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**Groups engaged in Sandy rebuilding chide City officials for lack of transparency
in allocation of CDBG funds**

Today concludes a seven-day comment period for New Yorkers to provide critiques on an amendment to the city's Action Plan for its initial allocation of \$1.7 billion in Disaster Relief Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Representing a diverse group of organizations that value transparency and equity in our city's rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Sandy, we are concerned by the city's process for changing its Action Plan approved in May by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We provided thoughtful and informed comment during the city's two-week comment period in March before the Action Plan was approved. Yet, the plan has been amended three times since then with little notice or explanation.

The most recent amendment, announced on Friday, October 4th, proposes substantial changes to the city's original plan. We also learned this is the fourth amendment. This minimal notice of seven days and news of three other amendments is unfair and fails to build confidence that our rebuilding officials can oversee a transparent rebuilding process.

We are more than aware of the dire needs of Sandy impacted communities and are anxious for these grants to help them recover and rebuild. Yet, limiting the voices of residents and groups helping them will not build a stronger, resilient city.

Before the city moves forward with further amendments to its Action Plan we call on officials to:

- Provide the public with periodic breakdowns of how Sandy CDBG funds have been allocated in New York City. It is our understanding that this is required by the federal Disaster Relief Act.
- Agree that comment periods for further amendments to the Action Plan be at least 21 days.
- Create a process that informs individuals that provided comments to the original plan of all amendments, including those that are not substantial enough, as required by HUD, to have a comment period.
- Allow for a venue where residents can ask questions about the proposal.

In addition to the \$1.7 billion approved in the spring, there is expected to be another round of funds proposed for New York City. We urge HUD to incorporate stronger transparency and community engagement policies as it works with city officials on future rebuilding plans.

Signed (in formation):

Good Jobs New York • ALIGN • Sandy Regional Assembly • NYC Environmental Justice Alliance • Pratt Center for Community Development • Brooklyn Long-Term Recovery Organization • Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization • 32BJ SEIU • Participatory Budgeting Project • Occupy Sandy Staten Island • New York Communities for Change • Faith in New York • Community Environmental Center • Occupy Sandy • Respond and Rebuild • CAAAV • Laborers Local 78 • New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness