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Disaster Research Center

Create incentives for state & local govs to stop building in floodplains

Create governance for community relocation

Coordinate multiple agencies involved in buyouts

Invest in local & state capacity building

Reform buyout policy – faster & better compensation & track data to evaluate

Support affordable housing
**COASTAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES**

- **Resist**
  - Hard
  - Soft

- **Accommodate**

- **Retreat**

- **Avoid**

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e.g., Doberman et al. 2019; Burby and Nelson, 1991; Deyle et al., 2007; Titus, 1998

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managed retreat* is:

purposeful, planned, (government) supported movement of people or assets that reduces hazard exposure
Managed retreat:

1. Reduces disaster costs (reduces government expenses)
2. Protects families
3. Creates space for healthy coasts
People helped

64,101 NEW repetitive loss properties (2009-2018)

People still at risk
Brutal Choice in Houston: Sell Home at a Loss or Face New Floods

By Audra D. S. Burch

March 30, 2018
Resist:
- seawalls
- levee
- retention ponds
- breakwaters
- beach nourishment
- dune building
- living shorelines
- wetlands
- ...

Accom:
- autonomous retreat
- migration
- community relocations
- buyouts
- life estates
- leasebacks
- smart / targeted growth
- eminent domain
- nudges (setbacks, rolling easements)
- ...

Retreat:

Avoid:
- ...
Need: Government coordination for community relocation  
(Suggest HUD Office for Coordination)

Consider: Changes to Fair Housing Act to support whole-community relocations
Grand Forks ND Buyouts

FEMA-FUNDED PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

Number of bought-out properties, 1989-2017
- 1-10
- 11-100
- 101-2213

Mach et al., Science Advances, 2019

2000s
More, smaller buyouts

Buyouts Funded by:
- HUD
- FEMA
- USACE
- USDA
- State Funds
- Local Funds
1. Provide more funding

2. Provide funding faster – specifically, funding not tied to disasters (creating perverse incentives)

3. Build local & state capacity – and reduce paperwork burdens

4. Coordinate multiple agencies (HUD, FEMA, USDA, USACE)

5. Collect data on demographics

6. Collect data on where people move after to enable program evaluation

7. Increase the Increased Cost of Compliance & allow to be used for buyouts

8. Allow greater flexibility – e.g., support life estates & other types of acquisition

9. Offer “replacement cost” rather than “fair market value” (also more funding for people with limited mobility)

10. Encourage more affordable housing (outside floodplain) to enable relocation
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