

With a high volume of media coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on how government money is proposed to be spent in the rebuilding process. For more information on transparency and opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Also, let us know how we can adjust this alert to make it better

**GOOD
JOBS
NEW YORK**

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: April 25-May 2

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This week's news

Disaster Relief

- A bill introduced by New York City Council Members Brad Lander and Donovan Richards would require the city to disclose on a website companies receiving Sandy relief funds and employment and wage information. [New York Daily News](#) and [Alliance for a Just Rebuilding Press Release](#)
- Gov. Christie vetoed a bill requiring oversight of federal disaster aid, claiming it was redundant. After pledging to hire "accountability officers" and "integrity monitors," his veto is baffling to transparency advocates. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development approved New York State's \$1.7 billion CDBG funds for rebuilding, including an initial \$171 million for home buyouts. Gov. Cuomo reports that most residents are interested in rebuilding. [The New York Times](#)
- FEMA has spent \$2.5 billion in New York State on recovery aid, a threshold that increases the federal reimbursement rate from 75% to 90%. The state must submit a formal request, to be signed by the President. New Jersey has not yet met its threshold. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- New York State reimbursed New York City with \$47 million in FEMA funding for its Rapid Repairs program. The state has expanded the program into the Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power (STEP) pilot program. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- FEMA policy makes co-operative apartments ineligible for disaster funds. The city estimates that at least 120 co-ops sustained flooding and need extensive repairs. To change the policy would require new federal legislation. [The New](#)

York Times

- The majority of the \$178 million FEMA money allocated to Long Island has gone to debris removal. State prosecutors are investigating if clean-up work was steered to politically connected contractors, and if the work paid prevailing wages. Newsday

ALSO: In Long Island, SBA reports show that nearly \$60 million in business loans have been approved so far. Newsday

- Gov. Christie announced New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) will disburse \$460 million to small businesses. EDA also approved \$25 million in CDBG funds for a marketing/advertising campaign. The Star-Ledger
- Because of many complaints from small businesses about insurance claim denials, a New York State mediation program is helping hundreds of small business owners challenge the denials. Crain's New York Business

ALSO: Some Long Islanders are turning to free law clinics to help with complicated filing procedures. Newsday

- Occupy Sandy, the movement that grew out of the Occupy Wall Street protests, has shifted the focus of the movement to helping the poor, rather than fighting the rich. Some are wary of the recent shift away from the core message of income inequality. The New York Times
- The American Red Cross has spent \$192 million of the \$302 million it raised for Sandy relief efforts. The largest share of the money was spent on food and shelter to those displaced. The Record

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- The 11 billion gallons of sewage that leaked into streams, rivers and streets during Sandy was roughly 50 times larger than the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A new report from Climate Central includes an interactive map feature that illustrates the overflow problem by state, cause and type.

ALSO: The lead author of the Climate Central report states that global climate change could increase the threat of similar sewage spills in the future. The New York Times and Stateline News Service

- Some municipalities are rebuilding with resiliency measures in mind. Many private property owners are not, citing the

high cost of such measures or that they cannot afford to wait for grants. About 16% of the total federal Sandy aid bill has been approved so far. [WNYC](#)

- Federal disaster workers have yet to visit 25 of 50 schools that were badly damaged in the storm, to sign off on needed repairs. [New York Daily News](#)
- ConEd's directors gave out \$600,000 in extra bonuses to its top executives, despite being under investigation for its performance during Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Four ConEd senior executives have agreed to return their bonuses, after Gov. Cuomo raised concerns that the bonus money could be passed along to customers. [New York Post](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- Three dozen prefabricated beach restroom facilities, costing about \$2 million each, will be transported to New York City from Pennsylvania through a slow and lengthy route. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Carpenters for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation are rushing to finish picnic tables and lifeguard stands to replace those destroyed in Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

- New Jersey foresters report that tree loss due to Sandy, Irene and other recent storms has changed the region's forests for a generation or more. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- Amid many stories about the recovery six months after Sandy, certain neighborhoods emerge as the example of the storm's lasting damage. [Capital New York](#) and [CBS New York](#)

Housing

- A New York State Supreme Court judge temporarily blocked New York City's plan to end its temporary shelter program in a response to a lawsuit filed by the Legal Aid Society that claims storm refugees received little or no assistance finding permanent housing. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Nearly 200 families faced eviction from the City's temporary shelter program. Advocates from the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding held a rally Monday to call on the city to extend the program. [New York Daily News](#) and [Gotham Gazette](#)

ALSO: Coverage of the New York City Council oversight hearing on the city's plan to evict 196 Sandy victims from the City's hotel program on April 30. [Gotham Gazette](#)

