



February 18, 2021

Impacting Communities through Resilience



NEMA is partnering with a small group of associations working to bring together for the first time the individuals in states serving as Chief Resilience Officers (CROs). At least ten states have established a CRO position and several more have introduced legislation to do the same.

The CRO Work group is led by the **Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Council of the States, NEMA, and the National Governors Association**. The purpose of the group is to create a network between CROs to explore and document model practices, lessons learned, shared opportunities and challenges with respect to creating and maintaining a CRO position in state government.

The CRO role is primarily to coordinate community and resilience planning; promote resilience in disaster mitigation, risk reduction, and recovery; devise proactive solutions to climate change; coordinate resilience efforts across state and local government agencies; turn resilience policy into action through community-based projects; developing and leveraging funding sources for resilience projects; working with the private sector; and more.

CROs are organized differently state to state: governor's offices, departments of public safety, and departments of environmental quality to name a few structures. Their funding and staffing levels vary widely as well.

The CRO Work Group has a monthly virtual meeting with discussion that focuses on a specific topic. Current scheduled topics include the following:

- Introduction to CROs and State Structures
- Internal and External Engagement
- Intergovernmental Engagement
- Risk Management
- State Resilience Planning

These topical discussions will inform the development of a "governance roadmap" for governors and legislators so that those leaders who have an interest in creating – or enhancing – a CRO position can benefit from the experiences and insights of those already in such a position.

It's NEMA's goal to ensure CROs are connected with their state emergency management agency so that resilience efforts are coordinated and leveraged, particularly with regard to mitigation projects and funding.

"Resilience is a culture of preparedness"

- Attributed to the Center for Strategic & International Studies

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