

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: August 28 - September 4

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Transparency Tip

[Recovery.gov](#) provides monthly updates of how federal funds for Hurricane Sandy rebuilding have been allocated and spent.

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

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Have you heard?

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

Action Item

Sunday, September 21: A mass mobilization to bring attention to the crisis of climate change affecting New York City communities, [People's Climate March: A Weekend to Bend the Course of History](#).

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Despite former Mayor Bloomberg's intentions to design a better disaster recovery program, the Build it Back program was developed with numerous problems further exacerbated by high turnover of leadership and inadequately trained intake staff. [The New York Times](#)

With 535 hurricane-damaged homes now being renovated, the de Blasio administration achieved its preliminary goal for repairs through the Build it Back program; 15,000 pending applications remain. [City & State](#) and [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: De Blasio announced renegotiated contracts with case managers and inspection teams for the Build it Back program that will result in more cost savings for the program. [Real Estate Weekly](#)

Amy Peterson, director of the of the New York City Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery proposed a new goal for the Build it Back program of 50 construction starts on damaged homes each week from now on. Some local leaders question the city's definition of a construction start. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Rep. Michael Grimm insists that the Build it Back program remains problematic, despite recent progress. [NY1](#)

The Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront Planning Committee is seeking public input on how best to use \$4 million in state funding through New York Rising. A public meeting will be held on September 10, and the committee is working on a questionnaire to be posted online. [Brooklyn Daily](#)

\$33 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster relief funding will go towards purchasing 24 acres of land in Staten Island as part of the borough's Bluebelt, a stormwater management system. [Crain's New York Business](#)

funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Gov. Christie announced 236 more home elevation grants through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which has distributed \$21 million so far.

Gov. Christie announced \$8.5 million in financing from the state's Shore Protection Fund will be used for a sea wall in Sea Bright, NJ.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman released a report detailing the effects of frequent extreme rainfall events across the state of New York; the report highlights the need for greater resiliency planning. Press Release

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission in New Jersey will receive \$260 million in post-Sandy FEMA aid to construct a flood protection system and microgrid at the wastewater treatment plant, which was inundated during Sandy causing a massive discharge of raw sewage in Newark Bay. The Star-Ledger

Landscape architects from the firm Mathews Neilsen is leading a team to cultivate an oyster reef off Pier 42 in Manhattan. The oysters would not be meant for human consumption given ongoing toxicity problems. ArchDaily

A profile of the company BlocPower, a finalist in the NYCEDC's RISE-NYC contest for a portion of CDBG-DR funds. If funded, BlocPower would install an independent solar power network for storm-impacted neighborhoods. Inhabitat

The NYCEDC released a request for proposals seeking a company to map shoreline properties throughout the city. The contract would be paid for using CDBG-DR funds. Crain's New York Business

A draft report considering the future of the MTA stresses the threats of rising extreme temperatures affecting both infrastructure and conditions on subway platforms, which the reports says are becoming dangerously hot. Capital New York

ALSO: The G train is back in service after repairs due to damage caused by Sandy. New York Daily News

Housing

A team from Stevens Institute of Technology showcased designs of a hurricane-resilient 'sure house' that could be built along the shore in New York or New Jersey. The Jersey Journal

Newly released maps pinpoint which New York City neighborhoods have the highest concentration of storm water overflows - most are Sandy-affected areas. Gothamist

Home-buying reality TV shows set in beach areas fail to discuss the danger of purchasing homes so near the ocean. [Slate](#)

Events

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

Regional Events

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

Do you have a group interested in helping with the Sandy rebuild? Check out [this list](#) of ongoing service opportunities to help with hurricane Sandy rebuilding and revitalization.

Sunday, September 21: A mass mobilization of the scale of the People's Climate March, to take place in New York City in September, is the necessary approach to bring attention to the crisis of climate change affecting all of New York City's communities. [People's Climate March: A Weekend to Bend the Course of History](#). Details on location to come.

Monday, September 22, 9:00 am- 5:00 pm: Part I: [Community Resilience Strategies for Multifamily Housing Organizations: Organizing Volunteers for Emergency Response](#). Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

Monday September 22 and Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: People's Climate Justice Summit Church Center of the United Nations, 777 1st Avenue, E 44th St, NY, NY 10017 and The New School, 72 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10011. [Free but registration is required](#).

Wednesday, September 24 - Friday, September 26: 2014 Rising Seas Summit, Developing resources to inform decision making and planning for resilience. Crowne Plaza, Times Square, New York.

Tuesday, September 30, 9:45 am- 11:00 am: Part II: [Resident Voices from the Field: Building a Prepared Community in partnership with Resident Leadership](#). Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

Bronx

Friday, September 5, 6:00 pm to 6:00 pm: [2014 National Preparedness Month Kick-Off \(Bronx\)](#). NYC Citizen Corps is asking interested New Yorkers to sign up and spend a few hours in Fordham Plaza in the Bronx educating New Yorkers about emergency preparedness and volunteerism. Register

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.

