

# A Rural Resilience Hub

**What's a resilience hub?** A resilience hub is a space that brings together people and resources to build a stronger community that can withstand and thrive in the face of ongoing stresses and emergencies.

The use of the term “resilience hub” is relatively new in rural settings! In urban areas, people originally envisioned resilience hubs as buildings that are resilient to climate hazards and could become central places for emergency management (i.e., shelter, phone charging, food distribution, etc.). In more recent years, as many cities expand collaboration with community organizations that were already supporting local resilience, this definition has expanded to include services and resources for emergencies *and* day-to-day well-being – everything from community gathering space, to legal support, to food aid.

**What could a rural resilience hub involve?** The organization [Transition Centre](#) envisions a rural resilience hub as a way to strengthen or revitalize rural economies through programs or initiatives that address uniquely rural issues – ranging from supporting local agriculture, to broadband connectivity, to hosting a space for workforce and skills development. Other ideas from around the country have focused on creating or enhancing a central community space (e.g. municipal library, school, community center) that nurtures civic life, resource sharing, and community organizing or initiatives that support thriving and resilient towns and regions.

## Ideas for an Ashfield Resilience Hub

Over the course of this project, many people have raised the idea of a resilience hub for Ashfield. *What could that look like?* Some of the possibilities suggested so far include:

- An inclusive space that brings people together across ages and political differences
- A welcoming place where all residents (new and long-time residents, youth, seniors, families, and more) can get connected with community resources
- A central place for local and regional coordination during and after emergencies
- A platform for sharing local happenings, events, offers, and needs
- A resilient facility that showcases renewable energy
- A place to support local agriculture, e.g. a year-round local farmer's market
- A hub that creates opportunities for community organizing and youth leadership
- A place for mutual aid and community sharing, e.g. wood bank, ride sharing
- A resource for learning about and sharing strategies for affordable housing

These are just some of the ways that a resilience hub could help to support local priorities and strengthen community resilience in Ashfield.

## ***What are your ideas for a rural resilience hub in Ashfield?***

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