- At the six month anniversary of Sandy, many homeowners are receiving notice from mortgage holders that the forbearance on payments is ending and a lump sum back-

payment is due. Some banks are threatening foreclosure. [Gotham Gazette](#)

- With uncertainty about changes expected in FEMA flood maps, some New Jersey residents seek to sell damaged properties at a loss while others speculate that the market is beginning to strengthen. [WNYC](#)
- In the Queens neighborhood of Breezy Point, many homes remain unoccupied while rebuilding continues. [New York Daily News](#)

Jobs

- Workers' determination to rebuild is the main reason why ICE Stone, a manufacturing company that operates out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and offers company stock to its workers, was able to reopen recently. [The New York Times](#)
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released the Sandy-related death toll revealing that 16 New York and New Jersey workers died during dangerous conditions caused by Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)
- The New York Building Congress released data showing growth in the construction industry, in part due to Sandy rebuilding projects. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The Long Beach Medical Center emergency department will rehire some of the 500 workers laid off after the storm. [Newsday](#)
- Connecticut received over \$610,000 to hire unemployed workers for Sandy clean-up. Despite over 900 inquiries no one has been hired. [The Hartford Courant](#)

Advocacy News

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Public Library is compiling oral histories of Brooklyn individuals, organizations, and workers who were impacted by the storm. Interviews will be scheduled by appointment. See [website](#) for details.

Manhattan

Friday, May 3: Enterprise Resiliency Series: Flooded Boilers: Preparation, Response, Recovery, and Resilience. Representatives from the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association (LESMPHA) will discuss how they repaired and restored heating and hot water service to hundreds

of affected building units throughout the Lower East Side in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor; Space is limited. [RSVP](#).

Saturday, May 11: Municipal Art Society annual Livable Neighborhoods Training will include a resilience-focused track with an opening panel on Defining Resilience and Building Back Green, and three training courses - Where's the Money? Funding the Resilience Process, Assessing Neighborhood Strengths and Addressing Vulnerabilities, and Strategies for Building Social Resilience and Cohesion. The training is free but [registration is required](#).

New Jersey

The Christie Administration [released](#) best practices for treating mold in flooded homes. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Health will offer training sessions in mold removal and assessment.

Advocacy Reports

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding launched its new [website](#) and published [After Sandy, Prioritizing the Vulnerable and Displaced: Fixing Major Flaws in City Hall's Disaster Recovery Planning](#)

The Pratt Center for Community Development has [published](#) a series of maps documenting the storm's impacts on low-income residential communities and Industrial Business Zones.

Enterprise Community Partners, ['Measuring the Response to Hurricane Sandy'](#)

Food Bank For New York City, [Hurricane Sandy Response: 100 Days of Meeting the Needs](#)

Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy, [Sandy's Effects on Housing in New York City](#).

Several non-profit organizations have endorsed [Post-Sandy Rebuilding Principles: Building a sustainable region and economy, creating jobs for all](#). We encourage you to sign on, too. Contact bettina@goodjobsfirst.org for more information.

Federal, State & Local Resources

New York City [response to Public Comments](#) on the Partial Action Plan A. See also Good Jobs New York's information page on [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#)

Updated statistics from FEMA on ongoing recovery efforts and costs for New York State: [Disaster assistance to New York survivors of Hurricane Sandy](#).

[Smart Response](#) collects and shares data on relief organizations co-ordinating donations and volunteer support for Sandy victims.

New York State health and safety inspectors from the Department of Labor will provide inspections and assessments to businesses effected by Sandy to help firms reopen as soon as possible. Call 1-888-4-NYSDOL (1-888-469-7365) or visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is conducting a [Small Business Credit Survey](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is posting upcoming application deadlines, recovery resources, events, and key agency contacts on their [Sandy Information Center](#) page.

The New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency [website](#).

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development along with L+M Development Partners, The Bluestone Organization, and Triangle Equities, American Institute of

Architects New York Chapter (AIA New York) and Enterprise Community Partners launched a two-phase design competition called "For a Resilient Rockaway" (FAR ROC) seeking storm resilient, sustainable best practices for development at the city-owned Arverne East site and other sites city-wide. Submissions are due June 14. Details in the [HPD press release](#) and [FARROC.com](#)

The Neighborhood Achievement Awards are [accepting nominations](#) for nine different categories including a new category this year honoring a business or individual who helped a neighborhood after Sandy. Deadline for [application](#) is April 26.

FECS Project Hope Crisis Counseling Program offers free crisis outreach services to residents of New York City and Long Island affected by Hurricane Sandy. [Project Hope](#)

National Grid customers can visit [www.nationalgridus.com](#) to get information about the National Grid Emergency Economic and Community Development program for business customers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

We'd love to hear from you!

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: [@GoodJobsNewYork](#) [#EyeOnSandyMoney](#). Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

Contact us

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