

LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gilroy and East San José



Photo: Karl Nielsen



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Table of Contents

At A Glance	1
Executive Summary	3
About the Authors	4
Acknowledgements	5
Introduction Community Resilience Center Planning Grant Context	6 6
Methodology	7
Gilroy Overview Climate Impacts & Inequities Engagement approach and reach Findings	8 8 8 9 12
East San José Overview Climate Impacts & Inequities Engagement approach and reach Findings	15 15 15 16 19
Conclusion Why Gilroy Why East San José	22 22 23
Next steps	24
Appendix	26



Gilroy's Most Requested Resources Ranked

Cooling Centers: safe, free spaces for extreme heat

Record Cleaning (or expungement) Clinics: to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education

Know-Your-Rights Workshops: educational sessions about their legal rights and how to assert them

Safe Space Resource Days: provide a secure environment for individuals to access resources

Life Skills and Wellness Workshops: classes on financial management, communication, stress reduction, and healthy relationships.

East San José's Most Requested Resources Ranked

Know-Your-Rights Workshops: educational sessions about their legal rights and how to assert them

Life Skills and Wellness Workshops: classes on financial management, communication, stress reduction, and healthy relationships.

Rent-relief and Eviction Prevention: understanding housing rights and access financial aid

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Days: encouraging neighbors to collaborate on safety, emergency kits, and evacuation planning

Referrals to Immigration Lawyers: connecting with free or low-cost legal assistance

Events Hosted	Tabling	Surveys Gathered	Focus Group Participants	Materials offered in
7	5	573	89	English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese

In Gilroy

- **Nearly two-thirds** of respondents live in households with monolingual Spanish speakers, underscoring the critical importance of Spanish-first services, bilingual staff, and linguistically accessible emergency communications.
- A clear **majority** of respondents report being either not at all or only somewhat familiar with climate change and how it affects their community.
- **One in five** respondents already report climate-related work disruptions, reflecting the economic vulnerability of residents employed in outdoor or climate-sensitive jobs.
- **Nearly two-thirds** of respondents lack emergency preparedness knowledge, underscoring the need for education, drills, and trusted guidance delivered through community-based infrastructure.

In East San José

- Only **three out of ten** people would feel comfortable explaining what climate change is to someone else, and only two out of ten people know how climate change impacts their health
- **One out of ten** people had a plan for climate-related emergencies, like extreme heat, flooding, cold snap, and poor air quality.
- **More than half** report that their homes get dangerously hot, underscoring the need for cooling resources, heat relief, and safe indoor spaces during extreme heat events.
- **More than half** of respondents report difficulty accessing healthcare, highlighting persistent barriers related to cost, transportation, language, and system navigation.
- **More than half** of respondents report difficulty covering basic expenses or needing to borrow money for emergencies, demonstrating economic fragility that directly limits emergency preparedness and recovery capacity.
- **Most respondents** report limited access to nearby parks or green space, increasing heat exposure, and reducing opportunities for cooling, recreation, and community wellbeing.

What's Next →

- Resilience Hub site selection
- Programming planning with support from stakeholders
- Pursuing funding opportunities for implementation

Executive Summary



“Across Gilroy and East San José, the majority of residents reported lacking emergency plans or safe places to go during extreme heat or smoke events.”

This Local Needs Assessment report synthesizes quantitative and qualitative data collected through a year-long, community-centered engagement process conducted between 2024 and 2025 as part of the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Planning Grant administered by the California Strategic Growth Council.

As climate impacts such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, power outages, and flooding intensify across Santa Clara County, the assessment documents how these hazards intersect with long-standing housing, health, and economic inequities to shape daily life in East San José and Gilroy. The assessment provides an evidence-based foundation for planning community-led Resilience Hubs in East San José and Gilroy. While East San José is characterized by density and cumulative exposure, and Gilroy by geographic isolation and service scarcity, residents in both communities experience disproportionate climate risk driven by structural disinvestment and limited access to trusted, culturally responsive services.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the methodology combined multilingual surveys, focus groups, workshops, tabling, and participatory engagement embedded within trusted community spaces, with intentional strategies to reduce barriers to participation

such as stipends, childcare, meals, and language access.

Across all engagement activities, community input consistently identified escalating climate hazards alongside housing instability, health access challenges, and economic insecurity, reinforcing that climate vulnerability is inseparable from social vulnerability and requires integrated, place-based solutions.

Findings strongly validate the CRC model of investing in community-centered facilities that integrate physical resilience infrastructure with social infrastructure. In both places, residents expressed clear support for Resilience Hubs as trusted, year-round access points for emergency response and everyday services, including clean air and cooling, health navigation, workforce development, housing and legal assistance, and climate literacy. Together, **these findings demonstrate that establishing Resilience Hubs in East San José and Gilroy represents a strategic, high-impact investment that strengthens emergency preparedness, improves daily well-being, and advances long-term climate equity across Santa Clara County.**

Based on the evidence presented, these findings support immediate investment in Resilience Hubs as critical public infrastructure designed for long-term operation and community governance, not short-term pilots.

About the Authors



Ashes to Beauty (A2B) is a powerful, women-led nonprofit organization deeply rooted in the cultural and political landscape of East San José. A2B's mission is executed through direct, culturally competent engagement, providing essential services such as resource navigation, housing stability counseling, crucial re-entry support for formerly incarcerated individuals, immigration navigation, and accessible climate literacy education. Their success is built upon deep, established relationships and a high degree of cultural competency, allowing A2B to effectively reach and serve residents who are routinely missed or marginalized by conventional governmental or non-profit engagement strategies.



Community Agency for Resources, Agency, and Services (CARAS) is a Gilroy-based non-profit committed to community empowerment and the betterment of Latino families through leadership development, advocacy, and cultural awareness. In response to the growing climate impacts the Gilroy community has faced in recent years, CARAS has worked to build community awareness and understanding of climate change and foster equitable community climate resilience. A recipient of a state grant, CARAS, along with other Gilroy community-based organizations, is leading the groundwork to plan for and implement the development of a resilience hub in Gilroy.



Greenbelt Alliance is a regional environmental nonprofit focused on land use and climate resilience advocacy in the San Francisco Bay Area. Its mission is to educate, advocate, and collaborate to ensure the Bay Area's lands and communities are resilient to a changing climate. Greenbelt Alliance has stewarded the region's beautiful natural landscapes while promoting the growth needed for thriving communities for nearly 70 years. We focus on innovative policy solutions and accelerating local and regional collaboration to plan and invest in resilient communities.

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The California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Community Resilience Centers Program (CRC) funds neighborhood-level resilience centers to provide shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, as well as year-round services and programming that strengthen community connections and ability to withstand disasters. For more information, visit <https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/crc>.



INTRODUCTION

This needs assessment was developed through a collaborative partnership between Ashes to Beauty, CARAS, Climate Resilient Communities, and Greenbelt Alliance to better understand how climate change, environmental stressors, and long-standing social inequities intersect to shape daily life for residents in East San José and Gilroy.

