

# PRESENTATION: REIMAGINA PUERTO RICO REPORT

The Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission (the Commission) was established in November 2017 as an independent and inclusive body led by Puerto Ricans. It is supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Open Society Foundations. The main project of the Commission, Reimagina Puerto Rico, aims to:

**Produce an actionable and timely set of recommendations for how to use philanthropic, local government, and federal recovery funds to help rebuild Puerto Rico in a way that makes the Island stronger – physically, economically, and socially – and better prepared to confront future challenges.**

As part of the project’s accelerated outreach process, Reimagina Puerto Rico convened community members and leaders, grassroots organizations, business leaders, government officials, and representatives from professional organizations. It participated in approximately **77** meetings with more than **748** people. This process led to actionable recommendations that mitigate the impact of future disasters and address unmet needs, as well as ongoing challenges. In view of the diverse paths that exist toward the recovery of Puerto Rico, the Commission established the following **4 guiding principles**:



Maximize social well-being in all investments



Ensure transparency at all levels of policymaking



Establish equity and inclusiveness as a priority



Emphasize and foster coordination and collaboration

The Commission identified **6 crosscutting strategies** directed toward achieving the 4 recovery principles in order to maximize recovery funds:

- Adopt a universal accessibility policy as part of the reconstruction efforts.
- Establish effective and equitable community participation.
- Implement evidence-based approaches to foster transparency and capacity building.
- Promote innovation in reconstruction efforts.
- Promote resilient and empowered communities.
- Integrate resilience dividend in all investments.

As a result of this exercise, Reimagina Puerto Rico proposes a set of **97 actions** that cover all sectors of the Working Groups:



**Housing**

18 actions



**Economic Development**

12 actions



**Energy**

12 actions



**Physical Infrastructure**

30 actions



**Health, Education & Social Services**

9 actions



**Natural Infrastructure**

16 actions

**The report highlights 17 of these recommendations** as high priority, impactful, and actionable, as they address crucial elements for the recovery and reconstruction of Puerto Rico.

For more information about the Reimagina Puerto Rico Report visit:



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[www.reimaginapuertorico.org](http://www.reimaginapuertorico.org)



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## PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

-  **1** | Develop feasible models to establish land tenure and community ownership in informal housing.
-  **2** | Establish reliable and diversified backup energy systems for vulnerable individuals and critical facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and emergency shelters and services facilities.
-  **3** | Develop resilient community centers to improve the provision of services during emergencies and disaster relief.
-  **4** | Invest in improvements to the physical infrastructure of educational and healthcare facilities to improve the provision of services on a regular basis and in the face of multiple hazards.
-  **5** | Prioritize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding for training, re-training, and skills credentialing within priority industry clusters.
-  **6** | Update the Island's digital land cadastre to include: use and occupancy of structures, land tenure data, housing characteristics in informal housing, and information on insurance coverage.
-  **7** | Commission a study to support the deployment (underground and aerial) of a more resilient telecommunications infrastructure.
-  **8** | Enforce open space determinations with programs/guidelines for the dedication of lands to the creation of parks, green infrastructure projects, land conservation, or other adequate uses.
-  **9** | Prepare a new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), with public, community and private sector participation, to be used as the foundation for the energy sector transformation and which includes updated analysis and forecast of the demand base, aggressive renewable generation targets, and a risk-based analysis of the sector to strengthen utility oversight and operator decision making.
-  **10** | Develop a master integrated Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for critical infrastructures and providers.
-  **11** | Improve data collection, management and dissemination to ensure information transparency, reliability, and access.
-  **12** | Develop a water efficiency program to improve water demand management through water conservation and use of alternative water sources.
-  **13** | Optimize healthcare financing to reduce the proportion of uninsured people and shortage of healthcare professionals, and improve quality, access, and continuity of healthcare provision in disaster-related emergencies.
-  **14** | Develop and implement a disaster resilience strategy for the micro and small businesses of Puerto Rico.
-  **15** | Develop a public policy to promote the use of nature-based solutions in the reconstruction process of Puerto Rico.
-  **16** | Introduce alternative energy sources to power transportation-related infrastructure.
-  **17** | Improve the Puerto Rico Dam Safety Program to ensure coordination between responsible agencies and enhance community preparedness.