Friday, September 5, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm: [2014 National Preparedness Month Kick-Off \(Brooklyn\)](#). NYC Citizen Corps is asking interested New Yorkers to sign up and spend a few hours at Columbus Park (adjacent to Brooklyn Borough Hall) educating New Yorkers about emergency preparedness and volunteerism. Register.

Monday, September 8, 7:00 pm: [Canarsie NYRCR Public Engagement Meeting #2](#): The public is invited to come learn about the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program and to share ideas

with the planning committee. Hebrew Educational Society (HES), 9502 Seaview Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 pm: Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront Public Forum. John Malone Community Center, 2335 Bergen Ave., between Avenues W and X.

Sunday Sept 14: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, Monday Sept 15, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Tuesday September 16, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk in Brighton Beach: Free architecture, insurance and mortgage consultations for homeowners and building owners in Sandy-impacted neighborhoods. Young Israel of Brighton Beach, 293 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235. [Pre-registration form.](#)

Manhattan

Friday, September 5, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm: 2014 National Preparedness Month Kick-Off (Manhattan). NYC Citizen Corps is asking interested New Yorkers to sign up and spend a few hours in Herald Square educating New Yorkers about emergency preparedness and volunteerism. Register

Queens

Wednesday September 10, 5 pm-8:30 pm: The Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk Rockaways session. Free architecture, insurance, and mortgage consultations for residents and property owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Architects and designers will provide information and guidance on questions related to building codes, zoning and design. Battalion Pentecostal Assembly Church, 454 Beach 67th Street, Arverne, NY 11692. For additional information, please email: sandy.design.helpdesk@gmail.com

Staten Island

Friday, September 5, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm: 2014 National Preparedness Month Kick-Off Staten Island. NYC Citizen Corps is asking interested New Yorkers to sign up and spend a few hours in Staten Island educating New Yorkers about emergency preparedness and volunteerism. Register

New Jersey

Saturday, September 20, 7:00pm - 9:00 pm: Free screening of *Shored Up*, a documentary about coastal development and sea level rise. Discussion with director, scientists and coastal experts afterwards. Childcare provided. Holy Cross School, 40 Rumson Rd, Rumson, New Jersey 07760

Advocacy Reports

NYU Furman Center: [The Price of Resilience: Can Multifamily Housing Afford to Adapt?](#)

[Stakeholder Engagement Report: Environmental Justice Climate Change Preparedness in New Jersey](#) [to view the report, follow the link and click on 'Environmental Justice']

The New York League of Conservation Voters: [Taking Stock: Sustainability and Resiliency Progress during Mayor de Blasio's First Six Months](#)

The International Economic Development Council released a guide to help local economies recovering from a disaster: [Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

New York Communities for Change: [Thousands of Homeowners Still Drowning in Underwater Mortgages: How Toxic Loans Keep Fueling Foreclosures and the Need for Eminent Domain](#)

Risky Business Project: [American Climate Prospectus: Economic Risks in the United States](#)

Report from the ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank - [Climate-Smart Development: Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change.](#)

Fifth Avenue Committee, [Guidelines to Building Resiliency](#)

North Star Fund, [From The Edge Of Disaster: How Activists and Insiders Can Use the Lessons of Hurricane Sandy to Make the City Safer](#)

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

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.

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

Federal, State & Local Resources

[Government Accountability Office audit](#) outlining opportunities to enhance FEMA efficiency in operations.

The [New York Recovery Network](#) provides links to disaster relief funding programs, regional trainings and events, and other news and related information on statewide Sandy recovery. Website registration is required.

[New York City's Quarterly Performance Report to HUD](#), April-June 2014.

U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Flood Vulnerability Assessment Map](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: [Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes around the United States](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report on the New York City Housing Authority's Section 3 and Resident Employment Programs](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office released the annual [ClaimStat report](#) along with interactive maps which reveal claims against the city as reported to five city agencies, including sewer overflow claims from 2012-13 reported to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report](#) on the Department of Homeless Services' Oversight of Contractors Hired to Assist Individuals and Families Displaced by Hurricane Sandy

RISE:NYC, a competition to innovate technologies that will help prepare small businesses for climate change, announced 37 finalists. To read more about the finalists and links to competition updates see the [NYCEDC blog](#)

The Canarsie Coalition prepared a [resource guide](#) including contact information for organizations and individuals involved in addressing unmet needs in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

[LawHelpNY.org](#) launched a mobile site to provide mobile access to information and referrals for low-income New Yorkers seeking help with problems in areas such as housing, family law, consumer debt and immigration.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods in partnership with the New York State Attorney General, hosts a [Homeowner Hotline](#), a confidential service available to answer housing counseling or legal questions. 311 in New York City, or 855-HOME-456.

New York City Office of Emergency Management [Know Your Zone Hurricane Preparedness website](#).

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Final Plans are now available: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/hyrcr/final-plans>

[One City, Rebuilding Together](#): A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

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

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 have been allocated.

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](#).

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.

Contact us

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