

Tribal Climate Resilience Academies



Tribal communities face a severe housing crisis, and climate events are making it worse by exposing these homes to extreme weather and stretching limited resources even thinner. The exposure isn't uniform: it takes different forms across Indian Country.

Erosion and relocation: Rising seas, severe storms, and flash floods are destroying homes outright and forcing entire communities to relocate.

Extreme heat and wildfire: Historic forced relocations left many Tribes on lands now facing more extreme heat days and heightened wildfire risk, resulting in damages to older, poorly insulated housing stock never built for these conditions.

Water and sanitation disruption: Drought and severe weather are damaging fragile and outdated water infrastructure, causing service disruptions and contaminating private wells.

These hazards land on a housing stock already in crisis: 23% of households on Tribal lands live in housing with a physical problem or deficiency, compared with just 5% nationally. The consequences go deeper: higher insurance premiums, reduced land availability, costly retrofits, loss of affordable housing stock, higher property costs, and energy and utility shortages.

Meeting these challenges takes more than materials and funding. It requires resilience strategies grounded in both physical and cultural

knowledge, built on accurate, community-specific data, and paired with the technical capacity many Tribal housing organizations don't have.

That's the gap Enterprise Community Partners is working to close.

Through our Climate Resilience Academies, we pair cohort-based training with direct technical assistance and capital to help turn climate risk knowledge into funded, buildable solutions. Here's that work in practice.



The Southwest Tribal Climate Resilience Academy

Launched in October 2025, after nearly a year of planning with Tribal housing providers and resilience experts, the Southwest Tribal Climate Resilience Academy was Enterprise's first Climate Resilience Academy built specifically for Native housing authorities and entities.

Fourteen Tribal entities were selected through an application process, including participants from Pueblos and Tribes from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Their journey together started at a two-day, in-person session bringing together a total of 54 participants learning from subject matter experts, guest speakers, case studies, and working groups. And a tour of a resilient, energy-efficient, healthy housing project gave the cohort a working model, not just a framework.

The four-month curriculum, developed for cultural relevance across the Tribal Southwest, addressed the climate threats of drought, wildfire, and flooding through virtual sessions:

- **Community Assessment:** Defining challenges and opportunities
- **Climate Risk:** Understanding resilience planning
- **Housing Strategy:** Tailored approaches to climate challenges
- **Cultural and Economic Resilience:** Disaster planning strategies
- **Funding:** Approaches and opportunities



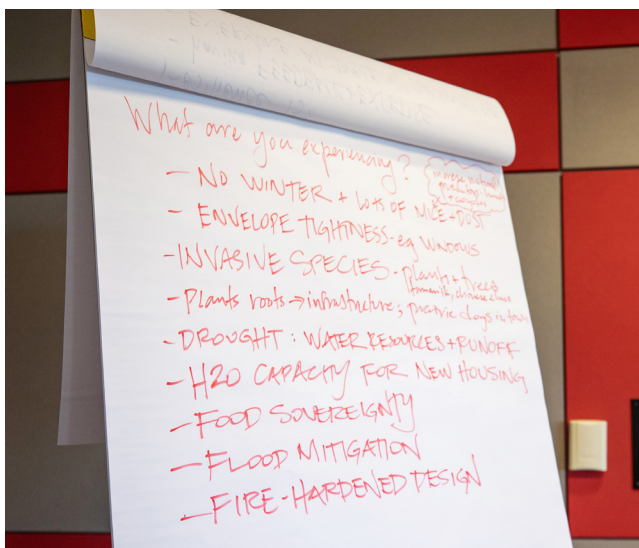
The Academy also provided the following to support Tribes in fulfilling their resilience goals:

- Six months of technical assistance to strengthen project implementation
- Fourteen \$5,000 stipends to cover staff time and travel
- Six \$25,000 grants to implement capacity building projects related to climate hazards

Tribes requested technical assistance for:

- Integrating climate resilience into new construction
- Planning energy retrofits across existing units
- Prioritizing wildfire- and wind-resilient strategies
- Funding solar and weatherization upgrades
- Planning for emergency management
- Educating communities on disaster response
- Funding infrastructure improvements

The Southwest cohort proved the model. Now we're scaling it to a region with its own distinct threats.



The Pacific Northwest Climate Resilience Academy

Building directly on the Southwest model, Enterprise is launching a Climate Resilience Academy in early 2027, open to Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities across Washington, Oregon, and Idaho — a region where both the hazards and the housing consequences look different from the Southwest.

Coastal tribes in Washington and Oregon face rising seas, coastal flooding, erosion, ocean acidification, and the loss of fish and shellfish habitats central to subsistence and culture. While inland tribes in Idaho face intensifying wildfire seasons, severe drought, declining snowpack, and extreme heat, straining housing stability and water access. In both cases, the pressure extends past buildings into cultural practice, economic security, and public health.

Tribal Nations on the frontlines of these hazards are ready and capable of responding but are held back by rigid grant requirements, limited staff capacity, and funding that doesn't match priorities. This Academy is designed to directly address those structural barriers, not just the climate hazards themselves.

The three-month cohort pairs training with individualized, no-cost technical assistance on what this region's hazards demand — fire risk, water access, business continuity, and insurance and policy. This is Enterprise standing beside Tribal housing leaders, turning hazards into capacity, tools, and homes families can count on.

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