

Resilient Alice Griffith

Building a more resilient future, one neighbor at a time

Executive Summary:

Alice Griffith Housing Development is one of San Francisco's most at-risk housing sites. The Resilient Alice Griffith Initiative leverages a model created by the Neighborhood Empowerment Network, synthesizing classic emergency management goals with modern community development methods. Specifically, the resident leaders of Alice Griffith will have streamlined access to leadership development, traditional preparedness training, and exercises that will advance their ability to work together during a disaster to successfully protect their community regardless of the level of support they receive from first responder organizations.

The resident leaders of Alice Griffith are honing these skills via a series of trainings and community-wide activations. The goal is to empower the development residents with the skills and relationships so that when disasters strike (i.e., heatwaves / poor air quality/power outages and earthquakes), they can move quickly on their own and protect their vulnerable neighbors' health and well-being.

Program Outcomes:

Resilient Alice Griffith is committed to achieving the following suite of outcomes that will be meaningful and measurable:

- **Stronger Resident Leadership:**

The Alice Griffith community will have a strong leadership class that can advance the neighborhood's readiness goals and work as a team to support residents, especially the vulnerable, during times of stress.

- **Increased Social Cohesion:** By organizing and hosting community-building events and trainings, the leadership of Resilient Alice Griffith will increase the level of connection amongst neighbors. This connection, or cohesion, will play an invaluable role in protecting the health and well-being while they shelter in place during times of stress.

- **Increased Levels of Climate Change's Impacts:** Providing residents with the latest data regarding climate change and its current and long-term impacts on the immediate and surrounding community is critical in advancing the community's participation in readiness activities.

- **Establishing a Team of Resident Responders:** A primary goal of Resilient Alice Griffith will be to establish a team of residents that will activate during times of stress to identify neighbors who need assistance and help them shelter in place safely.

- **Increase Household Readiness:** Residents ready for a disaster are more likely to safely negotiate the impacts of a climate change-related shock than those not. Resilient Alice Griffith will provide culturally appropriate population readiness training to vulnerable residents.

- **Increased Connectivity with Disaster Response Organizations:** During times of stress, the level of trust and connectivity with disaster response organizations plays a significant factor in ensuring that the most vulnerable residents get the help they need when they need it the most. Resilient Alice Griffith will integrate leads from disaster response organizations into community planning and building events throughout the Program.

Program Approach:

The program management team of Resilient Alice Griffith will use the community resilience development methods of the Neighborhood Empowerment Network's Empowered Communities Program (ECP). The ECP uses techniques developed iteratively in partnership with San Francisco over the last decade and inspired by modern community organizing methods. Using the following approaches, the residents of Alice Griffith will live in a connected community that comes together during times of stress to protect everyone's health and well-being regardless of their race, status, preference, mobility, or functional needs.

- **Experiential Leadership Development** - During times of stress, residents are often called upon to convene neighborhood stakeholders into a team and support them in crafting and implementing response strategies for their community. Resilient Alice Griffith uses activities, such as planning a Neighborfest Block Party, that allow resident leaders to practice assembling a real team of neighbors, writing a plan inclusively, engaging and connecting with their neighbors, and setting and breaking down a community-serving event.
- **Social Cohesion Development** - A growing body of evidence has shown that during times of stress (i.e., residential & wildfires, heatwaves, floods, and power outages), a significant factor in a vulnerable resident's ability to survive a disaster is the level of connectivity they have with their immediate neighbors. Resilient Alice Griffith encourages connectivity by hosting community-building events and trainings.
- **Human-Centered Design** - An essential quality of a thriving community development plan is the active participation of the community at large in its creation. Resilient Alice Griffith uses human-centered design methods to unite the community and work collectively to generate a resilience action plan inclusively and transparently.

Program Highlights: Resilient Alice Griffith's work plan consists of community capacity-building activities to advance the neighborhood's overall disaster resilience at the individual and community levels.

