

ADVOCATES



How can advocates use the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)?

The CVA includes many people-centered sections with information on how different communities are affected by a wide range of issues. Both the qualitative and quantitative data provided in the report can be leveraged to **highlight needed programs or policy changes**, as well as to **make the case for more funding** to address challenges. Similarly, information from the report **can be used to apply for funding to existing private or government grants** like the state's [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program \(AHSC\)](#), FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#), and the forthcoming programs in the \$3 billion 2021-2022 [California State Budget allocation for climate resilience](#).

While there is a great deal of information in the CVA about physical infrastructure, the human-centered focus of the report explains how impacts on infrastructure affect people, and also includes information about specific populations. Report sections that will be useful to advocates include:

- **Social Vulnerability**

- The *Social Vulnerability by Hazard* Section provides an overview of this concept and details how climate change is affecting people across the County. This information can be used to better understand how climate change is affecting and will affect people, and can inform policy changes and funding accordingly.
- The *Listening Session Findings* summarized in Appendix D and mentioned throughout the report, fill important gaps in quantitative data with qualitative data from service providers and people with lived experience. For example:
 - Disruptions like heatwaves and flooding can prevent people experiencing homelessness from accessing services as they prioritize shelter, sometimes even missing out on housing opportunities.
 - Disruptions to services like transportation, power and communications can mean lost work for low income workers, straining their already precarious housing and food security.
 - Because car infrastructure is prioritized across Los Angeles, people reliant on public transportation often face routes cut off by freeways, and worse access to important resources like parks, spaces with air conditioning, and grocery stores.

- **Mapping tool**

- The *Mapping Tool* allows the user to combine information about climate impacts like heat with information about populations, allowing advocates to see things like where older adults are living in areas projected to see significant increases in extreme heat.

- **Cascading impacts**

- Physical and social vulnerability both impact each other. If transportation fails, it affects workers. If workers are unable to get to work, it affects the provision of services. The relationships between these impacts are explored in the *Cascading Impacts section*. This section can help give advocates a comprehensive view of how critical infrastructure can be for people, and vice versa.

Key takeaways from the CVA emphasize that:

(1) Workers are absolutely central and critical to the functioning of our **services and infrastructure**. Workforce availability influences energy, water, transportation, communications and many other systems that are vital to disaster and disruption response.

(2) Systemic racism, segregated communities and historic disinvestment have led to **gaps in services and infrastructure** like parks, bus shelters, and healthcare. Each of these disparities acts as a **threat multiplier** for the impacts of climate change.

(3) Better communication and outreach strategies are gravely needed. In general, communications about disruptions and disasters can lack cultural relevance, **lack language access, or be missing on platforms that people use the most**.