



# Trinity-Houston Gardens

## HOUSTON

Community Action Plan

July 2025



**R4C**  
Identify. Understand. Act.

A collaboration between:



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**Published by:**

Resilient Cities Network

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**URL links:**

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July 2025



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## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



## INTRODUCTION



# Welcoming from the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Recovery

Dear Community Partners,

Building a stronger, more resilient Houston starts with empowering communities with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the face of challenges. The Resilient Cities Network, through its Resilience for Communities program, plays a vital role in strengthening Houston's neighborhoods by equipping them with the support necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and extreme weather events. The City of Houston is proud of this important work and remains committed to fostering initiatives that drive meaningful, community-led resilience efforts.

Under the leadership of Mayor John Whitmire, we recognize the value of innovative programs like Resilience for Communities, which is highlighted in this Community Action Plan. This initiative has demonstrated impact in just under three years, helping to advance solutions that address the unique needs of vulnerable communities. By amplifying these efforts, we ensure that resilience strategies benefit and are informed by the communities they serve.

Collaboration is key to creating long-term, sustainable solutions. Non-profit organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders coming together is what allows successful resilience initiatives to scale across Houston. The programs, policies, and insights outlined in this Community Action Plan provide a meaningful direction for those looking to engage in community-driven resilience work, particularly in the Alief community.

We encourage all community partners-whether from the public or private sector-to join us in promoting local efforts that strengthen and empower Houston's neighborhoods. Through neighborhood collaboration, we can build a more resilient city for the challenges ahead.

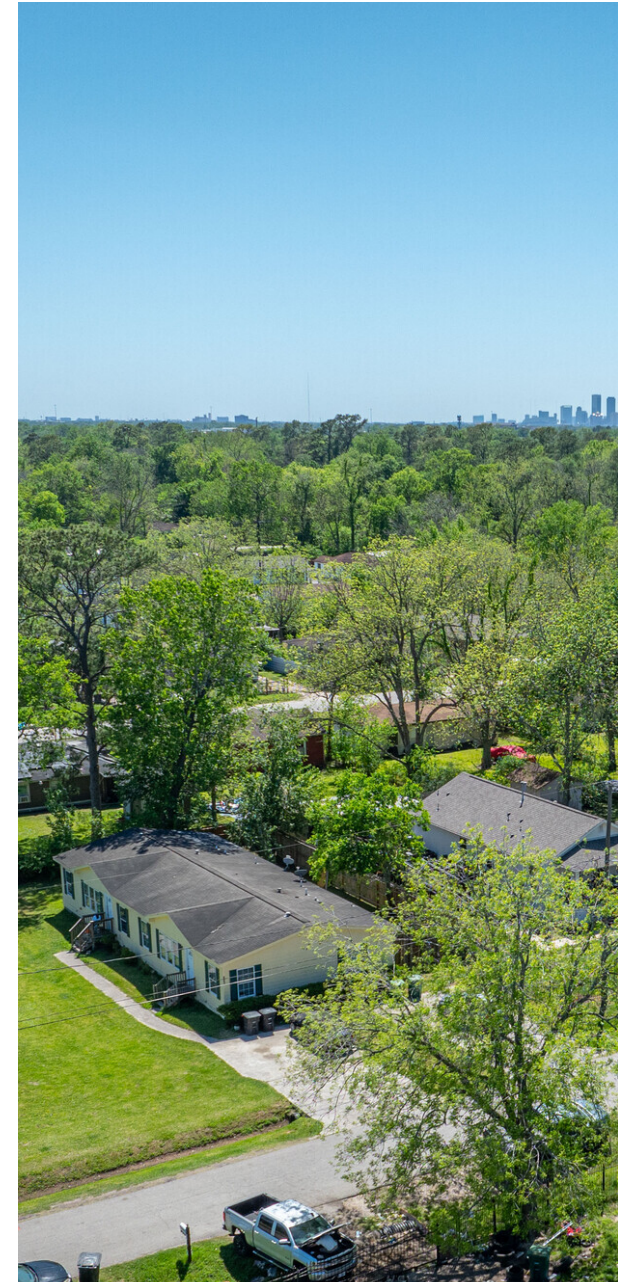
Sincerely,



Angela Blanchard

City of Houston

Chief Recovery and Resilience Officer



## The Resilience for Communities (R4C) Program

The Resilience for Communities (R4C) program was launched in 2021 as a partnership between The Resilient Cities Network, the Z-Zurich Foundation and Zurich Insurance, to help cities better understand the risks and vulnerabilities of communities in the face of extreme heat and flood events. The program is designed to enhance equitable city, community, and stakeholder engagement by prioritizing community participation; building local capacity through the use of innovative tools and processes; and driving investment into solutions that will increase community-level resilience utilizing the R-Cities' Resilient Community Impact Funds (RCIFunds) Platform.

This focus is timely, as extreme heat and flooding events are among the most deadly and costly climate events that cities are facing today. By 2050, the estimated cost of flooding in cities around the world may total over \$1 trillion USD, while extreme heat is projected to cost the United States \$500 billion in economic losses alone. Understanding climate resilience at the community level is critical for cities as they work to respond to these flood and heat risks. Despite its threats, the climate crisis also represents a significant opportunity for cities to redress long-lasting inequities and to work to improve social and economic conditions for communities while enhancing their ability to withstand and recover from climate-related events.

## Partnership with the Z-Zurich Foundation & UCRP Program

In January 2023, the Z-Zurich Foundation launched the Urban Climate Resilience Program (UCRP), a global initiative across cities in 9 countries to build climate resilience at the local level. Along with the Resilient Cities Network R4C program, this initiative encompasses several similar programs being implemented by organizations including Plan International, IFRC, ICLEI and C40 Cities. These partners and implementing cities have contributed to the development and refinement of R4C program implementation, and are helping to build a larger movement towards community level resilient solutions.



FIGURE 1: Map of R4C cities

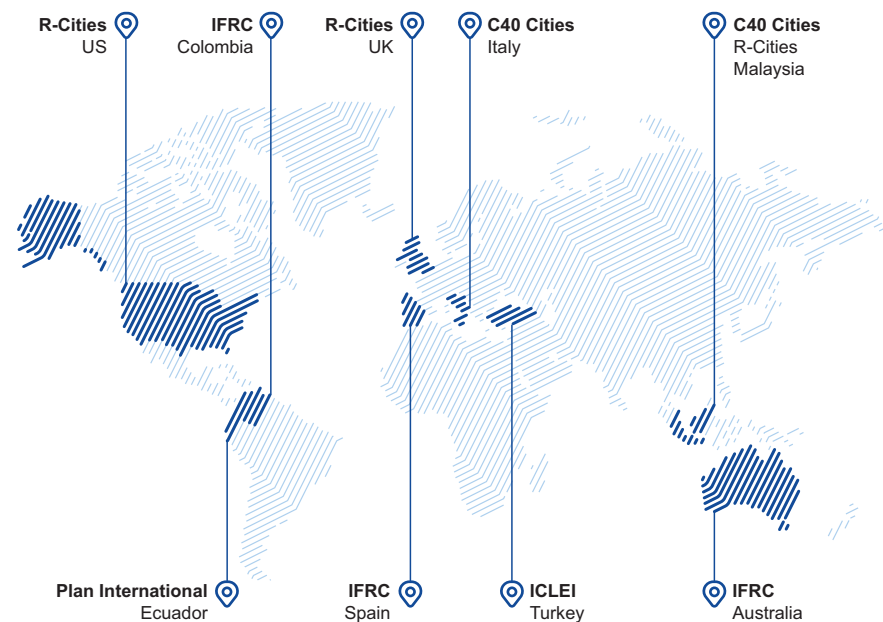


FIGURE 2: Map displaying the five implementing organizations in the UCRP and their respective program cities.



