

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 Money Weekly News Round-up: March 27 - April 3

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Good Jobs New York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money database](#) to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Transparency Tip from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

[How to Track Government Projects Like a](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

The New York City Council Committees on Recovery and Resiliency and Finance held a joint oversight hearing on Sandy spending; the Department of Small Business Services acknowledged that while only seven businesses have been awarded Sandy rebuilding aid, 73 companies are in the final stage of approval and over 200 more applications are in review. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: In [testimony](#) given at the hearing, the New York City Independent Budget Office provided a breakdown of city agencies' planned Sandy-related spending.

ALSO: New York City Council members demanded that officials at the mayor's Office of Management and Budget comply with the law that requires tracking of Sandy spending, including who receives it; city officials said the delay in compliance is due to privacy concerns for homeowners and businesses. [Crain's New York Business](#) and [The Real Deal](#)

ICF International will be taking over the contract for distributing federal aid in New Jersey after the Christie Administration dismissed the previous contractor, HGI. Critics are concerned that ICF, notorious for its work post-Katrina, took over the contract in a non-competitive bid. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: ICF oversaw the troubled 'Road Home' program in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina and is named as a defendant in numerous lawsuits related to its handling of that program. [Asbury Park Press](#)

ALSO: New Jersey's previous contractor overseeing rebuilding aid, HGI, was fired after only seven months, yet was paid \$36 million - half of the amount intended in the full three-year contract. The New Jersey State Assembly budget committee reviewed the payment. [The Star-Ledger](#)

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority approved \$5.6 million in loans for small businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy. [The Star-Ledger](#)

The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General declared that \$4 million in Sandy aid promised to Beach Haven, NJ should be

Defense Contractor

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reallocated or repaid because the township was not sufficiently in need of the funds. [AP via New York Post](#)

Graham Beach, Staten Island will now be included in the New York State enhanced home buyout program. [NY1](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Dutch water management officials offer centuries of expertise in long-term infrastructure planning, much needed in our post-Sandy environment. [The New York Times Magazine](#)

Keeping flood insurance artificially low only endangers the people who live in flood zones. More must be done to protect the safety of residents and to make the National Flood Insurance Program a key component in national climate resiliency. [Switchboard](#)

ALSO: A [report](#) by the NRDC exposes the extreme flaws in the federal flood maps that underestimated flood risk to nearly 300,000 New Yorkers who were inundated by Sandy but did not technically live within a flood zone. New FEMA flood maps are being re-drawn, but are not finalized. [WNYC](#)

[Rebuild by Design finalists'](#) plans have been revealed. One or more designs may be selected this month to receive federal funding for implementation. [Inhabitat](#) and [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: Public participation, which was required in the Rebuild by Design competition, was generally quite successful in developing community-based design proposals. [Business Insider](#)

New Jersey environmental advocates are angry at the Christie Administration for submitting its hazard mitigation report to the federal government before the public comment period began. Emergency management officials say that comments received may be considered in future amendments. [WNYC](#)

Necessary repair work to the G-train tunnel will require the MTA to close the Court Square, 21st Street, and Greenpoint Avenue stations for five weeks this summer. [New York Observer](#)

The business community is generally a trusted source of information on the risks and impacts of climate change and more should be done to encourage businesses to discuss possible solutions to the problems of climate change. [Climate Central](#)

A community program in New Jersey is delayed in distributing tree seedlings to replace mature trees that were lost during Sandy. [Asbury Park Press](#)

The first of 31 projects overseen by the US Fish and Wildlife Service will restore a mile and a half of beach and marshland along the New Jersey shore of the Delaware Bay. [CBS Local](#)

Housing

The New York City Pension Funds invested \$500 million into redeveloping property affected by Sandy and recently partnered with Hudson Companies Inc. which is purchasing two residential buildings in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn to retrofit. [Real Estate Weekly](#)

Jobs

The PennDesign/OLIN Rebuild by Design proposal for Hunts Point in the Bronx promises to create living wage jobs and protection of vital services in the event of disruptive storms. [NextCity](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

Friday, April 11: Final deadline for applicants to the NY Rising program. Online Applications can be found at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov>

Monday, April 28: Proof of Loss must be RECEIVED by your flood insurer. Refer to this [Touro Law Center Disaster Relief Clinic flyer](#) on Flood Insurance claims for more details.

Wednesday, May 7: Responses due for the Request for Proposals for the [Enterprise Community Partners Capacity Building Grants Program](#). The RFP application materials are [posted online](#). Organizations may apply for up to \$150,000 across a maximum of three grant program areas. Awards will be announced beginning July 7, 2014.

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Thursday, April 10 and Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Superstorm Sandy Free Legal Clinic from the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. Recovery Information Center, Moonachie Presbyterian Church, 221 Moonachie road, Moonachie, NJ 07074.

Friday, April 25, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: The Regional Plan Association's 24th Annual [Assembly](#), discussing "A Vision for 2040" and showcasing winners of HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Tuesday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - [Multifamily Resiliency Measures](#). Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring 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.

Friday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - [Flood Resilient Code](#). Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring 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.

Brooklyn

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-3:00: [Jubilee Legal Clinic](#), Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Avenue. Visit website for additional hours and information including

income requirements.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

NEW: Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: The [2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report](#); a comprehensive assessment of the NYC voluntary sector's rebuild capacity in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Center for an Urban Future: [Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York's Aging Infrastructure](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy](#).

[Future-Proofing Cities](#): A report from the U.K. Department for International Development and University College London looking at the risks and opportunities for inclusive urban growth in developing countries. 129 cities, 5 urban types and over 100 practical solutions. statistics and analysis.

[Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities](#) from the National Disaster Interfaiths Network

The International Economic Development Council released [Case Studies in Small Business Finance Following a Disaster](#), a report of six case studies of effective long-term economic recovery efforts of disaster-affected communities.

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: [Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City](#)

Rutgers University: [Overlooking Oversight: A Lack of Oversight in the Garden State is Placing New Jersey Residents and Assets at Risk](#).

Ceres report: [Cool Response: The SEC & Corporate Climate Change Reporting: SEC Climate Guidance & S&P 500 Reporting - 2010 to 2013](#).

[Brooklyn Communities Speak: An Action Guide for Local Decision-Makers Post Sandy](#). This report from the Brooklyn Community Fund and coalition partners analyzes conditions in six coastal Brooklyn neighborhoods post-Sandy, with recommendations for government agencies on how to address persistent recovery challenges while building resiliency in partnership with local communities.

White Paper prepared by Queens Legal Services: [Homes Underwater: Forebearance Alternatives for Sandy-Affected Homeowners](#)

[Superstorm Research Lab: A Tale of Two Sandys](#). This whitepaper, based on interviews with a broad range of Sandy-impacted individuals and aid organizations in New York City, sheds light on

the inequalities entwined with Sandy's aftermath and recommendations for addressing inequality.

New York City VOAD Volunteer and Construction Committee Resource Guide: This list includes voluntary organizations providing rebuild services in New York City.

New report from the Municipal Art Society: All hands on deck: Mobilizing New Yorkers for a Livable and Resilient New York

New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center documents its concerns that African Americans and Latinos are being rejected from Sandy relief at higher rates than Caucasians. Fair Share Housing Center Blog

Parsons Brinckerhoff produces The Sandy Disaster Awareness Report, a summary of key developments and funding priorities in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Day Labor, Worker Centers & Disaster Relief Work in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. This report discusses the challenges that workers faced during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the role that worker centers played to protect the health and safety of workers in New York and New Jersey.

Hurricane Sandy Fall 2013 Update: FEMA Assistance Analysis. Enterprise Community Partners examines the level of need and the response efforts in New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. This brief includes data related to FEMA inspections of those who registered for assistance and the amount that had been awarded to those with assessed damage.

Hurricane Sandy: Housing Needs One Year Later. Enterprise Community Partners provides a summary of early findings from a survey of storm victims to measure the ongoing impact of Hurricane Sandy, one year after the storm.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money

Federal, State & Local Resources

The Program Management Office of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its monthly report [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an assessment of state and local health emergency preparedness, including an evaluation of the response to Hurricane Sandy.

Online briefings from World Care Centers on disaster volunteer training for communities.

Information on New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams [pdf], along with an application for their 10-week training program.

The Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled this guide to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

Crowdsourcing ideas for FEMA - Help FEMA plan for disasters. Join and submit your ideas to their crowd-sourced feedback community and vote on others' ideas.

New York Rising Year End Report. Includes accounting of mass transit investment, reform of Long Island Power Authority, and projected storm recovery and rebuilding costs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers released its Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Evaluation Study

A helpful [visual guide](#) to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Community Mapping project has posted interactive online maps for six New York Rising communities in New York City. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on their community's plan. Final Community Reconstruction Plans are due by March 31, 2014.

FEMA has released its preliminary [Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMs\)](#); see also FEMA's guide of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the new maps.

The New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs [Hurricane Sandy Immigrant Outreach Initiative Report](#) on efforts to address the needs of immigrant New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released [an update](#) of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid has been allocated.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce released a [Disaster Preparedness Checklist](#) for small businesses.

Next City, a weekly urban affairs publication, is launching a new the [Resilient Cities](#) series, which will focus on preparation and resiliency planning for disasters in urban areas around the world.

FEMA's [Hurricane Sandy: One Year Later](#) provides updates on recovery efforts, a timeline and other resources.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

[Hurricane Sandy: An Assessment of Impacted Commercial Corridors and Recommendations for Revitalization](#) [pdf]. This report by the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the New York City Economic Development Corporation provides an assessment of commercial corridors in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Queens.

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

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.