Drawing on community-led engagement, multilingual outreach, and mixed-methods data collection, the assessment focuses on the lived experiences of residents most impacted by climate risks while elevating the strengths, assets, and leadership already present within these communities. Together, East San José and Gilroy represent two distinct but complementary resilience contexts, one defined by density and cumulative exposure, the other by geographic isolation and service scarcity, both requiring targeted, place-based solutions. [Gilroy is one of Greenbelt Alliance's top Resilience Hotspots](#) due to its significant climate risks.

This report is a core deliverable of the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Planning Grant administered by the California Strategic Growth Council and directly informs the planning and design of Resilience Hubs in both communities. The CRC program supports the development of community-centered facilities that function as trusted hubs during climate emergencies while providing year-round services to strengthen resilience. By documenting local needs, vulnerabilities, and assets, this report provides an evidence-based foundation to guide hub design, governance, and programming, ensuring that future investments are culturally responsive, community-led, and aligned with state and regional climate equity goals.

Community Resilience Center Planning Grant Context

The Community Resilience Center (CRC) Planning Grant supports community-centered strategies that move beyond traditional, single-purpose infrastructure investments toward integrated strategies addressing social, environmental, economic and climate vulnerability. The CRC framework emphasizes trusted, locally rooted facilities that function as critical resources during climate emergencies while providing year-round services that strengthen household and community stability.

In Santa Clara County, the CRC Planning Grant has enabled a coordinated, multi-site planning effort focused on East San José and Gilroy— two communities that face distinct but overlapping climate risks, social vulnerabilities, and structural inequities. While East San José is shaped by density and cumulative exposure, and Gilroy by geographic isolation and limited service availability, both experience climate impacts that are compounded by housing insecurity, health disparities, and economic precarity. Although the local context differs across sites, the grant has provided a shared framework for advancing resilience hub planning rooted in community leadership, cross-sector collaboration, and place-based knowledge.

Across both sites, the planning process has emphasized an iterative, partnership-driven approach to understanding climate vulnerability and community capacity.

Core objectives included: rigorously identifying the most acute climate hazards and compounding stressors affecting residents; strengthening existing and often informal networks of trust, mutual aid, and social cohesion; and exploring how community-serving facilities can function as Resilience Hubs that support residents both during emergencies and in everyday conditions. Consistent with CRC principles, these hubs are envisioned to integrate critical emergency functions such as clean air, cooling, communications, and backup power with year-round services that address underlying social needs, including resource navigation, family support, workforce development, and health-related programming.

This needs assessment is a core deliverable of the CRC Planning Grant and directly informs the planning and design of Resilience Hubs in East San José and Gilroy. By documenting local needs, assets, and lived experience, the assessment provides an evidence-based foundation to guide hub design, governance, and programming, ensuring future investments are community-led, culturally responsive, and aligned with state and regional climate equity goals.

METHODOLOGY

This needs assessment used an integrated, mixed-methods approach to capture both the scale and lived experience of community needs across East San José and Gilroy. Quantitative and qualitative methods were combined to document measurable trends while grounding findings in the social, cultural, and environmental contexts that shape climate vulnerability. All engagement was conducted in partnership with trusted community-based organizations to ensure cultural relevance, accessibility, and broad participation.

Data collection included multilingual surveys, focus groups, interviews, and participatory engagement techniques. Surveys gathered standardized information on housing stability, access to services, health and environmental concerns, climate impacts, and



Photo: Ashes to Beauty

preparedness, providing a quantitative foundation for identifying shared challenges. In total, over 570 surveys and 89 focus group and listening session participants contributed input across both sites. Focus groups and interviews enabled deeper exploration of priorities, barriers, and community-identified solutions, supported by culturally and linguistically appropriate facilitation and interactive prioritization tools.

Engagement activities were embedded within trusted community spaces and existing events to reduce participation barriers and reach residents typically excluded from traditional planning processes. Quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed together to identify recurring themes, priority needs, and community assets, resulting in an evidence-based understanding of resilience challenges and opportunities that directly inform the planning and design of Resilience Hubs in both communities.

GILROY

OVERVIEW

Gilroy is a growing South Santa Clara County city with a strong agricultural legacy and a distinct small-city identity. Often recognized for its role in California's agricultural economy, Gilroy has evolved into a regional hub for farmworkers, service workers, and families seeking more affordable housing within commuting distance of the greater Bay Area. The city's population is majority Latino/Hispanic, with a growing mix of immigrant and multi-generational households, alongside smaller Asian and other racial and ethnic communities.

As Gilroy has experienced steady population growth and development pressure, its demographic profile reflects both cultural vibrancy and economic precarity. Many residents are employed in agriculture, food processing, logistics, construction, and service-sector jobs that are essential to the regional economy. Community life is shaped by strong family networks, faith-based institutions, and locally rooted community-based organizations that serve as trusted points of connection and support.



Photo: Karl Nielsen

CLIMATE IMPACTS & INEQUITIES

Climate vulnerabilities intersect with the city's agricultural economy, workforce composition, and demographic profile, shaping how residents experience and respond to climate impacts. Many households rely on industries sensitive to climate change and face economic constraints that limit access to resilient infrastructure and emergency resources. Social factors such as language barriers, housing affordability pressures, and limited availability of services interact with environmental stressors, increasing exposure and reducing adaptive capacity. These combined conditions heighten the impacts of climate hazards on already vulnerable populations.

Among the most impactful climate stressors are:

- **Extreme Heat:** Increasing temperatures and more frequent heatwaves pose significant risks, particularly for residents employed in outdoor or physically demanding occupations such as agriculture and construction. Limited access to cooling centers, shaded public spaces, and air-conditioned environments exacerbates heat-related health concerns.
- **Flooding:** Gilroy's proximity to waterways and reliance on aging drainage infrastructure increase exposure to flooding during heavy rainfall events. Flooding can destroy housing and disrupt transportation and access to essential services, particularly in lower-income neighborhoods.
- **Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality:** Regional wildfire activity increasingly affects air quality, with smoke exposure posing health risks for residents who lack access to indoor air filtration or clean-air shelters. Outdoor workers face heightened exposure during poor air quality days.

