

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

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: May 16-23

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This week's news

Disaster Relief

- Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) [offered recommendations](#) after a House Committee on Small Business [report](#) found that the Small Business Administration's slow process and low approval rate for loan applications has impacted small businesses in New York. The Congresswoman is requesting the Government Accountability Office assess SBA's response to Sandy claims.

ALSO: Small businesses in the Midwest now faced with recovery from this week's tornadoes are watching how federal funding is unfolding in New York. [The Washington Post](#)

- For the first time, Gov. Chris Christie disclosed that New Jersey will receive between \$20-\$25 billion of the total \$51 billion in federal Sandy relief funds. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- Staten Island Council Member Debi Rose supports a bill recently introduced by Council Members Richards and Landers that would establish an online database of the distribution of CDBG funds in New York City. [Staten Island Advance](#) and (for more information on the proposed legislation see the [Alliance for a Just Rebuilding](#) press release).
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced](#) that New York State has approved \$20 million in a Coastal Fishing Industry Grant Program and encouraged eligible businesses that suffered from Sandy, Irene or Lee to apply for grants of up to \$50,000.
- FEMA, required to establish a Dispute Resolution Program by the Sandy Recovery and Improvement Act, is expected to announce an independent arbiter to settle disputes. [Homeland Security Today](#)
- England's Manchester City soccer club donated sports equipment to Staten Island youth soccer leagues to help replace supplies lost or damaged by Sandy. [Staten Island](#)

Advance

- In New Jersey, approximately 23 percent of private insurance claims while less than 9 percent of FEMA claims were closed without payments. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- A nursing home on Long Island damaged by Sandy will benefit from \$6 million in tax breaks approved by the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency. [Newsday](#)
- Long Island Rep. Peter King confirmed that Long Island, Westchester, and New York City will receive \$22 million from the Department of Homeland Security Grants program for disaster preparedness and counter-terrorism. This is separate from Sandy Relief aid. [Newsday](#)
- Hospitals in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy are requesting to be exempt from some federal quality reporting requirements. [Becker's Hospital Review](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Verizon has proposed expanding its wireless phone service, Voice Link, to its customers in the Northeast. The new service would replace copper wire landline service, saving the company expenses associated with maintaining wiring in flood-prone and rural areas. The New York Public Service Commission must approve Verizon's plan. [The New York Times](#)
- An infrastructure upgrade plan by New Jersey Utility PSE&G will cost \$3.9 billion and will protect electric substations and bury overhead electricity lines. [New Milford Patch](#)
- While many government agencies appear to be taking measures to rebuild coastal areas with greater consideration of climate change, scientists warn that any coastal development has severe long-term consequences. [The New York Times](#)
- Plans for a large ferris wheel and outlet mall in Staten Island's flood zone were certified by New York City's Department of City Planning and will now undergo public review. [Staten Island Live](#)
- Gov. Chris Christie will not require NJ Transit to formalize climate change adaptation plans because he rejects that climate change caused Sandy. [WNYC](#) and [Think Progress](#)

- Mayor Bloomberg is expected to announce proposals to install removable storm barriers in selected parts of the city in a set of plans to be released later this month. [NY1](#)
- International Green Energy Council has partnered with Atru Builders to launch the New Jersey Storm Recovery Center to incorporate sustainable practices in rebuilding homes and businesses on the New Jersey shore. [Newsday](#)
- The City Council in Hoboken, NJ approved a \$300,000 contract to repair Pier C Park, which has been closed since Sandy. [Hoboken Patch](#)
- Beaches in Rockaway, Queens are scheduled to open this weekend, with over \$140 million spent in repairs. [New York Daily News](#)
- Cosey Beach in East Haven, CT has been restored with 10,000 tons of sand trucked from other parts of the state. [New Haven Register](#)
- A guide to the state of beaches post-Sandy along the Jersey shore. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Housing

- In response to a lawsuit by housing advocates, a New Jersey State court of appeals has suspended the Christie Administration's plans to re-appropriate \$162 million in affordable housing funds. Advocates claim the money is most needed by communities damaged by Sandy. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- The Army Corps of Engineers selected a design for preassembled emergency housing units that can be set up quickly. [New York Post](#)
- In New Jersey, the Monmouth County Superstorm Sandy Fraud Task Force arrested a Sea Bright man this week for allegedly defrauding FEMA of over \$12,000 from the Transitional Shelter Assistance program. The task force has opened 112 investigations since February. [Atlantic Highlands Herald](#)

Jobs

- In the Jersey Shore where tourism fuels 10 percent of employment, a strong summer season may be crucial for economic recovery of the area. [Bloomberg News](#)

Advocacy News

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

Brooklyn

Brooklyn Arts Council is seeking submissions for its new project, "For and About: Art and Reactions to Superstorm Sandy" Deadline for submissions is June 5. See the [website](#) for more information:

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.

New Jersey

Volunteers are needed for rebuilding construction teams. Details and sign-up information [here](#).

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 Sandy Regional Assembly, made up of environmental justice organizations, community-based groups, labor unions, and advocates have released [Recovery from the Ground Up: Strategies for community-based resiliency in New York and New Jersey](#). Based on input from grassroots groups identifying priority projects for the Sandy recovery process, the Recovery Agenda includes priorities of low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.

Climate Central, [Hurricane Sandy's Untold Filthy Legacy: Sewage](#)

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](#).

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding released [Sandy's Mold Legacy: The Unmet Need Six Months After the Storm](#); Other reports include: [After Sandy, Prioritizing the Vulnerable and Displaced: Fixing Major Flaws in City Hall's Disaster Recovery Planning](#)
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: The (华埠服务社) [Greater Chinatown Community Association](#) provides translation assistance in Mandarin and Cantonese for business owners wanting to apply for FEMA and SBA funding. Phone: 212-374-0032.

NEW: A new report from the Democrats of the House Committee on Small Business Committee, [Despite Reforms, SBA's Sandy Response Lags](#), finds that SBA has approved fewer than 25 percent of applications and that New York's businesses are facing significant challenges obtaining disaster relief through the SBA.

The [NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#) will be managing the disaster relief funds and will announce application information and registration in June, 2013.

The [New York Recovery Resource Center](#) provides links for applying for Housing and Business Recovery Assistance through New York State.

The Recovery Accountability & Transparency Board has created [FederalTransparency.gov](#) which will post spending data for Sandy recovery. All [contracts](#) awarded since Sandy are currently posted.

Tuesday May 28, NOAA climate expert will share the forecast for 2013 hurricane season followed by disaster preparedness tips for small businesses in this free webinar. Space is limited, [registration is required](#).

NYC Housing and Preservation Department has issued a [Request for Qualifications](#) to identify and select developers to rebuild damaged 1-4 unit buildings through the city's NYC Houses Reconstruction Program. Submission deadline is June 12.

New York City [Hurricane Sandy After Action Report and Recommendations](#) to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg details the city's evaluation of its response during and immediately after Sandy, and includes 59 recommendations for strengthening performance in future storms.

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 coordinating 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](#)

FEGS 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.

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