

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: December 6-13

We are pleased to introduce our first weekly news round-up. With such a high volume of media coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York wants to help keep the spotlight on how government money is 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.



Disaster Relief

- Senators Schumer (D-NY) and Menendez (D-NJ) have proposed a package of tax breaks and tax credits, modeled on similar legislation passed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. [The New York Times](#)
- City council passed a bill allowing those whose homes suffered major structural damage or were destroyed by the storm to apply for an interest-free extension on the deadline for property-tax payments. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- The New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver proposed a property tax deduction for homes and businesses that lost 50 percent or more of assessed property value; the tax deduction would come from city budget rather than the state budget. Associated Press via [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Governor Cuomo made appointments to three commissions responsible for reviewing New York State's emergency preparedness. The three commissions--NYS 2100 Commission, NYS Respond Commission, and the NYS Ready Commission--are outlined, and a list of appointments are provided in the Governor's [press release](#).
- Senate democrats released draft legislation outlining how \$60.4 billion of disaster relief money would be appropriated. The bill places emphasis on major infrastructure rebuilding and assisting displaced people. Associated Press via [Syracuse Post-Standard](#)

Rebuilding and Investments

- A month after the storm, many small businesses in lower Manhattan are struggling with lack of phone services, power, and most of all, customers. [The New York Times](#)
- The New York Post reports that 70 restaurants have closed their doors, and 50 more are seriously impaired as a result of the lingering after effects of the storm, including long wait times for Small Business Administration loans. [New York Post](#)
- A Bloomberg administration team, originally designed to assist small businesses navigate the process of required applications and inspections in order to open more quickly, has found new work as the Restoration Business Acceleration Team in

assisting small businesses suffering in the aftermath of Sandy. [Crain's](#)

- Brookfield Properties, landlord of One New York Plaza, expects to rebuild its below-ground retail concourse that was flooded by Sandy. The owner expects full coverage of its losses, according to the article in [The Commercial Observer](#).
- Mayor Bloomberg's speech last week on waterfront development in the wake of Sandy, outlined plans for new investments to increase the resilience of infrastructure in the city's waterfront neighborhoods. [New American City](#)
- Residents and business owners in the Rockaways are evaluating how rebuilding can make the area more self-sufficient, in light of pre-existing concerns about the neighborhood. [Thirteen Metrofocus](#)

Jobs

- For the long-term unemployed, an initiative requiring that NYCHA provide job opportunities to low-income residents, offers the chance at a paycheck. [CityLimits Brooklyn Bureau](#)

Housing

- The city's mandatory evacuation orders were not enforced in city housing projects, where many residents are disabled and require assistance to relocate. These most vulnerable residents were essentially stranded by the city to wait out the storm. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: An [editorial](#) by the New York Times urging the City to develop a more comprehensive emergency action plan for NYCHA buildings; and a [timeline](#), also by the New York Times, of NYCHA's response to the hurricane.

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.

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