Lead Organization: City of Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED)
Program start: June 1, 2011
Funding Level: $1,100,000

The City of Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED) promotes economic development by helping existing businesses grow and by attracting new industry to the city. The department also leads Chicago’s affordable housing, housing preservation and community-based homebuyer assistance programs, as well as the city’s zoning, land use planning, sustainability and historic preservation initiatives. The department works in cooperation with community and business groups, elected officials, delegate agencies and other community stakeholders.

Project purpose: The Multiunit Retrofit Improvement Loan (MURIL) Program aims to complement affordable housing preservation initiatives taking place across the region by reducing energy costs in multiunit buildings. MURIL is intended to specifically target low-to-moderate income residential building units by aligning retrofit activities with existing housing rehabilitation projects administered through participating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and/or Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program jurisdictions. Administering a loan program to buildings already enlisted in a rehabilitation program will greatly reduce transaction costs and can be an effective delivery mechanism of energy retrofit activities, particularly in the multiunit/low and moderate income sector. By layering energy efficiency loans onto existing construction work, the program hopes to incent additional investment in energy efficiency that will achieve greater energy savings over the long term. Energy Impact Illinois selected the City of Chicago’s Department of Housing and Economic Development as an eligible jurisdiction for one of two awards through this program in the spring of 2011.

Scope of Services:

- Development, deployment, management and evaluation of all key components of the MURIL program.
- Oversight of all retrofit activity including contractor selection and management.
- Recruitment and enrollment of building owners into loan program.
- Reporting and compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, codes, regulations.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Retrofit an estimated 450 units in multifamily structures located within the City of Chicago.