## Resilience for Communities – Trinity-Houston Gardens

Resilience for Communities (R4C) is a multi-year program designed to strengthen neighborhood level climate resilience and help address social inequities in communities where existing stresses combined with growing climate shocks, make them ever more vulnerable to a changing climate.

The program works with a specific community on a multi-level engagement to examine the effects of cascading shocks and stresses (focused on flooding and extreme heat) and provides solutions that incorporate holistic resilience from the early stages of engagement through to implementation. R4C puts equity at the center of the work and ensures community voices are a central part of the solutions.

In the Trinity-Houston Gardens neighborhood of Northeast Houston, the Resilience for Communities (R4C) program has been jointly implemented with the City of Houston's Mayors Office of Recovery and Resilience which focuses on the implementation of Resilient Houston and Houston's Climate Action Plan. An existing conditions analysis and community assessment was done as part of the multi-phased implementation approach of the program, including an in-depth community engagement process and project design in partnership with the City of Houston and local partners.



## R4C Key Objectives

Through the R4C program, R-Cities funds and empowers local implementation partners to support and increase community resilience to floods, heatwaves and other extreme weather events.

The key objectives of R4C are:

- Better understand risks and vulnerabilities and the status of resilience of cities using the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) tool which measures community perceptions of local shocks and stresses;
- Enhance equitable City, community and stakeholder engagement through prioritizing community participation, thus fostering the collaborative development of resilience solutions;
- Build local capacity through innovative tools and processes and technical assistance;
- Drive investment and resources towards community resilience solutions developed with, and by, local stakeholders

## Phases of Implementation

The R4C program follows a three-step process in the identified communities in each city

- PHASE 1**  
**Onboarding and Engagement:** Establishing partnerships with local governments and fostering community involvement.
- PHASE 2**  
**City Diagnostics:** Conducting a comprehensive baseline assessment to identify and analyze the community's specific challenges and opportunities for building community resilience.
- PHASE 3**  
**Project Identification and Preparation:** Selecting local implementation partners and interventions based on the diagnostic findings of resilience assessment and co-design process conducted in earlier stages of the program.

The Community Action Plan represents Phase 3 of the project and beyond, **anticipated impact between September 2024 to July 2025.**



The **Houston Climate Action Plan** demonstrates how the City will adapt and improve its resilience to climate hazards that impact the city today as well as risks that may increase in it the coming years. Developing a Climate Action Plan allowed the City to develop strategies that will not only help minimize the City's carbon footprint but can help save money and improve the quality of life of residents. The project was informed by this action plan.



**Resilient Houston** frames five key thematic Visions for Houston's future and organizes Actions to achieve them at five scales. These thematic Visions include:

- a healthy place to live
- an equitable, inclusive, and affordable city
- a leader in climate adaptation
- a city that grows up, not out
- and a transformative economy that builds forward.

This project is informed by this strategy and interventions follow thematic Visions and associated Actions found in the plan.





# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

# Houston – Trinity-Houston Gardens

## City Context

Houston, the largest city in Texas and the Southern United States, and the fourth most populous in the United States, is notable for its significant geographical expanse, diverse topography, and rapidly growing multi-cultural population. Located in Southeast Texas, it borders the Gulf of Mexico, which plays a crucial role in the city's climate, as well as economic activities. The city spans over 665 square miles and is characterized by flat marshlands and forested areas, crisscrossed by numerous waterways and highways.

The city is also host to the Port of Houston, one of the country's busiest seaports. Today, Houston houses over 2.3 million people and is also the heart and economic center of one of the country's largest metropolitan areas, with the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland MSA counting over 6 million residents. The city has experienced rapid growth over the last few decades, having doubled in size over the last 30 years. This growth has come with rapid and organic urban expansion, which has resulted in industrial, commercial and residential land-uses mixed together throughout the city, creating unique challenges.

## Neighborhood Context

Trinity-Houston Gardens is located in the northeastern part of Houston, Texas. It is bounded by Hirsch Road to the west, Tidwell Road along its northern edge and a large railroad yard along its eastern boundary. The neighborhood is also located just north of Interstate 610, a major thoroughfare that loops around central Houston. Covering approximately 6.8 square miles, the neighborhood is home to over 17,500 residents as of the 2022 America Community Survey (ACS) census.

Developed in the early twentieth century, Trinity-Houston Gardens was officially incorporated into the City of Houston in 1940. Over the years, the neighborhood has maintained a largely residential character, with a variety of housing options from single family homes to apartments. However, the area is also marked by the presence of large-scale transportation infrastructure to the south and southeast, and many large industrial lots that have been built around the railway corridors to the southwest.

### TRINITY-HOUSTON GARDENS

**6.8** SQ MILES

Area

**17,500**

Population

**5,999**

Households

### HOUSTON

**665** SQ MILES

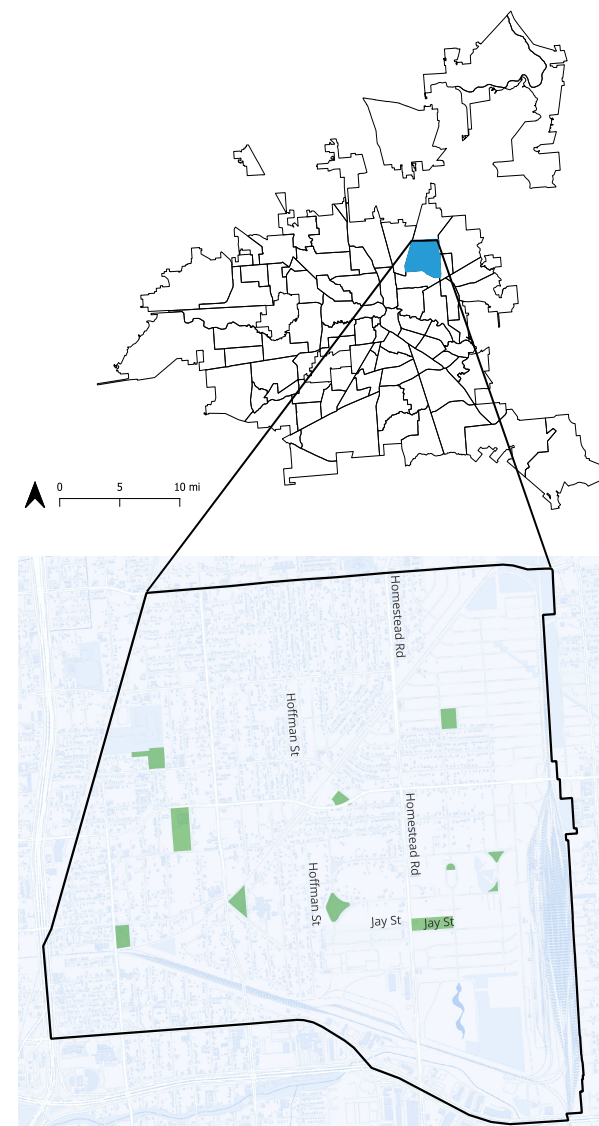
Area

**2,314,000**

Population

**897,510**

Households



**FIGURE 3:** Map of Trinity-Houston Gardens Neighborhood in Northeast Houston.



# About Trinity-Houston Gardens

## Local Demographics

Trinity-Houston Gardens was originally developed as part of a 1933 New Deal program known as the Subsistence Homestead Division. The initiative aimed to provide low-income families with the opportunity to become homeowners by giving them the opportunity to buy plots in the neighborhood over the course of thirty years. To encourage self-sufficiency, each plot included not just a home but also farmland, allowing residents to grow their own food and become more economically independent.

