# BUILDING A FAIRER DISASTER RECOVERY MODEL THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE CDBG-DR PROGRAM IN NJ

Adam Gordon Fair Share Housing Center September 9, 2013



















# **IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

- Network hosted HUD Secretary Donovan for discussions with stakeholders even before Congress passes appropriation
  - Over 70 groups drafted framework for issues to raise prior to HUD notice being issued
  - Statute and HUD notice learn from Katrina; include expanded HUD review of Action Plans, fairness and sustainability metrics









# RENTERS AND OWNERS



- Unprecedented access to FEMA data early in the process (though it wasn't easy) – joint national data release with Enterprise Community Partners and Furman Center
- Key issue emerges: fair treatment of renters vs. homeowners
- Renter impact: 23% African-American, 25% Latino (vs. 8% and 8% for owners)
- 67% of renter impact OUTSIDE urban centers;
   within cities significant gentrification risk

N.J.
advocacy
groups push
for more
Sandy aid
for renters









# **INITIAL SUCCESSES**



- State proposes only 22% of resources to renters, even though 40% of impact was on renters
- FSHC, NAACP, Latino Action Network file Fair Housing Complaint in response to the plan
- Over 80 NJ groups write to Secretary Donovan to ask for changes to the plan
- HUD requires increasing resources for lower-income renters by \$75m, including \$15m for public housing.







# INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION



Results from first three months of CDBG-DR rental program (including \$60 million in additional funds added after changes):

1,814 new homes to replace depleted rental stock funded with 30+ year deed restrictions

Largely follows new QAP devised after two-year process with negotiations among broad array of stakeholders and NJ HMFA









#### SUCCESSES IN IMPLEMENTATION

- Prioritizing Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: 58% of homes outside urban areas, including many hard-hit communities with history of exclusionary zoning
- Addressing
  Gentrification: Within
  urban areas, priority on
  communities with
  greatest housing
  challenges such as











### **CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION**

- 58% still less than the 67% of impact that was outside urban areas, and only 50% of family units outside urban areas
- Enforcement of <u>Mount Laurel</u> needed to overcome exclusionary zoning, build in high-opportunity areas
- Non-profit, PHA challenges accessing funds
- Preservation of Year 15 Properties









# PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

- Sandy Recovery Task Force charged with developing a framework for future disasters – move away from one-off responses
- Over 100 NJ groups comment
- Key recommendations that came out of Sandy experience to date include:
  - Increasing data access that makes fair housing advocacy possible
  - Funding for multifamily development and PHAs similar to funding required in NJ
  - Partnering with local NGOs







# THE ROAD AHEAD



- Expected allocation of approximately \$8 billion in Sandy CDBG-DR in next few weeks
- HUD's actions will provide first test of commitment to Task Force report implementation
- Magnitude of resources for long-term affordability and where those resources are used are key
- Continued organizing, advocacy, and legal action will be critical