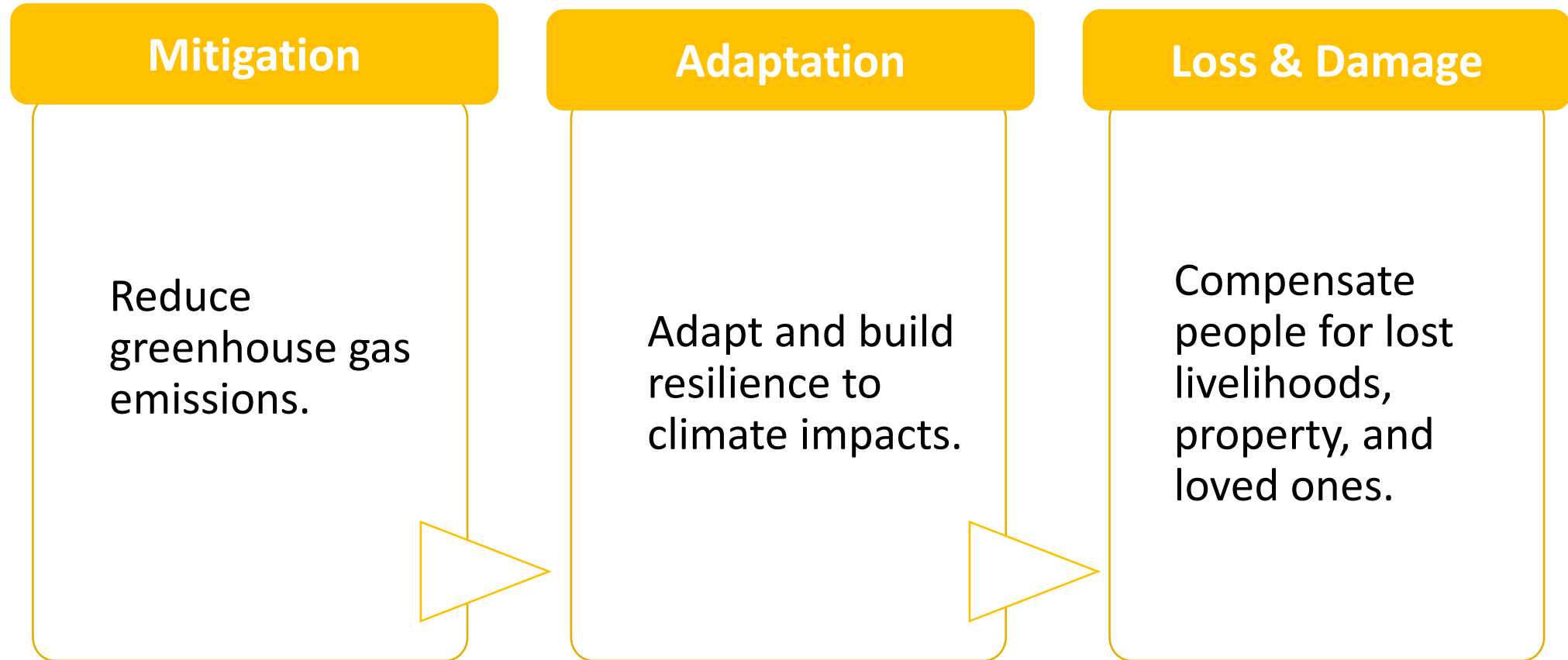
[rjacobson@cbpp.org](mailto:rjacobson@cbpp.org)

[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

202.325.8793



# Three Pillars of Climate Action



# How to Adapt

## Increase Adaptive Capacity

Make sure people have the knowledge, money, and power they need to adapt.



Workers compile a project map prior to the Southwest Adaptation Forum.  
Photo: Melanie Lenart

## Reduce Exposure

Move people and things out of harms way



Mill Creek Park transformed the floodplain in downtown Stamford, CT to green space and buildings are constructed elsewhere.  
Photo: Sahar Coston-Hardy OLIN

## Reduce Sensitivity

Changes things so impacts are less damaging.



Urban tree canopy in Detroit helps protect residents from extreme heat.  
Photo: University of Michigan.