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND REACH

Gilroy Launch Event

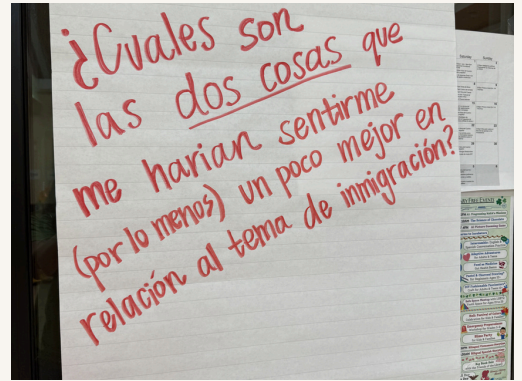


Pictures on this page were taken by Marty Estrada (CARAS) and/or Victorina Arvelo (Greenbelt Alliance)

The Gilroy Launch Event formally initiated community outreach for the Resilience Hub planning process, introducing the Resilience Hub concept and explaining how community input would directly shape planning and future implementation. The event was intentionally designed to maximize accessibility and meaningful participation, creating multiple ways for residents to share priorities and lived experience in a welcoming, bilingual setting.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
February 24, 2025	CARAS Youth Hub	• \$30 stipends for surveys • \$50 stipends for focus groups • Onsite childcare • Food • Emergency Supplies Giveaway • Language support • After work hours	• 156 community members in attendance • 127 surveys completed • 15 participants in focus group

Gilroy Earth Day and Resource Fair



Pictures on this page were taken by Marty Estrada (CARAS) and/or Victorina Arvelo (Greenbelt Alliance)

The Gilroy Earth Day and Resource Fair expanded outreach for the Resilience Hub planning process by embedding engagement within a trusted, family-friendly community event. The goal was to meet residents where they already gather to share information, collect input, and connect climate resilience planning to everyday needs in a culturally and linguistically accessible way.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
April 19, 2025	San Ysidro Park - Gilroy	\$30 stipends for surveys - Community BBQ - Emergency Supplies Giveaway - Language Support - Family friendly event	300 community members attended 26 organizations participated 47 families took a climate impacts survey

Gilroy Monolingual Focus Groups



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Two monolingual focus groups—one in English and one in Spanish—were conducted in Gilroy to support deeper, language-specific dialogue within the Resilience Hub planning process.

The purpose was to create an accessible, trusted space for residents to share lived experiences of climate impacts and social vulnerabilities, generating qualitative insight into how environmental stressors intersect with housing, health, employment, and access to resources.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
August 2025	CARAS Youth Hub	• \$50 stipends for focus groups • Onsite childcare • Full dinner • Emergency Supplies Giveaway • Language support • After work hours	• 40 residents participated • Voting activity to prioritize solutions



FINDINGS

Findings from surveys, focus groups, and community events consistently indicate that Gilroy residents are experiencing climate impacts alongside persistent social and economic stressors. Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, power outages, and poor air quality are common experiences, while emergency preparedness remains low across households. Many residents reported lacking emergency plans, emergency supplies, or knowledge of safe places to go during extreme weather or smoke events. These climate-related risks intersect with widespread food insecurity, housing cost burden, unmet mental health needs, and limited access to culturally responsive services, creating layered vulnerabilities that strain household stability and wellbeing.

community, requiring travel to Morgan Hill or San José. This geographic disconnect creates significant barriers for families with limited transportation, inflexible work schedules, or caregiving responsibilities. Housing affordability and overcrowding emerged as urgent concerns, with participants describing informal doubling-up, unstable housing conditions, and the disconnect between what is labeled “affordable housing” and what low-income and farmworker households can realistically afford.

“

South County is such a resource desert. Even when families are supposed to get support through places like the regional center, most of the services are based in San José... That leaves many of us caregivers completely burned out.

”

A defining theme across engagement was South County’s lack of locally accessible resources. Residents repeatedly described Gilroy as a place where essential services—healthcare, special education, mental health care, legal support, and social services—are often located outside the



Pictures on this page were taken by Marty Estrada (CARAS) and/or Victorina Arvelo (Greenbelt Alliance)

“

We keep hearing about ‘affordable housing,’ but let’s be honest—my farmworker relatives can’t afford what they call affordable housing. What we really need is low-income housing.

”

Focus group discussions further highlighted how climate change is already affecting both health and livelihoods in Gilroy. Participants described fear and anxiety during wildfire seasons, concern about limited local emergency response capacity, and unsafe working conditions during extreme heat—particularly for agricultural and outdoor workers. Participants described how recent heat protections, while intended to prevent injury and illness, often result in lost wages rather than meaningful protection, creating an impossible choice between health and income. Spanish-speaking participants explained that when temperatures exceed safe thresholds and work is paused or restricted, workers are typically paid only for the hours already worked. As a result, many continue working through dangerous conditions out of financial necessity, especially in outdoor and physically demanding jobs where stopping work is not always feasible.



Pictures on this page were taken by Marty Estrada (CARAS) and/or Victorina Arvelo (Greenbelt Alliance)



“

When temperatures get very high, people working in the fields used to not be stopped. People would get dehydrated, faint, and be pulled aside. Now, when it goes over 100 degrees, they are not allowed to work—it’s not permitted.”

– Spanish focus group participant

Facilitator: “And if temperatures go over 100 and they’re not allowed to work for health reasons, do they still get paid?”

“No. They only get paid for the hours they worked.”

– Spanish focus group participant

“That’s why we don’t stop working—because we don’t get paid. It’s an injustice. They give water, yes, but we keep working.”

– Spanish focus group participant

”

Gilroy's Most Requested Resources Ranked

Cooling Centers: safe, free spaces for extreme heat.

Record Cleaning (or expungement) Clinics: assistance with paperwork and legal requirements to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education.

Know-Your-Rights Workshops: educational sessions designed to inform community members—often immigrants or targeted groups—about their legal rights and how to assert them when interacting with law enforcement or immigration officials.

Safe Space Resource Days: organized, scheduled, and supportive events designed to provide a secure environment for individuals to access resources, connect with peers, and receive support, particularly for mental health, trauma recovery, or specific community needs.

Life Skills and Wellness Workshops: classes to improve self-sufficiency, resilience, and mental well-being by covering topics such as financial management, communication, stress reduction, and healthy relationships.



EAST SAN JOSÉ

OVERVIEW

East San José is characterized by its vibrant identity as a predominantly Latino, immigrant, multi-generational, and working-class region with deep, enduring cultural roots. The area has long served as a cultural and economic anchor for San José, with deep roots in family networks, small businesses, and community institutions that contribute to a strong sense of place and collective identity. This cultural wealth represents a powerful source of community resilience and organizing.

However, despite these inherent strengths, East San José has suffered from decades of systemic disinvestment and municipal neglect. As a result, the area has historically faced critically limited access to public infrastructure, dangerously high levels of pollution exposure (including traffic and industrial emissions), severe overcrowding in housing stock, and persistent disparities in public health outcomes and economic mobility compared to other areas of Santa Clara County.



CLIMATE IMPACTS & INEQUITIES

In East San José, climate risks are deeply intertwined with long-standing social, economic, and infrastructural conditions that shape residents' exposure and capacity to respond. Historical disinvestment, land-use patterns dominated by transportation and industrial infrastructure, and constrained access to public amenities have amplified the impacts of climate hazards. Social factors such as housing overcrowding, income instability, and language access barriers further compound these risks, making climate-related events more disruptive and recovery more challenging for many households.

Together, these dynamics create a high-need context where climate and social vulnerabilities reinforce one another.