In the decades after it was established, the neighborhood saw a significant increase in its African American population, reflecting broader trends in the city and across the country. This trend continued and by the latter half of the 20th century, Trinity-Gardens had become a majority African American neighborhood, as it remains today. The area was also impacted by Houston's overall urbanization, with industry and infrastructure projects sometimes displacing residents or contributing to environmental challenges.



**FIGURE 4:** Trinity-Houston Gardens is residential in nature. Many lots still have large green spaces that date back to the neighborhood's creation. (Source: Homes.com and Texas Historical Commission)



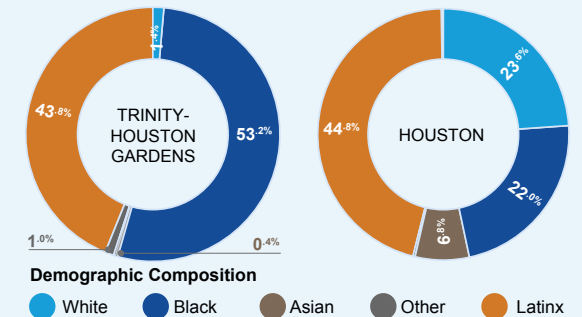
**FIGURE 5:** Stained glass windows at Houston's Trinity United Methodist Church showcasing African American history. The neighborhood is majority African American and one of the centers of African American culture in Houston. (Source: <https://www.instagram.com/txhistcomm/p/DFDTjaUKzlr/>)

### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### 2022 ACS Census

**63.3%** residents identify as African-American **THG**

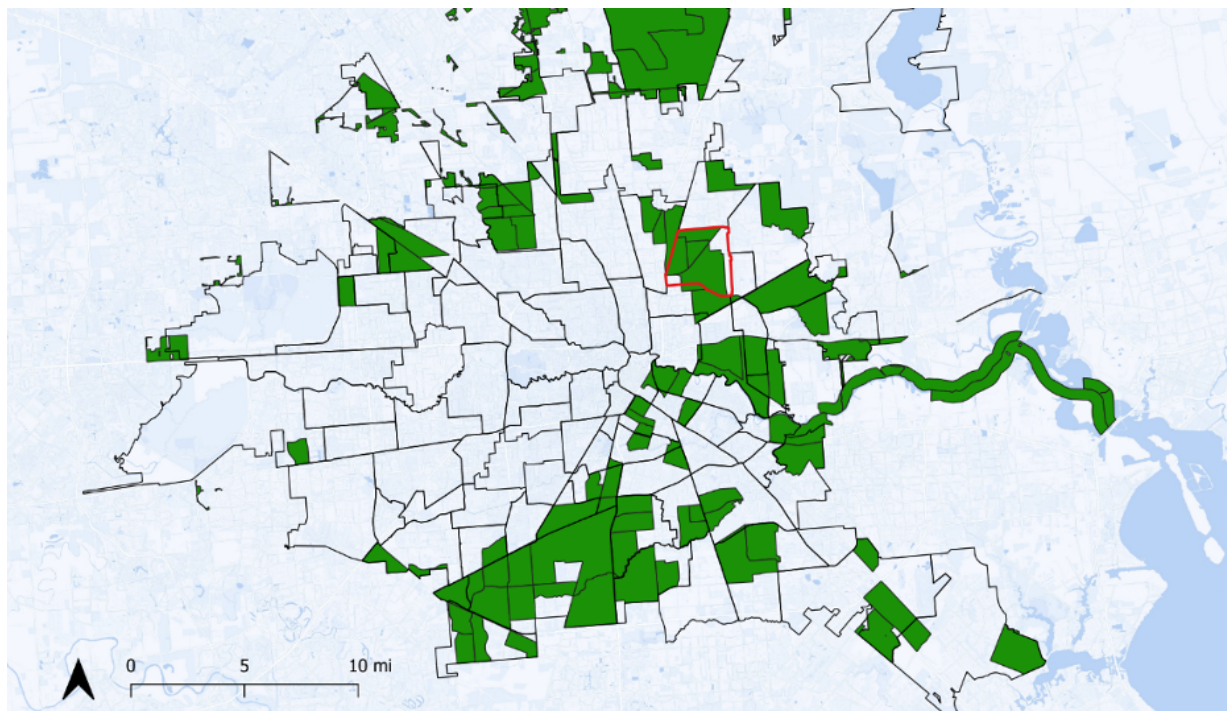
**23%** residents identify as African-American **Houston**



# About Trinity-Houston Gardens

## Economic Pressures

Today, Trinity-Houston Gardens remains largely residential, with an equal mix of renters (46.7%) and homeowners (53.3%). Also reflecting the residential character of the neighborhood, the homeownership rate of 53.3% is significantly higher than the city average of 40%. Despite its original design, many residents continue to face economic struggles, including food insecurity. A significant portion of the community qualifies as “low-income, low-access”, meaning they live far from the nearest supermarket, super center or large grocery store, and may also lack access to reliable transportation, further exacerbating the issue of food insecurity. Despite these challenges, the neighborhood has maintained a strong sense of community, with local churches and organizations working to support residents.



○ Trinity-Houston Gardens ○ Superneighborhoods

**FIGURE 6:** Census tracts in Houston flagged for low income and low food access within a 1-mile distance (Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas).

### ECONOMICS

#### 2022 ACS Census

**53.3%** of Units are Owner-occupied **THG**

**40%** of Units are Owner-occupied **Houston**

### POVERTY

#### 2022 ACS Census

**29.7%** residents living below the poverty level **THG**

**14%** residents living below the poverty level **Houston**

### FOOD INSECURITY

**18.5%** of children are food insecure **US**

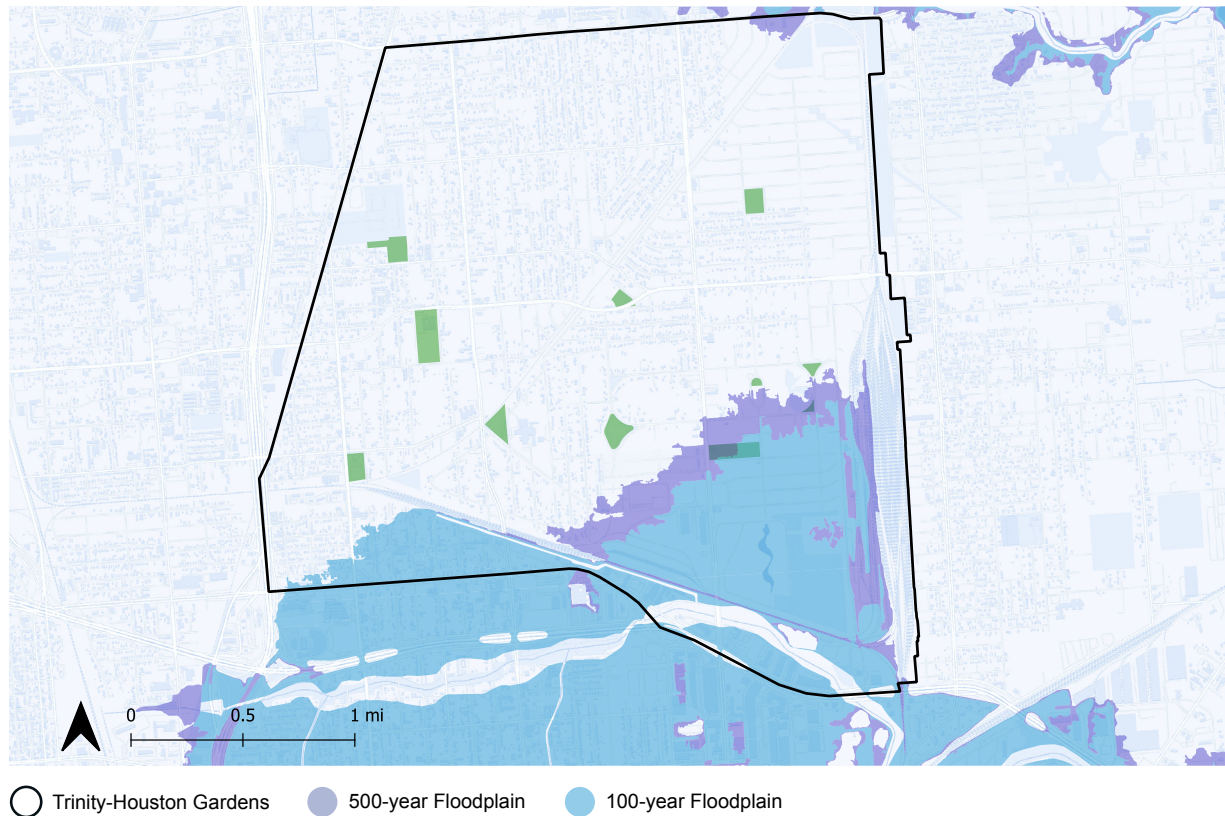
**23.6%** of children are food insecure **Houston**



