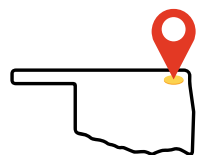


Ottawa County, OK Resilience Project



Ottawa County, Oklahoma

Project Team: Fernleaf, L.E.A.D. Agency

Funding Amount: \$119,000



Project Summary

This project provided capacity to partners in the city of Miami and across Ottawa County, Oklahoma, including local governments, community organizations, and Tribes, that are working to build community resilience to weather-related hazards and other stressors impacting health and safety. It focused on all jurisdictions and Tribes within the county and addressed multiple climate-related threats, such as flooding and extreme heat, particularly in areas that are impacted by toxic pollution. Building upon existing partnerships and past work, the project established a county-wide, multi-jurisdictional stakeholder team and completed a parcel-level, multi-hazard vulnerability assessment. These efforts lay the groundwork for identifying resilience strategies through a collaborative, whole-of-government approach to support sustained resilience-building.

Project Goals



Increase capacity among local governments, Tribal Nations, and community organizations to address flooding and toxic pollution.



Conduct multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessment to identify and prioritize risks to people, infrastructure, and critical services.



Co-create resilience strategies and identify funding opportunities.



Project Timeline

Months 1-4

Assemble stakeholder group and solicit community input

Months 5-8

Conduct workshops and meetings to help identify vulnerabilities and risks

Months 9-12

Identify strategies & funding opportunities

Additional Collaborators

- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Ottawa Tribe
- Wyandotte Nation
- City of Miami
- Ottawa County

Community Challenges



Toxic Legacy Exposure

Each flood event is toxic due to hazardous waste leaching from Tar Creek Superfund site



Excessive Flooding

Increasing severity of flooding due to dam-caused flooding and more severe rain events



High Social Vulnerability

More than 20% of households and residents live below the poverty line



Siloed Communication & Decision-Making

Limited capacity and resources among stakeholders prevents coordinated and efficient planning efforts

Project Approach

To address community challenges and build long-term community resilience across communities and Tribes, the project team utilized the following whole-of-government approach:

- ★ Assembled a multi-jurisdictional stakeholder group that included the City of Miami, Ottawa County, and Tribal Communities.
- ★ Local partners completed community surveys of residents in the floodplain and completed a pilot demonstration project to demonstrate the viability of flood resilience solutions.
- ★ Conducted a multi-hazard county-wide vulnerability and risk assessment that includes property-level information for each jurisdiction in the County.
- ★ Developed an inventory of preliminary strategies and actions based on assessment findings and stakeholder input.

Impact

This project enhanced community resilience by providing a comprehensive understanding of multi-hazard risks, particularly flooding and extreme heat. By identifying vulnerable residents and assets, the project supported local jurisdictions and Tribal communities with vital, place-based hazard information to guide effective resilience actions. Additionally, the initiative fostered stronger collaboration across local governments, Tribes, and state agencies, enabling a coordinated, community-centered approach to resilience.

Next Steps

Project stakeholders will leverage the relationships strengthened among County-wide stakeholders during this project to:

- Coordinate among county-wide stakeholders to collaborate on resilience-building opportunities.
- Use assessment results to develop site-specific resilience strategies.
- Advance resilience strategies through project development and seeking funding.

More information on LEAD agency can be found on their website

 <https://www.leadagency.org>