- **Extreme Heat:** Exacerbated by low tree canopy coverage, extensive impermeable surfaces, and dense, aging housing stock that retains heat. Overcrowded living conditions and limited access to reliable cooling increase health risks during prolonged heat events.
- **Poor Air Quality:** Driven by proximity to major freeways and industrial activities contributes to chronic air pollution.
- **Flooding:** Localized flooding occurs in low-lying areas where stormwater infrastructure is aging or insufficient. Increasingly intense rainfall events place additional stress on systems not designed for current climate conditions.
- **Wildfire Smoke:** Wildfire smoke disproportionately affects residents due to a lack of access to indoor clean-air spaces and widespread reliance on inadequate or aging air conditioning and filtration systems. Limited access to timely, culturally and linguistically appropriate emergency information can further hinder protective actions.

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND REACH

East San José Earth Day Event



Pictures on this page were taken by Ashes to Beauty.

The East San José Earth Day event advanced the Resilience Hub planning process by combining community education, peer learning, and hands-on environmental action in a neighborhood-based setting. The purpose was to engage residents in practical climate solutions, build local climate leadership, and connect everyday sustainability practices to broader community resilience goals.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
April 22, 2025	Iglesia Alcance Victoria San José	\$50 stipends for focus group \$50 stipends for Leadership Academy - Food - Emergency Supplies Giveaway - Language Support - Family friendly event	51 community members attended - Neighborhood trash clean up 10 focus group participants 26 community leaders engaged in a Climate Leadership Academy

East San José High School Community Event



Pictures on this page were taken by Ashes to Beauty.

The high school–based outreach event engaged parents and guardians in the Resilience Hub planning process through bilingual education and facilitated opportunities to provide feedback.

The purpose was to create a family-friendly, accessible setting for residents to learn about climate impacts, share priorities across proposed focus areas, and help shape the vision for the future Resilience Hub.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
May 7th, 2025	Latino College Preparatory Academy	\$30 stipends for surveys \$50 stipends for focus group - Food - Language Support - Emergency Supplies Giveaway	100 residents attended 68 surveys were completed 24 people participated in a facilitated focus group

Hillview Library Community Workshop



The Climate Literacy workshop at Hillview Library engaged residents in the Resilience Hub planning process through bilingual education and survey-based feedback. The purpose was to provide an accessible, community-centered space for building climate literacy while gathering resident input to directly inform Resilience Hub development.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
September 24, 2025	San José Public Library - Hillview Branch	• \$30 stipends for surveys • Food • Language Support • Emergency Supplies Giveaway	• 60 residents attended • 54 surveys were completed • BayREN, San José Clean Energy offered resources

Pictures on this page were taken by Ashes to Beauty.

East San José Tabling and Community Outreach

Targeted tabling and outreach at trusted community events in East San José increased awareness of the Resilience Hub planning process while collecting community input. The purpose was to reach residents in familiar settings and multiple languages to ensure broad, inclusive participation and representation in the needs assessment.

Date	Location	Incentives	Highlights
September 2025	Viva Calle, food distribution events, festivals	• \$20-30 stipends for surveys • Surveys available in five languages	• 203 surveys gathered



FINDINGS

Community engagement in East San José consistently showed how climate impacts, health challenges, and daily instability overlap in residents' lives. Across the Earth Day event, focus groups, library workshops, and tabling, participants described living with extreme heat, poor air quality, housing insecurity, and economic stress often at the same time. Mental health support emerged as one of the most urgent unmet needs, particularly for low-income residents, people with disabilities, and older adults. Many participants described families in crisis who do not know where to turn, not because services do not exist, but because navigating them feels overwhelming without guidance or trusted referrals.

transportation and inclusive design are built into the model from the start. Inclusion, in their words, means designing services that work for people who are most often left out.

“

It's not about where the building is. The question is: how am I going to get there if I don't have a car or family support?

”

“

People in crisis don't always know where to go. Sometimes they just need someone to say, 'here's the resource, here's who can help you.'

”

Accessibility—especially transportation—was raised repeatedly as a defining factor in whether a Resilience Hub would actually work. Participants emphasized that a physical space alone is not enough if people cannot reach it. This concern was especially strong among residents without cars, those with limited family support, people with disabilities, and elders. Several participants noted that location matters less than whether



Photo: Victorina Arvelo

Emergency preparedness and climate literacy were notably low, even as climate impacts were described as part of everyday life. Only a handful of participants felt comfortable explaining climate change or understanding how it affects their health, and nearly everyone reported lacking an emergency plan or the resources to prepare for extreme heat, flooding, or poor air quality. Survey results reinforced these concerns, showing widespread exposure to unsafe indoor heat, poor air quality, mold, and frequent service outages, alongside high rates of chronic health conditions that increase climate risk. Renters—who make up the majority of respondents—reported almost no insurance coverage and limited financial capacity to respond to emergencies.



The synthesis of quantitative and qualitative data yields the following critical findings, which define the operational and programmatic priorities for the Resilience Hub network:

“We’ve already felt the fires, the heat, the bad air—but most of us don’t have a plan, or the money to make one.”

At the same time, residents expressed strong interest in a Resilience Hub that supports everyday stability—not just emergency response. Participants emphasized youth mentorship, college access for first-generation families, childcare for young parents, immigration legal support, reentry services, and help for survivors of domestic violence. Libraries and community centers were repeatedly named as trusted spaces, offering a clear model for how a Resilience Hub should feel: safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental. Together, these findings point to a clear need for a community-led, culturally responsive hub in East San José—one that helps residents navigate systems, build stability, and prepare for climate impacts in ways that reflect real barriers and lived experience.

- **Low Climate Literacy:** A significant portion of the community lacks awareness regarding local climate risks (e.g., flood zones, heat advisories) and is unfamiliar with official county-level emergency alert and resource systems.
- **Critical Environmental Health Concerns:** Issues such as persistent indoor mold, high particulate matter due to poor ventilation, and extreme indoor heat are not just comfort issues but directly threaten household physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Financial Barriers to Resilience:** Economic instability is a core determinant of vulnerability; the inability to afford air purifiers, reliable cooling, or emergency savings severely limits the capacity for self-recovery following an event.
- **Inconsistent Resource Access:** The availability and accessibility of emergency information and resources varies dramatically across different East San José neighborhoods, creating resource deserts.
- **Informal Community Trust Networks:** Strong, informal networks of neighbor-to-neighbor trust and mutual aid exist and are functional but require structured support, resources, and institutional partnership to be truly effective during a crisis.
- **Demand for Daily Services:** Residents explicitly want the Resilience Hubs to function as vital community anchors offering daily, essential support (e.g., job training, food access, youth programs), ensuring the hubs are utilized and trusted before an emergency occurs.

East San José's Most Requested Resources Ranked

Know-Your-Rights Workshops: educational sessions designed to inform community members—often immigrants or targeted groups—about their legal rights and how to assert them when interacting with law enforcement or immigration officials.

Life Skills and Wellness Workshops: classes to improve self-sufficiency, resilience, and mental well-being by covering topics such as financial management, communication, stress reduction, and healthy relationships.

Rent-relief and Eviction Prevention: free, educational session designed to help tenants understand their housing rights, navigate landlord disputes, and access financial aid.

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Days: provide training, resources, and action plans to reduce risks, encouraging neighbors to collaborate on safety, emergency kits, and evacuation planning.

