The two-year Learning Collaborative for Multifamily Affordable Housing Resilience supports 12 affordable housing providers impacted by Hurricane Sandy—overseeing 293 multifamily buildings supporting 14,500 low-income households in New York and New Jersey—to improve the resiliency of their properties and safeguard the families living in them from future crises. The goal is to deepen organizations’ understanding of resiliency, and allow them to capitalize on each other’s resources to develop properties that will weather any future climate events.

The Partners

- Asian Americans for Equality
- Bailey House
- CAMBA Housing Ventures
- Carroll Gardens Association
- Community Investment Strategies
- Fifth Avenue Committee
- Jersey City Housing Authority
- Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA)
- Lott Community Development Corporation
- Lower East Side People’s Mutual Housing Association
- Services for the UnderServed
- Triple C Housing

Enterprise supports the participants in collaboratively developing comprehensive disaster preparedness and response plans for their organizations and housing portfolios; providing technical support to help each organization assess its housing portfolio’s vulnerability to future crises and exploring innovative resilient retrofit options; and identifying potential financing and planning mechanisms to implement the recommendations. The cohort supports each other on the development of key disaster preparedness skills, shares progress around Sandy recovery and resilience and shares challenges and lessons learned.

Takeaways from the Learning Collaborative are included in guides and protocols that Enterprise has developed to help other organizations evaluate their level of crisis preparedness, assess physical vulnerabilities to a variety of climate and emergency impacts and provide guidance for resident engagement. These tools will extend the benefits of this program to all multifamily owners in the region and beyond.

“…Hurricane Sandy and our involvement in the Recovery and Rebuilding Program have heightened planning and preparation strategies in our day-to-day business operations and decision making. The experience has really elevated our mind set to a new level that will aid in resiliency and recovery in the aftermath of future events.”

—Barbara K. Schoor, vice president, Community Investment Strategies
The Progress

- $33.5 million leveraged in public funding for recovery, repair and resilience work
- 56 affordable multifamily buildings serving 3,672 households assessed for climate vulnerability
- 1 new development “future proofed” for climate change
- 1 storm water master plan developed for site that supports 314 housing units
- 7 organizational emergency plans and protocols produced to protect housing facilities, businesses and residents
- 6 resident engagement emergency preparedness meetings coordinated
- 1 resident leader volunteer network developed
- 41 staff supported to coordinate various disaster recovery and preparedness projects in organizations
- 12 help desks held in 4 flood-vulnerable neighborhoods assisting 144 households