# **Actions Brainstorming Activity**

# **Overview**

## Objective

To work with other members of your community to come up with an exhaustive list of possible actions that could be taken for your community to improve equity and hazard resilience.

## Preparation

**Who will be involved:** community participants, facilitators

**Suggested activity length:** 45 minutes-1 hour

**Materials:** list of Action Areas and Vision Statements, Action Brainstorming Templates (below), writing materials, easel pad, paper

# **Example of Completed Action Brainstorming**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action Area #1** | Flooding is severely impacting residents of Parkview neighborhood |
| **Vision** | In 10 years, the impacts of flooding should be reduced in Parkview neighborhood and residents should be better able to prepare for and recover from flooding |
| **Actions Brainstorming** |  |
| Infrastructure actions | * Raise the levy around the neighborhood * Improve the drainage * Install green infrastructure |
| Policy actions | * Offer buyouts to residents who want to move * Provide recovery funding for damaged homes |
| Government actions | * Improve maintenance of drainage systems * Offer training on flood-proofing homes |
| Household actions | * Residents can "adopt" a drain in front of their house to make sure it is clear of debris * Sign up for training on how to flood-proof your home |
| Community actions | * Form a volunteer group to clear drains before rainstorms |

# **Actions Area Brainstorming**

## Instructions

1. Divide the participants into groups, one for each Action Area. People can choose groups based on their interests. Each group should have a minimum of 3-5 people (may vary depending on number of action areas, time available). Assign a notetaker.
2. Start by taking a few moments to familiarize yourselves with the action area and vision statement you are collaborating on.
3. Next, everyone takes two minutes to write down actions they think could help achieve the vision statement on individual sheets of paper.

* At this point you are just brainstorming, not thinking about feasibility, cost, etc.
* You do not need to provide details. That will be done next.

1. Then, everyone shares their actions. The note-taker records them on an easel pad, using the template below to categorize the ideas. If you need additional prompts, consider:
   1. What ideas do you think of if you put yourself in the shoes of different actors in the community? (e.g., local youth, city councilperson/mayor, homeowner)
   2. What different types of actions that could be taken, for example infrastructure, policy, government, community, or household actions? Often, resilience projects focus on infrastructure and engineering, but there are many other types of actions that focus on supporting aspects of community life.
   3. What actions address the root causes of inequities, not just the symptoms?

## Actions Brainstorming Template

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action Area #1** |  |
| **Vision** |  |
| **Actions Brainstorming** |  |
| Infrastructure actions |  |
| Policy actions |  |
| Government actions |  |
| Household actions |  |
| Community actions |  |