

# Building Florida's Coastal Resilience



**Without action, Floridians will face more challenges during regular flood events, hurricanes and as rising seas force migration away from the coast.**

In Florida, roughly 490,000 people live on land less than 3 feet above the local high tide mark, comprising over 300,000 homes and an estimated \$145 billion in property value.

Roughly half of the nation's vulnerable property value is located in Florida, with the Miami and Tampa-St. Petersburg communities having the greatest risk.

**Florida can establish a meaningful and unified resilience effort that creates a safer, more prosperous and equitable future for all communities.**

**Over 1.8 million Florida homes have a substantial risk of flooding today – and this number could increase by nearly 20 percent over the next 30 years.**

Storm surge may increase 50% by 2100 due to rising seas and greater storm intensity projected under moderate climate projections.

Tidal or nuisance flooding will increase substantially from a few days to nearly 60 days a year in the next decade from sea level rise, with outsized impacts to traditionally vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.



**Every \$1 invested in building resilient communities and infrastructure saves \$6 in recovery costs.**

## 2021 Policy Opportunities

Florida must convene local and state agencies to develop coastal solutions that protect communities and businesses from hurricanes, flooding and heat caused by sea level rise and climate change. Using best-available science and leveraging nature-based infrastructure, like mangroves, is a solid recipe for increasing resilience in Florida.

Empower the state's Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) with implementation authority, technical and other resources to ensure integration and coordination of agencies on collective resilience efforts.

Leverage the use of natural and nature-based features and account for the ability of coastal and riverine ecosystems ability to provide ecosystem benefits such as risk reduction, carbon sequestration, water quality and habitat.

Incorporate sea level rise projection into all state agencies, programs and initiatives to assess and mitigate risk, and provide for adaptive management.