



iCAR Phase VII: Climate Justice, Social Networks and Equitable Resilience

When: Oct 20 & 21, 2021

Where: Virtual Keynote 7:30 pm, Oct 20th, 2021, Watch Party at Edge, USF

Regular Sessions (Virtual) 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Oct 21st, 2021

This 2-day workshop, hosted by the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), the University of South Florida (USF) and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning (TBRPC) will highlight the eminent scholar Dr. Robert Bullard as the keynote speaker to talk about '*Confluences of Environmental And Climate Justice: Bringing Diverse Partners Together For Community Resilience*' on Oct 20th followed by a series of panel discussions on October 21st on social networks, social justice and climate resilience. Past workshop themes and accomplishments can be found at <https://www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/resources/icar/events/index.aspx>

Background:

Everyone will be impacted by natural disasters including extreme weather events, flooding and sea level rise (SLR) but not in the same way. Research conducted by the iCAR team has shown that the ability to prepare for and cope with disaster, including flooding, varies from community to community and individual to individual. Resiliency and effective/timely recovery efforts require comprehensive planning at the neighborhood level before and after a disaster occurs. This cannot be done without understanding the unique vulnerabilities and needs of diverse neighborhoods as well as bringing diverse partners to work together to promote community resilience in addition to environmental and climate justice.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Provide the community-at-large (including citizens, professionals in the environmental field, NGOs, city, county and federal agencies, political leaders, scholars, students, etc.) the opportunity to learn from Dr. Robert Bullard, one of the premier national experts on issues of environmental and climate justice;
2. Explore community-level needs for customized information and how they change from community to community as major concerns of communities and access to

resources/information vary based upon specific socio-economic backgrounds and levels of biophysical vulnerabilities. Impacts of flooding, SLR and extreme weather events are experienced by affluent coastal communities differently than inland socio-economically marginalized communities. There is a need for customized information and targeted resources to foster preparedness, adaptation and resiliency to flooding, extreme weather events and SLR.

3. Explore the vision and implementation plan for resiliency efforts to flooding and SLR (sea level rise) noted in CS/HB 7019: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience in the context of fostering equitable resilience;
4. Develop a concrete Action Plan for addressing the three most pressing issues that communities are experiencing, identified by residents through 'listening sessions,' while also creating a structure and road map to continue to address other environmental and climate justice issues in the future.

Key questions and topics that will be explored are:

- 1) How does the confluence of climate and environmental justice impact building community capacity and resiliency?
- 2) How does the CS/HB 7019 legislation address equitable resiliency to flooding and SLR?
- 3) What roles do digital platforms such as CRIS play in fostering resiliency by collecting data from diverse communities?
- 4) What lessons can be learned from the Community Resiliency Survey using Metroquest?
- 5) What are the challenges in reaching out to marginalized communities to identify their unique concerns and include them in resiliency planning?