

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
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Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: May 23-30

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Action Item

This week Connecticut Governor Daniel T. Malloy submitted a draft [action plan](#) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the proposed use of the first round of Community Development Block Grants worth \$82.5 million. This triggers the beginning of a seven-day public comment period, which will close **June 4**.

The Connecticut Action Plan and [notice](#) of public comment period can be viewed and downloaded from the Connecticut [Department of Economic and Community Development](#) website. State residents can send written comments on the draft plans to:

Michael Santoro, Community Development Specialist
Office of Housing and Community Development
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106-7106
or
email: CT.Housing.Plans@ct.gov

This week's news

Disaster Relief

- Mayor Bloomberg and New York City Small Business Services Commissioner Walsh [announced](#) the opening of the application process for business recovery programs funded by the first round of federal Community Development Block Grants. [NY1](#)
- The New York City Department of Finance reassessed over 88,000 properties in areas hard hit by Sandy reducing \$90 million worth of property taxes. [AP via The Wall Street Journal](#) and [NYC.gov](#)

ALSO: The reassessment lowered market values for 16,980 homes on Staten Island. [Staten Island Advance](#)

- A recent [report](#) from the American Planning Association

offers a detailed look at the challenges facing small businesses on the Rockaway peninsula in Queens and highlights some of the causes for slow business recovery including: difficulty securing financing to make repairs due to lack of customers, and limited loan and grant programs for businesses with narrow profit margins that primarily cater to low-income populations on the peninsula. [City Limits](#)

- In addition to New York State's Community Reconstruction Zones, established to help communities create redevelopment plans, reforming The Scaffold Law and developing an independent infrastructure commission have been proposed as two key measures for further improving rebuilding response following a natural disaster. [City & State](#)
- House members from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut want a set of temporary tax relief measures for businesses and residents impacted by Sandy. [USA Today](#)
- Intro 1040, proposed in New York City Council by Council Members Richards and Lander and would require the development of a database to track funds in connection with Sandy recovery efforts, has gained support from 30 other members. Similar transparency legislation was proposed in New Jersey but was vetoed by the governor in April. [The Village Voice](#)
- The Federal Transit Administration has allocated \$5.7 billion in relief aid including \$3.7 billion released through the US Department of Transportation to New York and New Jersey transit agencies for resiliency measures. [RT&S](#)
- New Jersey opened the application process for homeowners to seek grants of up to \$150,000 to repair primary homes or up to \$10,000 in "resettlement grants". [The Record](#)

ALSO: Many applying for storm aid in New Jersey are expressing confusion over eligibility requirements, the selection process, and the June 30 deadline for applying. [Asbury Park Press](#)

- The American Red Cross has spent about a third of over \$300 million it raised for Sandy relief efforts. While the organization states it intends to distribute the money for long-term recovery work, some criticize the organization for withholding funds when many immediate needs were unmet during the cold winter months. [AP via Newsday](#)

ALSO: American Red Cross awarded \$1.25 million to Brooklyn Community Foundation to fund long-term recovery services. [Brooklyn Community Foundation](#)

- Long Island Congressman Peter King refused to attend a GOP dinner honoring Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) because of Senator Cruz's vote against H.R. 152 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act in January. [Newsday](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Gov. Cuomo announced appointments to several new positions to oversee rebuilding from destructive storms Sandy, Irene and Lee.

ALSO: Seth Diamond, former head of New York City's Department of Homeless Services, has been appointed to oversee New York State's storm recovery initiatives. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- The New York City Department of City Planning has been wrestling with plans to elevate vulnerable coastal properties while maintaining street life. Proposed plans include porches and sloped yards, and window displays at street level for mixed use buildings in the flood plain. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- A news segment covers the process of redevelopment at the Jersey Shore, and the complex politics of the President's recent visit there with Governor Christie. [PBS News Hour](#)
- Mayor Bloomberg announced the continuation of ferry service to Far Rockaway, which is expected to increase access to the area and enhance economic activity during the summer beach season.

ALSO: The ferry service will continue until July 4, and may be extended for the summer. [Crain's New York Business](#)

- ConEd is planning to invest \$1 billion in infrastructure repairs and upgrades in New York City and Westchester to prevent against widespread power failure in the event of another massive storm. [CBS New York](#)

ALSO: The utility has requested state regulators to allow it to include the cost of repairs into its customers' bills over four years. The union representing ConEd's workers, Local 1-2 of the Utility Workers Union of America, claim layoffs and workforce reductions left the utility vulnerable and unprepared after Sandy. [The New York Times/City Room](#)

ALSO: The rate increase ConEdison is seeking from the New York State Public Service Commission, \$3 per customer each month, would pay for upgrades. Other utilities in the region are also proposing rate increases to pay for infrastructure upgrades. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a very active hurricane season in the Atlantic. [BBC](#)
- The severely damaged New York Aquarium partially reopened on Saturday. [The New York Times](#)
- In response to a series of damaging weather and a Category 3 hurricane that hit New York City in 1960, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed plans for shoreline protection measures including a flood wall. The Army Corps is working on a new study for shoreline protection, and expects to reference the older recommendations. [WNYC](#)
- New restrooms and lifeguard stations installed in the New York City beaches were designed with efficient industrial processes and sustainability principles, and may be a model for efficiency in rebuilding after a natural disaster. [LiveScience](#)
- Progress in area beach recovery efforts, including sand replacement and dune fortification, allowed many beaches to reopen for the summer. [The Daily Beast](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Roadmaps to Health" prize was awarded to post-Katrina New Orleans. [The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

Housing

- FEMA has extended the deadline for Sandy victims relying on the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program to stay in hotels until a more permanent arrangement can be found. The new deadline is July 7. [NY1](#)
- A 360-unit affordable housing complex in Coney Island will be renovated and retrofitted to be more storm-resilient. The developers received \$4.5 million from New York City Housing Preservation and Development and have agreed to keep rents below market value. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- In a new collaboration between the nonprofit Historypin and Google, a crowd-sourced interactive map, "Hurricane Sandy: Record, Remember, Rebuild," documents Sandy recovery along the Atlantic coast. [HistoryPin.com](#)
- A surge in mosquitoes and ticks on Long Island has some speculating that Sandy may have carved out depressions where standing water can accumulate, encouraging

breeding. [CBS New York](#)

- A blogger reflects on Long Beach, Long Island's disaster preparedness, community evacuation plans and housing in advance of the 2013 hurricane season. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Matters Blog](#)

Jobs

- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell [announced](#) a new program, "National Parks of New York Harbor Conservation & Resiliency Corps" which is expected to create 200 jobs for youth and young adults working in recovery and mitigation of storm damage in Gateway National Recreation Area and Jamaica Bay.
- Some small businesses are expecting growth in 2013, in part due to expanded access to credit and rebuilding opportunities after Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Advocacy News

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

Hurricane Sandy relief volunteer opportunities in New York City are listed at [New York Cares](#)

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.

Manhattan

Thursday, June 6. 9-10:30 Enterprise Community Partners, 1 Whitehall Street, 11 Fl. ; [Indoor Air Quality: The Mold that Sandy Left Behind](#). Enterprise's New York City Office is hosting a series of panel presentations on Housing Resiliency, which explores the long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. [Registration](#) is required.

Queens

[Asian Americans for Equality](#) offers several programs to help small businesses and emergency home repairs. Deadline for home repairs application is June 30, 2013.

Long Island

Wednesday June 12: 6-8 pm: Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano presents a disaster preparedness workshop for businesses. [RSVP](#). Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage, NY

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

NEW: American Planning Association-New York Metro Chapter for the Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation: [Getting Back to Business; Addressing the Needs of Rockaway Businesses Impacted by Superstorm Sandy](#)

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: [Community Resource Exchange](#) lists many nonprofit disaster relief resources for individuals, communities and small businesses.

The [NYC Home Repair Consortium](#) seeks to repair 600 homes that have non-structural damage with unmet needs.

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.

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.

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](#)

FEES 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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