Referrals to Immigration Lawyers: connecting with free or low-cost legal assistance from a qualified, licensed attorney who specializes in immigration law



CONCLUSION

The findings of this needs assessment strongly align with the goals and intent of the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program administered by the California Strategic Growth Council.

Across both East San José and Gilroy, residents face compounding climate, health, and economic challenges that cannot be addressed through single-purpose infrastructure or emergency response systems alone. Community input consistently confirms that climate vulnerability is inseparable from social and economic vulnerability, underscoring the need for integrated, community-centered facilities that support both emergency response and everyday stability.

Residents across both locations emphasized the importance of trusted, accessible spaces that provide clean air, cooling, communications, and power during climate emergencies, while also offering year-round services such as health navigation, mental health support, workforce and family services, and climate education. The assessment further demonstrates that equitable resilience planning requires culturally and linguistically responsive outreach, co-located services, and governance structures that meaningfully center community-based organizations. Establishing Resilience Hubs in East San José and Gilroy presents a strategic opportunity for local cities, Santa Clara County, and community partners to collaborate on scalable, place-based resilience infrastructure that strengthens emergency preparedness, reduces service fragmentation, and advances long-term climate equity.

WHY GILROY

As a top priority Bay Area Resilience Hotspot, Gilroy represents a high-priority opportunity for CRC investment in South Santa Clara County, where climate exposure, social vulnerability, and service gaps intersect in ways that directly align with CRC scoring criteria related to priority communities, equity, and demonstrated need.

Residents face increasing climate impacts that disproportionately affect low-income households, immigrant communities, and residents experiencing housing instability. Long-standing structural underinvestment has left South County functioning as a resource desert, with many residents reporting the need to travel outside their community to access basic health, social, and legal services, which creates significant barriers for households with limited transportation, inflexible work schedules, or caregiving responsibilities.

These conditions are independently reinforced by county-level analysis. The Latino Health Assessment conducted by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department identifies South County as having significant unmet health, housing, and social service needs and explicitly recommends expanded, place-based service delivery and a stronger physical presence in South County. The assessment finds that 50–60% of Latino households experience housing cost burden, with widespread overcrowding and average household sizes of four to five residents, exceeding safe occupancy standards. It also documents gaps in culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare, limited access to Latino-responsive mental health services, and economic, legal, and transportation barriers that intensify climate vulnerability.

Establishing a Resilience Hub in Gilroy directly advances CRC priorities related to equity, community-led design, co-located services, and long-term community benefit. A centralized, trusted hub would provide year-round access to health navigation, workforce development, housing and legal support, and climate preparedness, while serving as a critical resource during emergencies. For local cities and the County, a Gilroy-based hub offers a clear opportunity to coordinate service delivery, reduce duplication, and address a longstanding geographic and equity gap in South County.



WHY EAST SAN JOSÉ

East San José is a high-priority geography for CRC investment due to its high density, cumulative climate exposure, and concentration of social vulnerability, directly aligning with CRC scoring criteria related to priority communities, demonstrated need, and equity impacts. As one of the most densely populated areas in Santa Clara County, residents experience overlapping climate hazards within a compact area, in addition to housing overcrowding, economic insecurity, and limited access to culturally responsive services. The intensity and scale of these cumulative conditions place sustained strain on residents and public systems alike.

The assessment confirms that climate vulnerability in East San José is shaped by historical disinvestment and land use patterns, including aging housing stock, limited tree canopy, and proximity to freeways and industrial corridors. While services may exist nearby, residents face systemic access barriers such as language, cost, overcrowded facilities, and lack of trusted entry points, resulting in unmet needs despite

geographic proximity. Community input consistently emphasized the need for hyper-local, culturally rooted, and community-led solutions, reinforcing CRC priorities for integrated service delivery and shared governance.

While this project proposes a single-site hub, findings support exploring network hub models over time to better respond to density and cumulative exposure across neighborhoods. A community-led hub would

provide clean air and cooling during emergencies while offering year-round access to climate literacy, energy assistance, immigration and reentry support, and household stabilization—creating meaningful opportunities for the City of San José, Santa Clara County, and community partners to collaborate on durable, place-based resilience solutions.

NEXT STEPS

Building on the findings of this needs assessment, the next phase of the CRC Planning Grant will focus on transitioning from community input to implementation-ready planning for Resilience Hubs in East San José and Gilroy. This phase will include continued convening of the Resilience Hub Working Group on a quarterly basis to guide decision-making, align partners, and maintain accountability to community priorities. This phase will prioritize governance, site feasibility, and program design to ensure hubs are community-led, operationally viable, and aligned with CRC goals.

Strengthening governance and accountability.

The Resilience Hub Working Group will continue to convene quarterly as a core decision-making body to guide implementation. The working group will be responsible for shaping the implementation action plan, confirming governance structures, aligning partners, and ensuring that hub design, programming, and operations remain grounded in lived experience and accountable to community priorities.



Advancing site feasibility and operational readiness.

The project team will conduct site feasibility analysis, exploring specific locations that are already trusted community anchors and currently provide services, with the potential to expand into full Resilience Hub functions. Assessments will consider accessibility, existing programming, physical infrastructure, and long-term viability.

Aligning institutional partnerships and funding pathways.

In parallel, Greenbelt Alliance and community partners will continue collaborating with city and county agencies to secure institutional support, align emergency response and public health systems. This includes identifying sustainable funding pathways while ensuring that leadership, governance, and day-to-day operations remain CBO-led and community-centered.

Community readiness is high (e.g., 94.6% support in Gilroy launch survey), and trusted anchors (libraries/CBO spaces) are already functioning as proto-hubs. Based on findings presented in this assessment, the following action-oriented priorities are essential to achieving the CRC Planning Grant's objectives and building durable, long-term resilience:

- **Establish culturally rooted, community-led Resilience Hubs:** Design and implement hubs that are co-developed, staffed, and governed by local residents and trusted community-based organizations, with services that are culturally and linguistically responsive.
- **Deliver targeted Spanish-language climate literacy and preparedness training:** Develop and deliver engaging, accessible curricula focused on local climate risks, home energy efficiency, emergency communications, and household preparedness, with Spanish as the primary language of delivery.
- **Expand access to essential climate-safety resources:** Prioritize the establishment of designated clean indoor air spaces, expand distribution of cooling resources (e.g., fans, A/C units, utility assistance), and create a systematic program for distributing culturally relevant emergency kits.
- **Integrate comprehensive wraparound services:** Integrate household stability services into the daily function of the hubs, including immigration assistance, reentry navigation, and general resource and financial stability support, recognizing that social vulnerability dictates climate vulnerability.
- **Create community leadership pipelines to sustain hub operations:** Invest in training, compensation, and leadership development for local residents to serve as Resilience Hub managers, coordinators, and trainers, ensuring long-term sustainability and authentic community control.
- **Partner with county agencies to integrate environmental health and emergency response systems:** establish formal, accessible agreements with Santa Clara County public health, emergency management, and other relevant agencies to ensure Resilience Hubs are integrated into official response and resource distribution networks during declared emergencies.