# Flood Risk

Of the total 5,999 households in Trinity-Houston Gardens, approximately 50% are vulnerable to flooding. Flooding in the area can occur either due to heavy rainfall that overwhelms local infrastructure or from storm surge associated to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, it is estimated that 252 of properties in the area were affected by the storm. Residents in Trinity-Houston Gardens were twice as likely to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance following the storm compared to the general population of Houston. The storm also impacted industrial sites, particularly those located along Hunting Bayou, which forms the southern boundary of Trinity-Houston Gardens.



**FIGURE 7:** Trinity-Houston Gardens overlaid with the FEMA 100- and 500-Year Floodplain  
(Source: FEMA)



**50%**

of properties at risk of flooding

**21.5%**

of neighborhood in FEMA 100-Year Floodplain

## COST BURDENS AND CASCADING ECONOMIC IMPACTS

With household income below the city average, cost increases associated with extreme flooding events - such as insurance, property maintenance, damage repairs, etc. will greater burden Trinity Houston Gardens residents.

## HURRICANES COMPOUND FLOOD RISKS

252 properties in Trinity Houston Gardens were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. With the frequency and duration of hurricanes increasing in the region - flood risks are greater, and future impacts/costs will be compounded.



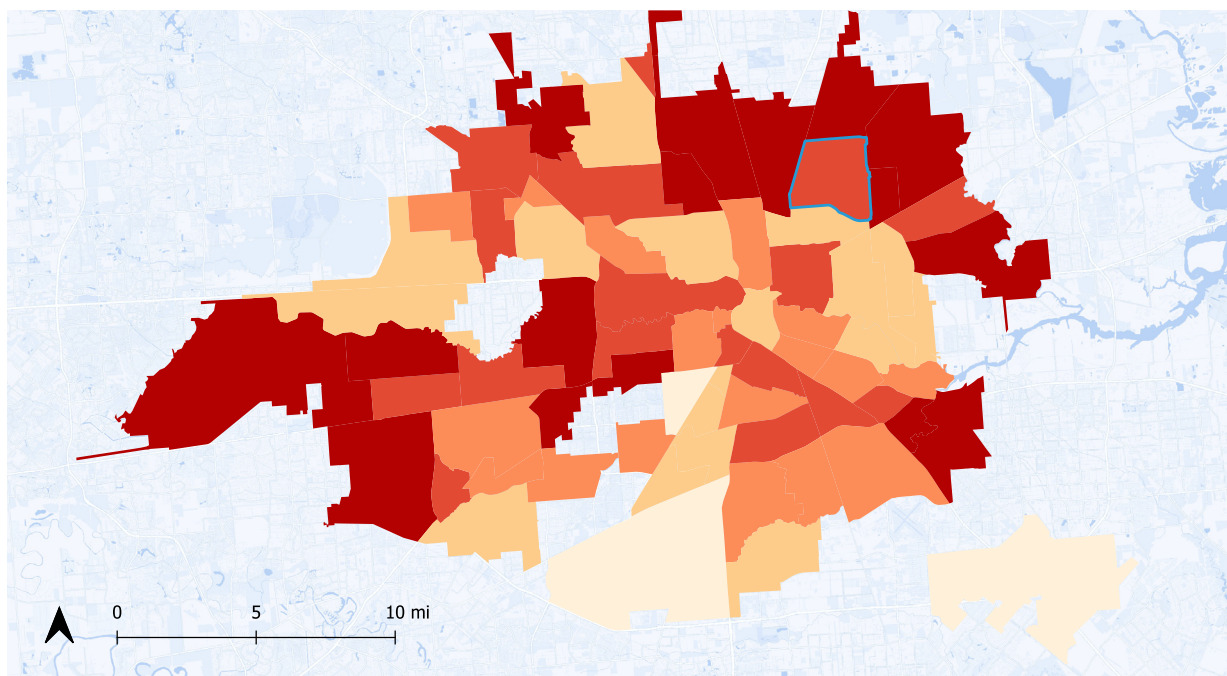
**FIGURE 10:** Residents of the Trinity-Houston Gardens neighborhood work together to gut their flooded homes after the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, showcasing the strength and solidarity of the community in the face of adversity (Source: LA Times)



# Heat Risk

Trinity-Houston Gardens is vulnerable to heat risk, experiencing high temperatures and humidity during the summer months. The neighborhood currently experiences about **7 days above 110°F** which is expected to increase to over 24 days a year by 2055. The neighborhood's combination of residential areas, industrial zones and limited green space, contributes to an observed urban heat island effect, which keeps temperatures in the neighborhood higher than in surrounding areas.

The risks and impacts of extreme heat in Trinity-Houston Gardens are amplified by its socio-economic characteristics. Many of the households in the areas are low-income, and a large portion of residents live in older homes with limited access to air conditioning or modern cooling infrastructure. In addition, the neighborhood's limited green space and urban design mean there are fewer natural cooling elements, such as trees and parks, to help mitigate the effects of heat.



Average Temperature by Superneighborhood

● <103.91 
 ● 103.91 - 104.65 
 ● 104.65 - 104.99 
 ● 104.99 - 105.52 
 ● 105.5 - 107.25 
 ● Trinity Houston Gardens

**FIGURE 11:** Average Temperature by Houston Super Neighborhood (Source: H3AT 2020, Harris County Public Health (HCPH))

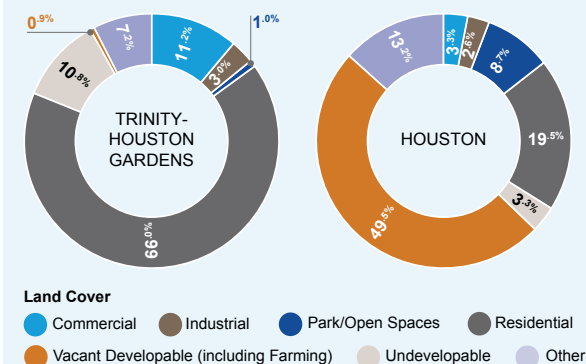
## HEAT RISKS

**98%**

of Homes in Houston face extreme heat risk.

