Migration and Receiving Communities

A Plan to Plan Worksheet

Maida Owens, Bayou Culture Collaborative, October, 2025

1. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH PLAYERS, ISSUES, AND RESOURCES

Become familiar with environmental planning agencies in my state.

Which state agencies address environmental changes? Does my state have a plan?

What Federal agencies are active in my state that are involved with environmental change?

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

NOAA- National Weather Service, National Marine Fisheries Service

US Army Corps of Engineers

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Environment, Social Sciences Unit

Are there any Sea Grant Universities or National Estuary Programs in my state?

Is culture and other aspects of the human dimension addressed in planning in my state?

Does the arts and culture network participate in my state's community resilience conversation?

Does my state address migration?

Does my state rely on means migration (those who can leave, do)? Does it try to retain the young and the middle class which are more likely to leave stressed environments?

Is my state talking about managed retreat/assisted relocation or providing voluntary buyouts?

Identify non-profits that are involved with climate adaptation and include them in your planning.

Identify arts and culture organizations that can help identify artists and/or museum educators that are focused on environmental change.

What is your state arts agency?

Are there local arts agencies in your area?

Are there cultural organizations that do programming about the intersection of arts, culture and the environment?

Museums, cultural centers, galleries. Is there a state folklore society? What is your state historic preservation office? Is there a state historic preservation society?
Get involved with my planning commission.
Connect with the agency(s) or organization(s) that provide refugee resettlement and/or immigration services.
Become familiar with these issues. Use multiple viewpoints and be aware of the past. Trauma Informed Care
Become familiar with these resources. Bridging Divides, Creating Community: Arts, Culture, and Immigration Building Cohesive Communities in an Era of Migration and Change / Welcoming America Certified Welcoming / Welcoming America Art of Community: Creativity at the Crossroads of Immigrant Cultures and Society Services Lead with Listening: A Guidebook on Community Conversations on Climate / Climigration Network

2. ASSESS MY SITUATION

Identify the environmental changes that impact my community. ___Sea level rise, ___ drought, ___ wildfires, ___ extreme heat, ___ extreme precipitation, ___ storms/tornadoes, ___ flooding, ___ thawing permafrost How will the predicted economic changes affect my community? ____ workforce changes, ___ remote work, ___ changes to tax base
Identify the relocation issues for my community. Will my community be a sending or receiving community? Or both?

Determine my community's level of environmental risk.

Is my community at ___ high risk, ___ medium risk, or ___ low risk?

Determine the demographic issues that will affect planning.

Is my area increasing or decreasing in population now? What's predicted?

How densely populated is my area? Is there room for newcomers?

How easily can my community adapt to urban, suburban or rural newcomers?

What are my demographics for poverty and elderly and how will that affect planning?

Determine how my economy will be affected by the coming economic changes.

If I am on a coast, is it a recreational or working coast?

Is it high or low carbon-intensive?

What are the workforce skills of those likely to migrate to my community?

Determine the cultural issues that will impact migration in my community.

Are people more likely to move to the next higher ground? Or move farther away?

Have residents lived in my area for generations? Or have they more recently arrived?

Will my community receive people who have had to change ecosystems? Are they tied to their community's land and water? Will they face food insecurity because they lived off the land?

Determine whether my community is prepared to receive newcomers.

Am I familiar with creative economy research and creative placemaking strategies?

Am I familiar with artist community engagement projects?

Do I partner with my arts council?

Do I know artists who do community engagement projects?

Have I connected with people trained to facilitate conversations about climate migration and relocating?

Have I connected with trauma informed care professionals?

Have I connected with people trained to discuss intersectionality to help me not replicate injustices of the past?

3. IDENTIFY ACTION STEPS

You are now ready to develop an action plan for your community.

Resources

Bayou Culture Collaborative/South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, https://slwdc.org/bayou-culture-collaborative

Bayou Culture Collaborative /Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program, www.louisianafolklife.org/bayouculture

Arts, Culture, and Climate Migration Resource List, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BvVy5XoM7UOuiJL6inyJX4fXASOkzJhyh3QiSvqjcw8/edit?usp=sharing