This next phase positions the project to move from assessment to action, translating community-identified needs into Resilience Hubs that strengthen emergency response while supporting everyday stability and wellbeing.

Appendix A - Gilroy Outreach and Metrics

The Gilroy Earth Day and Resource Fair | April 19, 2025 | San Ysidro Park - Gilroy

This event expanded community engagement for the Resilience Hub planning process by embedding outreach within a large, family-friendly community event. More than 300 community members attended, and over 26 local organizations participated, including community-based organizations, government and public agencies, environmental groups, gardening programs, and wellness providers. This multi-sector presence created a centralized space for residents to access services, learn about local resources, and engage in conversations about climate resilience in a familiar and welcoming setting.

Resilience Hub outreach was integrated through onsite survey administration and resource distribution. Forty-seven families completed the Climate Change Community Survey and compensated with a \$30 stipend. All materials were available in Spanish to ensure linguistic accessibility, and the event's family-oriented format supported participation across age groups. Emergency preparedness and resilience-related supplies, including solar lanterns, solar battery packs, and additional materials were distributed to attendees, reinforcing the connection between climate awareness, preparedness, and everyday community needs.

Gilroy Launch Event | February 24, 2025 | CARAS Youth Hub - Gilroy

The Gilroy Launch Event formally initiated community outreach for the Resilience Hub planning process and was designed to maximize accessibility, participation, and meaningful input. A total of 156 community members attended the event, with 127 surveys completed to validate proposed Resilience Hub service areas and community priorities. In addition, 15 participants took part in a facilitated bilingual listening session to provide in-depth qualitative feedback, all of which was collected anonymously. A bilingual presentation delivered in English and Spanish introduced the Resilience Hub concept, explained why Gilroy was identified as a priority area, and outlined how community input would inform planning and implementation.

The event intentionally incorporated strategies to remove common barriers to participation. Participants who completed surveys received a \$30 stipend, and listening session participants received a \$50 stipend in recognition of their time and expertise. Free onsite childcare was provided, engaging approximately 20 youth in supervised activities and enabling caregivers to participate fully, while a shared meal helped foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Emergency preparedness supplies, including solar-powered lamps, thermal blankets, rain ponchos, and masks were distributed to attendees, reinforcing the event's focus on both immediate support and long-term community resilience.

Two monolingual focus groups were conducted in Gilroy (August 2025) to support deeper, language-specific dialogue as part of the Resilience Hub planning process. One focus group was held in English and one in Spanish, with 20 participants in each session, for a total of 40 community members. These facilitated discussions centered on residents' experiences with climate impacts and social vulnerabilities, providing qualitative insight into how environmental stressors intersect with housing, health, employment, and access to resources.

In the English-language focus group participants identified limited access to resources, especially for caregivers of children with disabilities, as a top concern. There was a strong emphasis on the lack of services in South County, particularly in special education, medical care, respite care, and rent assistance. Many expressed burnout, frustration, and isolation, citing barriers to accessing programs that are available in San Jose but do not reach Gilroy.

Concerns about housing affordability and the lack of rent control were also prominent. Several residents described how rising costs force families to double or triple up or live in vehicles. Homeownership remained out of reach for many, and participants emphasized the need for financial literacy workshops, first-time homebuyer education, and restoration of self-help housing programs.

Youth services and job training emerged as a priority, with participants advocating for expanding access to programs beyond age 25, especially for formerly incarcerated individuals and those reentering the workforce. There was strong support for vocational education, trade apprenticeships, and programs that build self-confidence and real-world skills.

In terms of climate resilience, participants were very aware of wildfire smoke, heat waves, and power outages, but felt unprepared for emergencies. Many residents expressed concern for elderly neighbors and people with disabilities who might be left behind in disaster scenarios. The group suggested creating neighborhood-based response teams, expanding climate literacy, and ensuring services accommodate pets and the unhoused.

Energy costs and inequities in utility assistance programs were also mentioned. Several noted that even when assistance programs exist, eligibility barriers, invasive application processes, or unclear information prevent residents from accessing them. Most participants did not feel confident explaining climate change, though many expressed a desire to learn and teach others.

In the monolingual Spanish focus group, participants surfaced deep concerns around language accessibility, immigration-related fears, and systemic exclusion from public services. A major theme was the lack of linguistically and culturally accessible emergency information. Participants shared stories of receiving no notifications during wildfires, not understanding how to access cooling centers, and relying solely on word-of-mouth or neighbors for critical information.

Several participants described unsafe working conditions during extreme heat, especially in construction and agriculture, and noted that refusing to work in high heat often means lost wages. Concerns about elder care, disabilities, and lack of shelter access also surfaced, especially for undocumented families or those afraid to seek help due to public charge fears or past experiences with discrimination.

Participants were vocal about rising rent, the absence of meaningful housing support, and the barriers created by income thresholds in assistance programs. Many had been denied support despite real need due to reported income or household size. Others described being treated poorly by service providers or being turned away after receiving help once.

The group emphasized the importance of community-based support networks and expressed strong interest in forming neighborhood emergency teams. There was also discussion about organizing around shared cultural values, like helping elders and working collectively. Despite this, many participants felt disconnected from civic life, citing language barriers, fear, or lack of belonging as reasons they don't attend city meetings or participate in planning processes.

Most participants expressed serious concern about climate impacts, especially air quality and water access, but felt unprepared and uninformed. They strongly supported simple, non-digital alert systems (like sirens or neighborhood-based info sheets) as well as more outreach in Spanish, particularly through trusted messengers.

From both focus groups (n=40)

Lost electricity at home for more than one hour.	32
Experienced extreme heat, over 100 degrees, and did not have a safe place to go	27
Have felt the impacts of wildfire smoke	40
Feel prepared for an emergency such as a fire, a flood, or an earthquake	0
Have an emergency kit at home with food and supplies	5
Struggled with housing, food, or health care	20
Needed help with immigration services and did not know where to go	10
You or someone in your family has had difficulty finding a job	19
Think we need more green spaces or gardens	40
Concerned about the air quality in your neighborhood	35

Feel connected to your community	13
Trust the local government in the City of Gilroy to help you in the event of an emergency	0

To increase engagement and make prioritization accessible to all participants, residents participated in a visual sticker-voting activity during focus groups. Participants were invited to walk around the room and place stickers on posters representing seven key service areas identified through the needs assessment, voting on the solutions they most wanted to see prioritized in their community. (n=40).