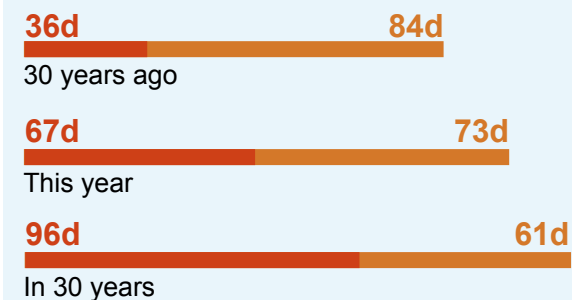
### LAND COVER

#### Houston-Galveston Area Council



### HOT AND DANGEROUS DAYS PER YEAR

Source: First Street



#### Chart key

● Dangerous: >100+°F 
 ● Health caution: 90-100 °F

# CRMC Tool and Public Outreach

From 2021-2023, Trinity-Houston Garden residents were engaged using the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities tool (CRMC) which measures community vulnerability to flood and heat through Household Surveys, Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews.

Survey participants were asked specific questions regarding the impact of both flooding and heat on their lives and livelihoods, including ability to work, property damage and recovery time.

Participants also evaluated their climate hazard related knowledge, including knowledge of areas likely to flood, of evacuation routes in the case of extreme flooding and necessary actions during extreme heat.

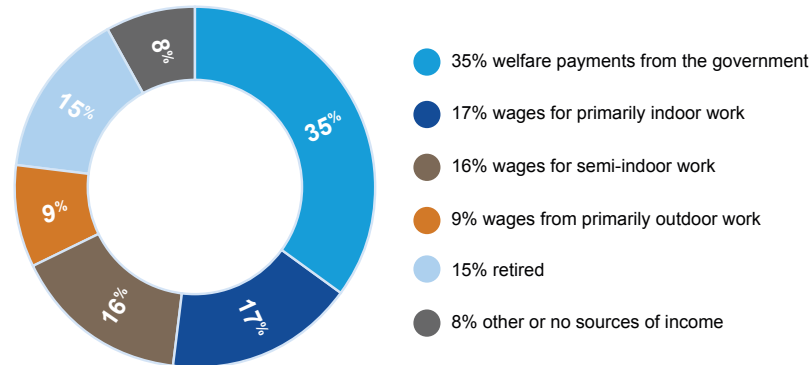
## 75 Participants

**74,7%** female **25,3%** male

**81%**

of respondents earn less than USD 40,000 annually

Respondents' major sources of income

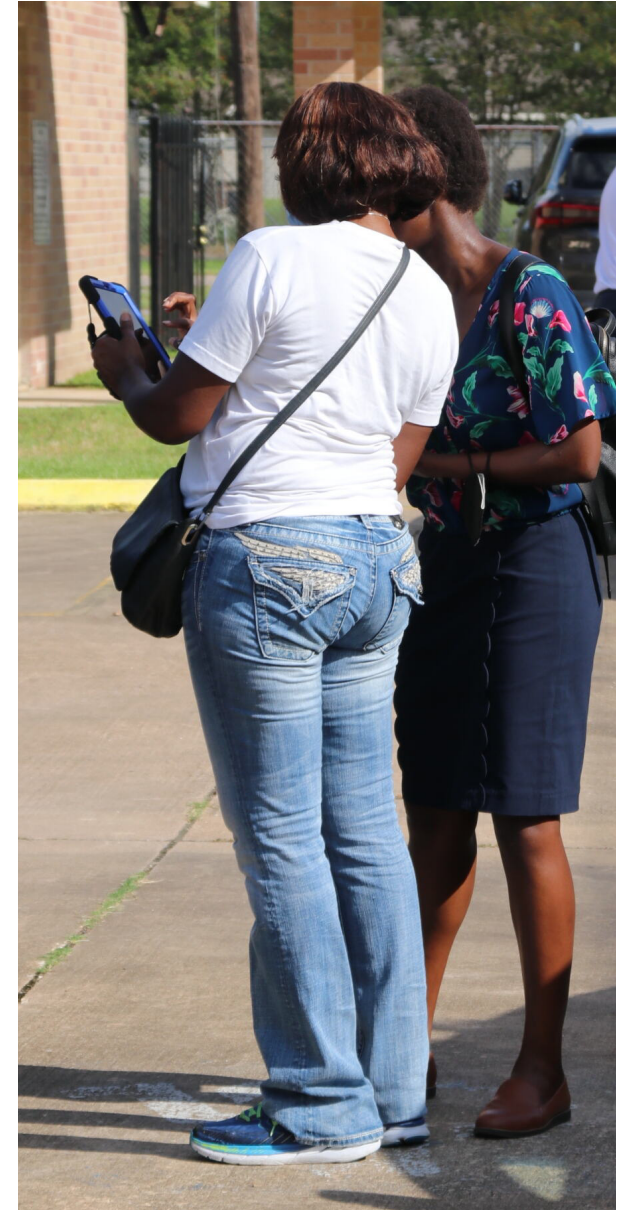


**35%**

of respondents over 65 years old

**47%**

of respondents have a household member born in the community or have a long family history here



**FIGURE 12:** Participant taking the CRMC Survey in Trinity-Houston Gardens.



# CRMC Tool and Public Outreach

The CRMC Study revealed strengths and weaknesses in Trinity-Houston Gardens across the 5 capitals of community resilience: natural, human, social, physical, and financial resilience.



## Human Capital

Refers to the skills, knowledge, health, and education of the community's residents.



### Strengths:

Respondents have high levels of awareness of climate change and its impacts on their neighborhood as well as potential solutions.



### Weaknesses:

Respondents did not connect individual health conditions with heat risk and vulnerability and also indicated a lack of access to nutrition and healthy foods.



## Natural Capital

Refers to the natural environment and resources available to the community for over-all wellbeing, as well as to buffer against extreme weather events.



### Strengths:

Respondents are aware of the importance of natural elements in mitigating extreme heat and flood events.



### Weaknesses:

Currently, the neighborhood has limited mitigating natural elements including proactive land use, permeable coverage of nature-based solutions.



## Social Capital

Refers to the networks of relationships, trust, and cooperation within a community.



### Strengths:

According to respondents, Trinity-Houston Gardens is a tight-knit community in which residents help one another during and after hazard events.



### Weaknesses:

There are limited methods for inclusive planning, and many respondents indicated feeling that the community has been historically neglected by the local government, generating distrust.



## Physical Capital

Refers to the physical infrastructure of the community, including housing, transportation systems, communication networks, and public buildings.



### Strengths:

Respondent access to communication infrastructure is robust, including to early warning systems in the case of hazard events.



### Weaknesses:

There are limited healthcare establishments and no clinics in the community. Public transportation service is limited in the community and during the most recent flood, roadways were inundated and many people were unable to leave their homes.



## Financial Capital

Refers to the financial resources available to the community, both public and private.



### Strengths:

Respondents are aware of programs related to disaster response and obtained funding for post-Hurricane Harvey reconstruction at twice the city average.



### Weaknesses:

Respondents have limited financial means, and 35% of respondents are dependent on welfare payments. Both flood and heat events exacerbate precarious financial conditions, and small businesses have historically had to stop operating, leading to financial repercussions for residents.



## Key Findings:



### FLOOD

66%

FLOODING INSURANCE

of Respondents do not have flood insurance

45%

FLOOD RECOVERY

of Respondents reported that it took their households more than a year to recover financially from the worst flood event in the last 10 years



### HEAT

28%

EXTREME HEAT IMPACTS

of respondents reported that their work or income would be disrupted during a heatwave

### EMERGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPLIES

Most of the community do not live in units with central AC or heat and must rely on fans or window units during periods of extreme heat.