- **Assemble a Resident Leadership Team** - Resilient Alice Griffith is committed to being a community-led disaster resilience development Program.
- **Create a Resilience Action Plan** - The resident leaders of Resilient Alice Griffith are provided the technical support to create a Resilient Action Plan customized to the unique social composition of the community and the threats it faces. The plan will memorialize the goals and objectives of the leadership team and guide its investments moving forward.
- **Neighborfest May 13, 2023** - The resident leaders of Resilient Alice Griffith will use the Neighborfest Block Party program to produce a fun and inclusive event that will increase the

overall social cohesion of the community as well as advance the leadership's capacity to work as a team.

- **Create a “Floor Champion” Team** - During times of stress (i.e., heatwaves and power outages, residents will be forced to shelter in place until the threat has ended. For many, they will need help in protecting their health and well-being during this period. Resilient Alice Griffith's goal is to establish a “Floor Champions” team across the development that will activate during an event and support residents, especially the vulnerable, with wellness checks and support.

- **Host Resident Preparedness Workshops** - Prepared residents are safer residents during a disaster. Resilient Alice Griffith will host four separate resident readiness workshops in the three most common languages in the development.

The training includes:

- 3 Senior Readiness Workshops - English, Spanish, Chinese
- 3 Family Readiness Workshops - English, Spanish, Chinese
- 3 Red Cross First Aid Training Workshops - English, Spanish, Chinese
- 3 American Heart Association CPR / AED Training Workshops - English, Spanish, Chinese

- **October 19 Neighborhood Action Day** - The Resilient Alice Griffith Great Shakeout: After months of community building and readiness training, Resilient Alice Griffith will host its first-ever Great Shakeout event. In partnership with the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA), Resilient Alice Griffith will produce an event that will feature:

- A readiness fair that will offer all residents both hands-on training and access to culturally competent hazard readiness information
- A personal safety drill that will allow residents to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” at 10 am
- A Floor Champion exercise that will allow resident volunteers to practice conducting wellness checks on their neighbors while they shelter in place
- A demonstration of the Resilient Alice Griffith Neighborhood Support Center will coordinate resident-led response activities across the development and partner with first responder organizations on meeting the community's needs.
- A ceremony that will recognize the accomplishments of the Resilient Alice Griffith leadership and the community. Resilient Alice Griffith will invite local and state officials and key government and non-profit organizations to attend.

- **Conduct Assessment and Generate Final Reports** - To ensure the ongoing success of Resilient Alice Griffith, the Program team will partner with a professional researcher to design and distribute a survey to residents in English, Spanish, and Chinese. The survey measures the success of the Program's efforts to achieve its stated goals and objectives and will be deployed at the Program's launch and conclusion. These findings will be memorialized in a report shared with Cal Volunteers and the community.

Calendar of Activities:

- February / March - Assemble Resilient Alice Griffith Resident Leadership Team
- April - Draft Resilient Alice Griffith Resilient Action Plan
- May - Host Resilient Alice Griffith Neighborfest
- June / July / August - Host Resident Readiness Training
- September - Create Resilient Alice Griffith Floor Champion Team

- October 19 - Neighborhood Day of Action / Resilient Alice Griffith Great Shakeout

About the Community:

Alice Griffith Housing Development

Located in southeast San Francisco in the Candlestick Point area, the Alice Griffith Housing Development is a HOPE SF site home to 337 public housing units with approximately 600 residents on about 22 acres. Constructed in 1962 and located near the decommissioned shipyard, an aging football stadium for the 49ers, Alice Griffith is relatively isolated from the rest of the City, lacking access to social services, jobs, and other amenities usually found in San Francisco neighborhoods. Additionally, due to its location on the City's bay coastline and in one of the warmest parts of the City, it is at incredibly high risk of the impacts of sea level rise and heat waves. Over the last decade, many original buildings have replaced modern, safer apartment buildings. While the facilities have been improved, the residents still need ongoing support services to overcome the negative impacts of the intentional lack of civic and social investment in the surrounding community. As part of that strategy, BHPMSS has stepped in and is now managing the community center and its resident support services.