Environmental Health	
Clear air kits and Education	18
Toxic-free Home Programs	18
Extreme Heat Workshops	14
Community Climate and Health walks	6
Housing and Supportive Services	
Rent-relief and Eviction Prevention	20
Supportive Services and Referrals	16
Housing Support	15
Drop-in Resource Days	14
Youth Engagement	
Community Projects done by Youth	20
Career Exploration and Skill-Building	9
Academic Support	8
Youth Mentorship Circles	8
Emergency and Disaster	
Cooling Centers	24
Clean Air Spaces	20
Emergency Supply Giveaways	20
Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness days	18
Immigration	
Safe Space Resource Days	22
Legal Clinics and Know-your-rights workshops	22
Referrals to immigration lawyers	20
Translation and Documents Support	13

Climate Literacy	
Climate conversations	16
Youth climate leaders program	16
Intro to climate change workshop	16
Climate health and resource library	15
Diversion and Re-entry	
Record cleaning clinics	23
Life skills and wellness	21
Job readiness and career coaching	21
Peer mentorship and support groups	13

Survey A Results

Question	Yes	No	No response	Total responses		Total surveys
Have you ever had to skip a meal because of money?	25	19	3	44		47
Do you know where to go if you are sad, overwhelmed, or need mental health help?	22	20	5	42		
Do you have an emergency plan or emergency bag ready?	15	32	0	47		
Do you know of any safe, free places where people can go if it's too hot or cold?	18	28	1	46		
If someone needs help after being in jail, do you know where they should go?	5	40	2	45		
Have you or someone you know missed a day of work or school because of heat or smoke?	9	38	0	47		
Do you ever need help with filling out paperwork? (insurance, paying a fine, etc.)	15	30	2	45		
Do you know of any food pantries you can go to if you need it?	31	12	4	43		
Is your rent or mortgage payment easy to cover every month?	17	26	4	43		
Would you be interested in a community food garden (fruits and veggies)?	41	5	1	46		
What kind of programs would you like to see for youth? (circle the 3 most important)	Job training	Mentoring	School help	Arts, music, sports	College prep help	Therapy
	21	20	18	26	20	20
What would make you feel safe and comfortable visiting a resilience hub (a place that has resources, help, and can help during emergencies)? Pick 3	Staff that speaks my language	it's easy to get to	Services are free	Knowing the staff/providers	Open after work, or weekends	Provides childcare
	28	19	26	11	21	12
How familiar are you with climate change and how it impacts your life? (circle one)	Not at all	Somewhat familiar	Very familiar			
	3	30	10			
Pick the 3 things that you need the most help with, or that worry you the most	Housing	Safety	Immigration	Healthcare	Work	
	26	18	18	20	17	

Survey B Results

Question	Yes	No	No response	Total responses				Total surveys
Does anyone in your household only speak Spanish?	72	43	12	115				127
Do you know where to go if you need help with immigration services?	41	82	4	123				
Does your home have shade from trees?	29	67	31	96				
Do you or anyone in your house experience asthma or other respiratory issues?	27	57	43	84				
Do you have an Air Conditioning unit at home?	47	61	19	108				
Do you have an air purifier at home?	34	79	14	113				
Have you or your family ever been affected by extreme heat or flooding?	82	37	8	119				
Are there enough programs to help people with reentry after incarceration?	29	43	55	72				
Do you know what to do in an emergency (fire, flood, earthquake)?	33	59	35	92				
Do you think young people feel supported and connected to opportunities for growth?	29	66	32	95				
Do you feel secure in your housing situation?	73	19	35	92				
Do you think a Resilience Hub is needed in Gilroy?	105	6	16	111				
	CARAS or similar	Local Gov	News	Social media	Friends /family	Other*	No response	* Other: welfare office, none of these, illegible
Where do you usually get information about emergencies or community events?	101	23	67	42	88	3	21	
	Not at all	Somewhat	Very	No response	Total responses			
How familiar are you with climate change and how it impacts your life?	39	51	9	28	99			

Appendix B - East San José Outreach and Metrics

The East San José Earth Day Event | April 22nd, 2025 | East San José

The Earth Day event provided an opportunity to combine community education, peer learning, and hands-on environmental action as part of the Resilience Hub planning process. A total of 51 community members attended the event, engaging in activities focused on sustainability, waste reduction, and climate leadership. Participants explored practical strategies to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recycle, and community members shared examples of sustainable practices they already implement at home, fostering peer-to-peer learning and collective problem-solving.

The event also included targeted engagement components to deepen participation. Ten attendees participated in a facilitated focus group and received \$50 gift cards in recognition of their time and contributions. Food was provided to support attendance and create a welcoming environment. In addition, 26 community leaders engaged in a Climate Leadership Academy session focused on building climate literacy and leadership capacity. During the event, 35 first aid kits, 30 water-filtering pitchers, and 50 solar-powered battery chargers were distributed. A neighborhood trash clean-up was conducted as part of the event, reinforcing the connection between individual actions, community stewardship, and broader environmental resilience goals.

The focus group made clear that residents are dealing with overlapping climate, health, and social challenges, with mental health support emerging as one of the most urgent needs. Participants talked about families in crisis who do not know where to go for help, especially low-income residents, people with disabilities, and elders. Mental health was repeatedly described as something families need help navigating—whether through referrals, crisis support, or basic guidance—rather than a service that feels accessible on its own.

Accessibility came up again and again, particularly around transportation. Participants emphasized that having a physical Resilience Hub is not enough if people cannot get there. This was especially true for residents without cars, family support, or financial resources, as well as people with disabilities and older adults. Several participants noted that location matters less than whether transportation or other supports are available to actually reach services. A successful hub, in their view, would need to be easy to access and inclusive by design.

Participants also shared very low levels of emergency preparedness and climate awareness. Only a few people felt comfortable explaining climate change or understanding how it affects their health, and nearly everyone reported lacking an emergency plan or the resources to prepare for climate-related events. At the same time, there was strong interest in a Resilience Hub that goes beyond emergencies and supports everyday needs—especially youth mentorship, college access for first-generation families, childcare for young parents, immigration legal support, reentry services, and help for survivors of domestic violence. Overall, residents described a clear need for a community-led, one-stop space that can help people navigate systems, build stability, and be better prepared for climate impacts.

- Three out of ten people would you feel comfortable explaining to someone what climate change is
 - Two out of ten people know how climate change impacts their health
 - No one was aware of any resilience centers similar to the one we are proposing
 - One out of ten people had a plan for climate-related emergencies, like extreme heat, flooding, cold snap, poor air quality
 - One out of ten people had the resources to make an emergency plan
-

East San José High School Community Event | May 7, 2025 | Latino College Preparatory Academy

Parents and guardians attended a community outreach event at the local high school to engage in the Resilience Hub planning process through education and facilitated feedback.

Approximately 100 residents attended a bilingual, family-friendly presentation on the impacts of climate change and the Resilience Hub planning process, followed by onsite survey participation. In total, 68 surveys were completed, with participants receiving a \$30 stipend to support inclusive and robust engagement.

Following the presentation, 24 residents participated in a facilitated focus group, where they provided both verbal and written feedback across all seven proposed focus areas and contributed to the visioning process for the Resilience Hub. Focus group participants received a \$50 stipend in recognition of their time and expertise. To further reduce barriers to participation and support household preparedness, 54 solar-powered battery packs were distributed to attendees. These strategies collectively enabled meaningful community input while prioritizing language access, family inclusion, and immediate community benefit.