### HAZARD AWARENESS

Respondents indicated high rates of awareness of local vulnerability to both flood events and heat including areas likely to flood. 81% of respondents indicated that they would know how to evacuate in the case of a flood.



# What's Important to Trinity-Houston Gardens?

## Prioritized Resilience Indicators



### HEAT RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENT

According to respondents there are limited funding opportunities for heat-risk mitigation and when they are offered, they take a long time to be available to community members.



### COMMUNITY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

There is a lack of trained and designated community response personnel to provide immediate assistance and support to Trinity-Houston Gardens residents during and after disaster events.



### FOOD ACCESSIBILITY

Access to healthy food is limited due to the absence of food distributors, including grocery stores, supermarkets or farmer's markets, resulting in limited options at which residents can obtain nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

# What's Important to Trinity-Houston Gardens?

## Community Design Sprints

Residents were invited to produce actions and desired outcomes that could enhance overall community resilience in Trinity-Houston Gardens and specifically respond to the indicators they prioritized. The results are a wide range of potential program and project ideas which were used to influence and refine the projects chosen for implementation:

**Increased Food Options, including Mobile Grocery and Vegetable Trucks**



**Nutrition Education for All Ages**

**Creation of Training Facility for Response Personnel**

**Programs to Lessen Isolation Across the Community**

• **Programs to Assist with Financial Recovery from Storm Events**



**Waste Reduction Campaigns**

**Government Funding for Community Preparedness**





Source: Houston Public Media

## LOCAL PROJECT PROFILE

# Deeper Roots for Proven Programs: Target Hunger in Trinity-Houston Gardens

Through extensive community engagement during the first phases of the R4C program, food insecurity was identified as a chronic stress in Trinity-Houston Gardens, which creates cascading challenges in the face of extreme climate events like heat and flood. This project aims to holistically support resilience building in the community through funding the expansion of food pantry location days by four (4) per month, which includes the expansion of Navigation Services, a wrap-around social support service focusing on providing additional resources to the most vulnerable in the community. Additional funds are being set aside for capital projects as part of a current campaign to retrofit and expand the current facility to be more resilient and sustainable and to transition portion of the new space to a resiliency hub. This will harden a piece of local community infrastructure in the face of extreme weather events. Through the continuous development of long-term disaster recovery programs and bolstering community relationships and resources, this project addresses the acute and long-term challenges faced by the Trinity-Houston Gardens community as it relates to food insecurity and associated challenges.



**FIGURE 13:** Food Distribution at the Target Hunger Food Pantry (Source: Target Hunger)

## Anticipated Impact

**3000** community residents

served with the expansion of the food pantry service in Trinity-Houston Gardens.

**408** residents

were directly impacted by the expansion of the navigation services, utilizing wrap-around support to navigate available social services.

**17,000** residents in THG

will have access to emergency temporary shelters, cooling and/or heating stations, a reliable food storage location, resiliency hub and related piece of community infrastructure in instances of hurricanes, extreme heatwaves, freezes or power outages

## Project Components



Deeper Roots Food Pantry Expansion



Deeper Roots Navigation Services Expansion



Expanding Hunger Relief & Community Support



# Local Partner Profile

## Timeline of Project Deliverables

Deeper Roots for Proven Programs by Target Hunger is designed to strengthen food security and community resilience by expanding food pantry access, enhancing wrap-around support services and investing in critical infrastructure improvements. The initiative will increase food pantry availability by four days per month and incorporate bilingual Navigation Services to connect vulnerable families with essential resources.



### DEEPER ROOTS FOOD PANTRY EXPANSION

Increase of food pantry operation days by four (4) per month, which includes the Navigation services, a wrap-around social support service focusing on providing additional resources to the most vulnerable in the community.



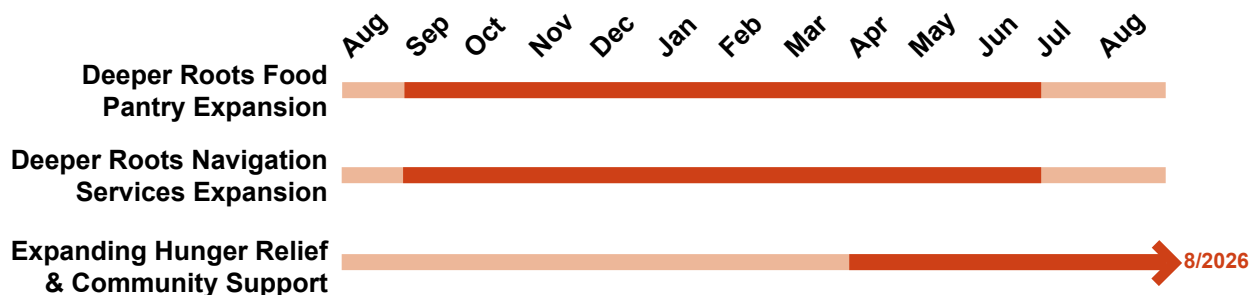
### DEEPER ROOTS NAVIGATION SERVICES EXPANSION

Food pantry and navigation services expansion to St. Peter Claver Church pantry will allow families to grocery shop at no cost. These locations will provide access to Target Hunger's bilingual navigators to be connected to other critical social services and support families experiencing food insecurity.



### EXPANDING HUNGER RELIEF & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Additional funds are being set aside for capital projects as part of a current campaign to retrofit and expand the current facility to be more resilient and sustainable. Through the continuous development of long-term disaster recovery programs and bolstering community relationships and resources, this project addresses the acute and long-term challenges faced by the Trinity-Houston Gardens community as it relates to food insecurity and associated challenges



## About Target Hunger

Target Hunger is an innovative non-profit organization fighting the root causes of food insecurity in the TEast & Northeast Houston. Target Hunger programming includes a food distribution system with multiple food pantries, educational food fairs, an extensive home delivery program, summer break food programs for children, mobile distribution sites, a growing community partner program, emergency food assistance and two community gardens. Current organizational plans include a strategic capital project to "harden" their existing facility to better withstand the impacts of extreme weather events. The previous organizational HQ was badly damaged during Hurricane Harvey.

### Website:

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

### Status:

501 (c)(3) US-Based

### Non-profit Year Incorporated:

1989

### Board of Directors, Executive Committee:

Nina Hunt, Alan Henson, Ronnie Shields, Ryane Jackson, Joel N. Ephross

### Executive Director:

Sandra Wicoff

# Community Impact

The Resilience for Communities Program (R4C) follows a three-step process of outreach, assessment, and action, all designed to elevate residents and stakeholders, drive community impact, and build upon ongoing local successes.

The challenge of food insecurity is a chronic stress in the community of Trinity-Houston Gardens, exacerbating challenges during extreme climate events. Within just a few months of implementation (September-December 2024), Target Hunger has served an additional 250 individuals in the community of Trinity-Houston Gardens through the expansion of the food pantry. Further, an additional 34 individuals have also utilized navigation services across multiple locations in Trinity-Houston Gardens, equating to a 2.9% increase in the service provision. Building community resilience through food security, along with tackling hunger at its root – poverty, the project aims at improving the financial, social and human capital of community residents. These initial community projects are helping to build a foundation for further resilience action and investments, all while amplifying and centering the existing coalition of community resilience partners and ongoing initiatives.

## Co-Benefits

Co-benefits refer to the additional beneficial impacts that a resilient project can deliver to the community and/or greater system beyond its basic functions. Addressing resilience challenges in an integrated and holistic way will help the initiative, project, surrounding community and greater system realize multiple benefits across sectors and stakeholders

This project includes interventions that address the acute stress of food insecurity and leverages the holistic programming of Target Hunger that provides resources and support to the most vulnerable members of the community. Through increased capacity to provide emergency relief and preparedness resources and knowledge, the community is building a network of resilience resources that strengthen its ability to respond and thrive in the face of a changing climate.

