



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

## Technical Advisory Council

### Vulnerable Communities Definition Modification

March 29, 2024

#### Introduction

In April of 2018, the TAC adopted the following definition of climate vulnerability to guide actions to advance equity:

*Climate vulnerability describes the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are at risk of exposure to climate change impacts. Vulnerable communities experience heightened risk and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/ or economic factor(s), which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality.*

#### Definition Modification Proposal

At the November 2023 TAC meeting, the Council brought to staff attention that disability is not explicitly identified as a factor that can result in disproportionate impact from climate change. Lack of emergency planning focused on people with disabilities, specific healthcare needs, and other social and economic risk factors associated with physical and mental disabilities can result in people with disabilities experiencing difficulties in coping with, adapting to, and recovering from climate impacts. Although disability data will be included on the platform as an indicator of climate vulnerability, several Councilmembers recommended that staff make a minor modification to the vulnerable communities definition to include disability.

#### New Definition

Staff propose the following modified definition (as indicated with the bolded text) of vulnerable communities for adoption by the TAC to address this concern:

*Climate vulnerability describes the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are at risk of exposure to climate change impacts. Vulnerable communities experience heightened risk and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/ or economic factor(s),*

*which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, income inequality, **and disability.***

**Action**

Vote to amend the Vulnerable Communities definition to list disability as a factor that influences vulnerability.