The focus group at East San Jose High School Event highlighted how urgent daily needs—especially housing, language access, and immigration-related support—shape residents’ ability to prepare for and respond to climate impacts. Many participants described unstable housing situations driven by high rents, scams, and complicated application processes, often resulting in overcrowded living conditions and frequent moves between family members’ homes. Language barriers came up repeatedly, with strong demand for free, bilingual English–Spanish classes and translation support to help families navigate housing, education, healthcare, and employment systems. Participants also raised concerns about limited access to substance abuse treatment and mental health services, particularly for undocumented individuals or adults who cannot voluntarily consent to care.

Gaps in emergency preparedness were clear throughout the discussion. Most participants reported lacking emergency plans, supplies, or familiarity with county alert systems, even though many had already experienced nearby fires, extreme heat, or poor air quality. Families without air conditioning described relying on malls, libraries, or relatives’ homes to stay cool, while renters

often lacked the ability to make cooling or air-quality improvements in their homes. Participants emphasized the need for practical workshops on emergency alerts, evacuation planning, and supply kits, as well as access to cooling centers and clean air spaces during extreme weather events.

Trust and accessibility were recurring themes. Participants expressed frustration with systems that exclude people based on immigration status and described confusion about where to turn for reliable help. Libraries and community centers were consistently named as trusted, safe spaces—places people already feel comfortable going—which participants felt a Resilience Hub should model. Strong interest was also expressed in youth and family support, including mentorship for first-generation students, help navigating college and career pathways, and childcare for young parents. Through sticker voting, participants prioritized legal and immigration support, rent relief, life skills and wellness programs, and cooling and clean air spaces—reinforcing the need for a Resilience Hub that addresses both immediate survival needs and long-term stability in East San José.

Climate Community Workshop, | September 24, 2025 | Hillview Library

Sixty community members engaged in a bilingual climate literacy presentation and completed surveys designed to directly inform the planning and development of the Resilience Hub. In total, 54 surveys were completed, with participants receiving \$30 gift cards in recognition of their time and contributions.

The workshop incorporated multiple strategies to remove barriers to participation and encourage inclusive engagement. Free food and on-site childcare were provided, supporting attendance by families and caregivers. Community partners, including BayREN and San José Clean Energy, were present to share resources and information with residents. To further support household preparedness, 28 solar-powered chargers were distributed to participants. Together, these elements created an accessible, informative, and community-centered engagement environment that strengthened both outreach reach and data quality.

Targeted tabling and outreach activities were conducted at a range of trusted community events during the month of September 2025 at a range of trusted community events in East San José, including Viva Calle, the School of Arts and Culture's Chile Mole Pozole Festival, and Mercadito food distribution events. These engagements focused on increasing awareness of the Resilience Hub planning process while collecting community input through onsite surveys. Informational flyers were distributed, and surveys were administered in Spanish, English, Tagalog, Cantonese, and Thai to support broad linguistic accessibility. Survey participants received \$20–\$30 gift cards, depending on the event, to recognize their time and contributions. Across all tabling efforts, a total of 203 surveys were completed, significantly expanding the reach of the

needs assessment and ensuring representation from diverse segments of the East San José community.

Survey A Results (n=257)

Neighborhood of Residence	
Alum Rock	25
Little Portugal	19
Mayfair	24
Olinder-Bonita	16
Story & King	27
Little Saigon	20
Silver Creek	19
Yerba Buena	21
Evergreen	18
McLaughlin	17
Not in East San José	39
No response	12
Climate & Infrastructure Impacts (past 5–10 years residents have experienced...)	
Poor air quality	117
Poor / unsafe tap water	66
Mold in home	82
Difficulty accessing food	115
Difficulty accessing healthcare	136
Rain or flood damage	53
Home gets too hot	181
Home gets too cold	51
Extreme heat limits activity	166
Neighborhood flooding	51
No AC / broken AC	109
Poor insulation	19
Lost home insurance	23
Lost utilities	203
No nearby parks/green space	36
Health Impacts (past 5–10 years residents have experienced...)	
Asthma	77
Chronic respiratory issues	48

Smoking-related issues	62
Heat illness	91
Cancer	34
Heart disease	85
Diabetes	93
Obesity	79
High BP / cholesterol	128
Physical disability	58
Alzheimer's / dementia	50
Stroke	13
Migraines	98
Stress & anxiety	144
Reproductive / pregnancy issues	24
Financial & Housing Conditions	
Rent home	175
Own home	7
Have renter's insurance	27
Can cover rent/mortgage	66
Can cover basic expenses	72
Spent >\$100 on weather repairs	113
Delayed repairs due to cost	137
Need credit for \$400 emergency	112
Receive public assistance	109

Survey B results (n=142)

Question	Response Option	Total Responses
Are you aware that rising temperatures increase poor air quality?	Yes	106
	No	37
Are you aware that ozone levels are higher in ESJ?	Yes	92
	No	50
Are you aware that wildfire pollution impacts health?	Yes	125
	No	17
Are you aware that poor air quality impacts asthma?	Yes	125
	No	17
Are you aware of Reid-Hillview airport's lead emissions ranking?	Yes	55
	No	87
Are you aware of elevated blood lead levels near the airport?	Yes	46
	No	95
Do you know who to contact for emergencies?	Yes	67
	No	74
Do you know who to contact for immigration services?	Yes	59
	No	83
Do you know your rights if you encounter ICE?	Yes	83
	No	59
Is there enough community support for reentry services?	Yes	44
	No	94
Are you aware that unhoused youth in ESJ schools has increased?	Yes	37
	No	104
Are you aware of counseling/TA	Yes	39
	No	102
Does your home have tree shade?	Yes	83
	No	59
Do you have a gas stove at home?	Yes	90
	No	51
Do you have an air conditioner at home?	Yes	82
	No	58
Do you have an air purifier at home?	Yes	50

	No	91
Have you ever attended a climate change presentation?	Yes	34
	No	107
Are you interested in planting a tree?	Yes	101
	No	40
Do you participate in Earth Day activities?	Yes	38
	No	105

To increase engagement and make prioritization accessible to all participants, residents participated in a visual sticker-voting activity during focus groups. Participants were invited to walk around the room and place stickers on posters representing seven key service areas identified through the needs assessment, voting on the solutions they most wanted to see prioritized in their community. (n=24)

Environmental Health	
Clear air kits and Education	7
Toxic-free Home Programs	7
Community Climate and Health walks	6
Extreme Heat Workshops	5
Housing and Supportive Services	
Rent-relief and Eviction Prevention	8
Supportive Services and Referrals	6
Housing Support	4
Drop-in Resource Days	3
Emergency and Disaster	
Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness days	8
Clean Air Spaces	7
Cooling Centers	6
Emergency Supply Giveaways	5
Immigration	
Legal Clinics and Know-your-rights workshops	10
Referrals to immigration lawyers	8
Translation and Documents Support	5
Safe Space Resource Days	4

Climate Literacy	
Youth climate leaders program	7
Climate health and resource library	7
Intro to climate change workshop	6
Climate conversations	6
Diversion and Re-entry	
Life skills and wellness	10
Job readiness and career coaching	7
Peer mentorship and support groups	5
Record cleaning clinics	3