- Improved public health
- Increased community cohesion
- Improved access to basic services
- Community awareness





## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

# Community Action Plan

## Introduction

The Trinity - Houston Gardens Community Action Plan outlines a host of specific projects, initiatives, and strategies identified and developed with local partners during the R4C engagement and co-design process. Informed by public outreach, data-driven analysis and the alignment of city strategies with identified community needs, the projects presented in the Trinity-Houston Gardens Community Action Plan are real-time community resilience projects developed with, and by, key stakeholders actively tackling resilience challenges in the neighborhood.

## How to Use This Section

Use this section to learn more about active projects and initiatives in the Trinity-Houston Gardens community, including projects partners behind this important work and different ways you or your organization can get involved. The Trinity-Houston Gardens Community Action Plan is the culmination of extensive public outreach and community engagement and is where interested partners and funders can get involved in implementing projects contributing to a holistic neighborhood response to resilience challenges. Projects presented in the Trinity – Houston Gardens Community Action Plan have been developed by project partners engaged during the R4C assessment and co-design process

## Guiding Principles of the R4C Trinity Houston Gardens Community Action Plan:

### 1 Community Generated Projects and Programs

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### 2 Data Driven and Responsive to Local Needs

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### 3 A Living Document to be used by community stakeholders, neighborhoods groups, funders and others, to pool resources understand needs and implement community level projects

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The projects included in this Community Action Plan address heat and flooding risks and provide tangible co-benefits to **17000+** residents of Trinity-Houston Gardens.





# Deeper Roots Food Pantry Expansion

Many food pantries in and around Trinity Houston Gardens operate with limited hours, making regular food access in these locations difficult for working families. For food pantries to be truly effective, they must be conveniently located, well-stocked with familiar and nutritious options, staffed by trusted individuals with relevant experience and widely known in the community. The Target Hunger Food Pantry Expansion project aims to expand access to healthy food in response to the community's needs.

Target Hunger is introducing bi-monthly Mobile Food Pantry or Pop-up Markets at familiar community locations in partnership with the Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council. Outreach efforts will ensure that residents are well-informed about when and where to access these fresh food distributions. Additionally, we will encourage attendees to enroll in nearby Target Hunger programs for ongoing support. To accommodate increased demand, Target Hunger is extending operating hours at the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church pantry, where clients can choose their own food rather than receiving pre-boxed items, offering a more dignified approach to food assistance.

## IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Prepare logistics, including securing food supplies, coordinating staff and volunteers, and ensuring the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church pantry is ready for extended hours and client-choice distribution.
- ✓ Launch and continue outreach to inform residents about the expanded food distribution hours, events and associated services.

### PROJECT LEAD:

Target Hunger

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council

### MITIGATION



#### FLOOD RISK



#### HEAT RISK

Residents can better withstand extreme weather events by ensuring consistent access to food during times of crisis.

### FINANCING SCALE



### TIMEFRAME

Quick Win



### CAPITAL



Human



Social



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.targethunger.org/need-food>



# Deeper Roots Navigation Services Expansion

As a part of their Navigation Services, Target Hunger has a dedicated team of bilingual, state-certified Community Health Workers who conduct household assessments and provide essential referrals to support families in need. The organization has established partnerships with approximately 70 healthcare, education, workforce development and social organizations, ensuring a comprehensive network of resources to assist the community. Staff members, many from the same neighborhoods they serve, build trust and provide critical support, from enrolling families in healthcare programs to helping them achieve financial stability. By forging strong partnerships and offering personalized assistance, Target Hunger empowers individuals to break the cycle of food insecurity and improve their overall well-being.

## IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Implement four additional food pantry location days per month, ensuring integration with Navigation Services for comprehensive report.
- ✓ Inform residents about expanded services through targeted outreach efforts.

## PROJECT LEAD:

Target Hunger

## MITIGATION



### FLOOD RISK



### HEAT RISK

Residents will have increased access to support needed to recover from climate-related disruptions to food access or income generation.

## FINANCING SCALE



## TIMEFRAME

Quick Win



## CAPITAL



Financial



Human



Social



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
<https://www.targethunger.org/programs/navigation-services/>

# Expanding Hunger Relief & Community Support

Target Hunger has launched the Rooting for the Future Capital Campaign, a \$9.7 million initiative to establish the Target Hunger Campus and Education Center. A key focus is enhancing the facility's resiliency and fortifying its infrastructure through upgrades such as a new roof, improved parking lot, upgraded fire alarm, and enhanced fencing, which complement existing features like the power generator, water cistern and on-site freezer/refrigeration. Additionally, there are numerous other upgrades underway that will further strengthen the facility's capacity to serve the community during emergencies.

This project aims to strengthen community and climate resilience by ensuring reliable backup power for food storage and distribution, minimizing food waste during outages, and enhancing emergency preparedness. The Education Center will serve as a community "Resiliency Hub," providing a safe space for the community to access resources and shelter during extreme weather events, such as a warming or cooling facility.

With the upgrades made to the facility, Target Hunger can expand and continue delivering essential services such as food assistance, education, job training and social services for low-income residents. With groundbreaking set for Spring 2025, the new campus is expected to open in early 2026.

## IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Continue fundraising efforts to meet the campaign goals and ensure financial support for the project's completion.
- ✓ Secure all required permits and approvals for the building expansion and improvements.
- ✓ Select and onboard the necessary vendors, suppliers, and construction managers, finalizing agreements.
- ✓ Break ground and begin facility construction in Spring-Summer 2025.

### PROJECT LEAD:

Target Hunger

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation

### MITIGATION



#### FLOOD RISK

by enhancing the facility's resilience infrastructure



#### HEAT RISK

reduction by providing cooling shelters to community residents in extreme heat instances

### FINANCING SCALE



### TIMEFRAME

Mid-term



### CAPITAL



Physical



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.targethunger.org/capital>



## Food Rescue Pop-up Events

Second Servings is a perishable food rescue organization that works to reduce food waste and combat hunger by redistributing surplus prepared and perishable food. The organization collects excess food from businesses such as banquet venues, hotels, and other food providers, then delivers it at no cost to local nonprofits, including shelters, soup kitchens, and other community organizations. By bridging the gap between food abundance and need, Second Servings helps to ensure that high-quality, nutritious food reaches those experiencing food insecurity rather than going to waste.

In partnership with Target Hunger, Second Servings hosts a monthly food rescue pop-up event at the St. Peter Claver Auditorium, where rescued food is redistributed to individuals in need. This initiative helps to reduce food waste while providing essential nutrition to the community. By ensuring greater food access, the program strengthens community resilience in Trinity Houston Gardens, supporting residents facing food insecurity and fostering a more sustainable local food system.

### IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Engage additional food donors to expand available food supply.
- ✓ Fundraise to sustain and scale operations.
- ✓ Survey recipients on impact and improvement avenues.



FIGURE 14: Food Distribution Conducted by Second Servings (source: [Second Servings](https://secondservingshouston.org/))

### PROJECT LEAD:

Second Servings

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Target Hunger

### MITIGATION



FLOOD RISK



HEAT RISK

Residents can withstand any disruptions to food access.

### FINANCING SCALE



### TIMEFRAME

Quick Win



### CAPITAL



Social



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://secondservingshouston.org/>

# Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center Resilience Hub

The Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center has been designated as Houston's first official resilience hub, providing critical support and emergency services to the community. The resilience hub, also known as a "lily pad", serves as a central resource during disasters, with expert planners on-site to assist residents. In addition to emergency preparedness, the designation brings additional funding to expand community programs already housed at the center, strengthening local support systems.

