



## Planning for Resilience in Rural Communities

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### Message from the Guest Editor

We are in an era of disasters. A UN report confirmed how extreme weather events have increased over the last 20 years. If this trend continues, some scientists expect future disasters to devastate rural communities in particular. Unfortunately, many rural communities already struggle with factors that make bouncing back after disasters difficult, including higher rates of poverty, disability, limited access to healthcare and broadband services. To avoid or minimize the long-term effects of disasters, rural communities must focus on strategies to increase resilience.

Resilience is often described as the ability to anticipate, prepare, and plan for disasters so that a community can absorb the consequences and more adequately recover. Effective disaster resilience planning assesses the risk, then prioritizes community needs and values in reducing risk. Unfortunately, too often rural communities do not have the capacity or resources necessary to become more resilient.

The focus of this Special Issue is to provide a better understanding of the barriers to enhancing resilience in rural communities and illuminating promising strategies for enhancing resilience.





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