IDEAS for CLIMATE RESILIENCE in HEALTHCARE

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS

Understand and build upon Springfield's hazard and community vulnerability assessments Identify the degree of vulnerability and exposure to hazards your community may face, and the likely impact of that vulnerability on both medical services (patient surge) and non-traditional needs (beyond clinical care) the community may expect a medical facility to provide.

PROTECT VITAL SERVICES

Engage frontline workers in planning in order to understand the organizational vulnerabilities that extreme weather may reveal, and to prepare and equip personnel for such circumstances. Assess the limits on housing substantial numbers of personnel, with families and pets, during shelter-in-place. Develop a plan for converting unoccupied locations to staff accommodation, including during times of possible patient surge.

PROTECT VITAL FUNCTIONS

Elevate utility systems and equipment above the local Design Flood Elevation (DFE), the design flood relative to the datum specified on the community's legally designated flood hazard map.

ENSURE ACCESS

Assess access roads and building evacuation routes for extreme weather vulnerabilities, considering whether downed trees, floods, or blocked culverts will affect road use and site access. Create redundancy in the facility's evacuation routes to avoid entrapment.

ENSURE PASSIVE SURVIVABILITY

Implement building facade design measures ranging from enhanced insulation, roof overhangs, fixed solar shading devices, and operable windows, for enhanced thermal comfort and mitigation of overheating in the event of a total systems failure.

WORK WITH NATURE

Reduce the risk of flash flooding and urban heat island effect by managing stormwater and incorporating vegetation onsite. Reduce impervious surfaces, harvest rainwater, and direct remaining stormwater runoff to soil and vegetation based water treatment methods, such as rain gardens, bio-swales, and green roofs.

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Participate in an energy efficiency audit and retrofit. Install wind and/or solar energy systems for both thermal energy (domestic hot water heating) and electric power generation. Reduce transportation-based emissions by transitioning to high-efficiency or alternative-fuel vehicles and ambulances and increase the purchasing of local and organic produce by a goal quantity.

REDUCE WASTE

Disinfect plastics and recycle, rather than incinerating potentially infectious plastic medical waste. Eliminate the purchase and sale of bottled water.