The Multi-Service Center offers a wide range of services, including the Boys & Girls Club After-School Program, the Baker Ripley Senior Health & Wellness Center and a Community Re-Entry Program that provides life skills and job training for ex-offenders. GED classes, a Target Hunger Food Pantry and support groups such as Cocaine Anonymous further contribute to the center's role as a vital community hub. With many residents facing transportation challenges, having a trusted, accessible facility within Kashmere Gardens ensures that essential resources are available close to home. The Kashmere Gardens resilience hub is the first of several planned for Houston, with future hubs expected in Alief, Sunnyside and Acres Homes.

## IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Outreach on the resilience hub and its services.
- ✓ Prepare the center's physical space for resilience hub operations.
- ✓ Resiliency hub launch.

### PROJECT LEAD:

City of Houston Office of Emergency Management

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Target Hunger, Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC)

### MITIGATION



#### HEAT RISK

reduction by serving as a cooling station during heatwaves



#### FLOOD RISK

by offering shelter, resources and emergency support to those displaced by flooding

### FINANCING SCALE



### TIMEFRAME

Long Term



### CAPITAL



Physical



Human



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://greenhoustontx.gov/resilience-hubs/>



# Trinity-Houston Gardens - Toward a Resilient Future

The projects and partnerships presented in the Trinity-Houston Gardens Community Action Plan outline a specific suite of interventions that will help build a more resilient community ready to respond to the impacts of heat, flood and other acute shocks.

By identifying and implementing these projects as a portfolio of community interventions, the essential conditions of holistic community resilience can begin to take root and set the course for coordinated and bottom-up neighborhood action of years to come.



## Human Capital

**Resilient Families Through Food Security** – With access to an improved food pantry and food pop-ups, families will have increased access to healthy foods. During emergency times the resilience hub will provide serve as a cooling center, in addition to jobs training, health services and after school programs during non-emergency times.

- Deeper Roots Food Pantry Expansion
- Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center Resilience Hub
- Food Rescue Pop- Events



## Natural Capital

**Enhancing local food systems** – By maintaining local green spaces and community gardens, Trinity Houston Gardens is enhancing its natural capital and promoting the more sustainable and productive use of natural resources.

- Rooting for the Future: Expanding Hunger Relief & Community Support



## Physical Capital

**Enhancing Infrastructure to Provide Hunger and Disaster Relief** – Physical improvements to local facilities serving as emergency hubs will ensure THG residents have safe refuge during extreme weather events, and that these establishments can also provide robust community services during non-disaster periods.

- Rooting for the Future: Expanding Hunger Relief & Community Support
- Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center Resilience Hub



## Financial Capital

**Strengthening Financial Stability Through Social Service** — By providing residents with improved access to social services, partners help break cycles of poverty. By connecting individuals to resources, they empower them to free up funds for necessities like food, build emergency savings and secure stable housing.

- Deeper Roots Navigation Services Expansion








## Social Capital

**Strengthening Community Through Social Services** – By helping residents access critical social services, partners can ensure that vulnerable families can navigate benefits and other services they may qualify for. Expanding bilingual navigation services at food pantries facilitates better community engagement and helps families connect to each other and to other resources. These programs and other volunteer-run networks help reinforce social cohesion and expand networks of mutual aid.

- Deeper Roots Navigation Services Expansion
- Food Rescue Pop- Events

# Implementation Guide

Projects in the Trinity-Houston Gardens Community Action Plan are listed below along with corresponding sections for funding/financing and an estimated timeline of implementation. Additional sections identify key project partners, next steps, and calls to action. These projects are part of a living plan of project implementation to prioritize resilient community solutions as funding, partnerships, and other opportunities become available.

PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	FINANCING (\$ TO \$\$\$\$\$)	QUICK WINS (<1 YEAR)	MID TERM (1-3 YEARS)	LONG TERM (3+ YEARS)
<b>Deeper Roots Food Pantry Expansion</b>	Target Hunger	Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council	\$\$			
<b>Deeper Roots Navigation Services Expansion</b>	Target Hunger	TBD	\$\$			
<b>Rooting for the Future: Expanding Hunger Relief &amp; Community Support</b>	Target Hunger	J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation	\$\$\$\$\$			
<b>Food Rescue Pop-up Events</b>	Second Servings	Target Hunger	\$			
<b>Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center Resilience Hub</b>	City of Houston Office of Emergency Management	Target Hunger, Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC)	\$\$\$\$\$			



# Project Funding

Initial seed funding for the R4C program has identified, prioritized and implemented a series of catalytic community resilience projects utilizing the Resilience for Communities Impact Funds (RCI Funds). Additional opportunities also exist to get involved with project funding and leverage already committed resources to drive impact. Listed below are different ways funders can get involved at a variety of scales – all with an overarching goal, to finance and implement community identified, prioritized, and owned resilience projects and solutions.

## Option A

Contribute to projects through the RCIFunds investment vehicle to allow for pooled resources from small, medium and large dollar funders. Funding includes individual giving, corporate giving, state/local/federal grants, etc.

### SMALL

- ☐ Individual Giving
- ☐ Corporate

### MEDIUM

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Foundations
- ☐ Corporate

### LARGE

- ☐ State/Fed government
- ☐ Foundations
- ☐ Corporate

RCIFunds

## Option B

Direct to project funding facilitated by RCN and partners. Includes technical assistance, corporate giving, individual giving, the Benevity platform, state/local/federal grants, etc.

Community Projects  
and Partners

# Additional Support



## Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities exist with certain community partners and projects to support via volunteering and donation of in-kind services. Check with individual projects to identify who is currently seeking volunteers. The icon to the left of this box signifies projects seeking volunteers to help drive impact.



## In-Kind Donations

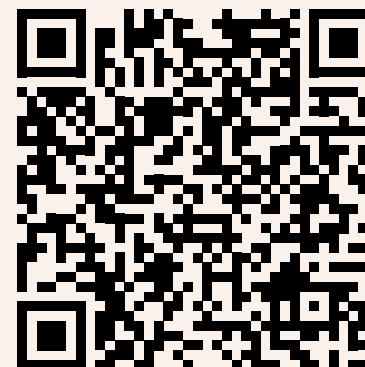
Some community projects are seeking in-kind donations of labor, materials or other valuable services. If you have goods or services you would like to donate to community projects, you review the list to identify potential partners. The icon to the left of this box signifies projects seeking in-kind donations of goods and services to drive impact.



## Project Funding

Additional opportunities also exist to get involved with project funding and leverage already committed resources to drive impact. There are different ways funders can get involved at a variety of scales – all with an overarching goal, to finance and implement community identified, prioritized and owned resilience projects and solutions. See the previous slide to identify options to fund projects.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT PROJECTS, GET UPDATES, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!**



## Contact Us

Global Resilient Cities Network

Resilience for Communities/RCI Funds

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<sup>iii</sup>“Annexations in Houston Or How we grew to 667 square miles in 175 years.” City of Houston Planning and Development Department.

<sup>iv</sup>Subsistence Homesteads. National Agricultural Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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<sup>vi</sup>U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas>

<sup>vii</sup>Mind the Meal Gap. Feeding America. Access here: Request County Food Insecurity Data | Feeding America

<sup>viii</sup>Trinity – Houston Gardens Flood and Climate Risk Report. First Street. Access Here: Trinity - Houston Gardens, TX Flood Map and Climate Risk Report | First Street

<sup>ix</sup>Extreme Heat Map and Heat Wave Forecast. First Street. Access Here: Trinity - Houston Gardens, TX Extreme Heat Map and Heat Wave Forecast | First Street



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