

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 7 - 14

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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

To all you loyal readers: the weekly news round-up will be on hiatus for the next two weeks. Look for it back in your inbox **September 4**.

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](#). See more information: [Earth Island](#).

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) held a forum for elected officials from New York to discuss how to ensure Sandy-impacted small businesses will receive the assistance they need to rebuild. [Press release](#)

ALSO: Congresswoman Velazquez cited a [recent study](#) by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that found that 40 percent of businesses were affected by the storm and most have still not received any aid.

Recent audits by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security found that FEMA has not been effective in adopting recommendations for reducing administrative costs. [HS Today](#)

A series of forums for community based long term recovery groups working on Sandy relief aims to help community leaders prepare for future disasters. [CWS Global](#)

The Hoboken City Council authorized Mayor Dawn Zimmer to apply for a \$10 million infrastructure rehabilitation grant from the state to pay for infrastructure repair and upgrades. [Hudson Reporter](#)

Recent events - including the overhaul of the problematic Build it Back housing recovery program - have cast a shadow on former Mayor Bloomberg's legacy. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: When discussing challenges currently facing New York City, Mayor de Blasio regularly emphasizes failed policies from the Bloomberg era. [Capital New York](#)

funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

After FEMA denied funding for a sewage outfall pipe in Nassau County, state and local officials are seeking other ways to pay for the \$690 million upgrade that would redirect treated sewage away from coastal marshland along the Western Bays of Long Island. [Newsday](#)

Post-Sandy storm-hardening improvements to Con Edison's infrastructure have prevented 20,000 power outages this year, the utility estimates. [Marketwatch](#)

ALSO: The Board of Public Utilities is holding public hearings in advance of its decision on whether to allow PSE&G, New Jersey's energy and gas utility, to recover (through rate increases) \$240 million in costs related to Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene. [The Star-Ledger](#)

The Community Risk and Resiliency Act, which passed the New York State legislature in June and is expected to be signed by Gov. Cuomo at the end of summer, requires that climate impacts be considered during the permitting and funding of infrastructure projects. Some see New York State as a model of bi-partisan progress on climate change legislation. [Inside Climate News](#)

ALSO: Federal regulators gave final environmental approval for a massive power transmission line under Lake Champlain and the Hudson River from Quebec to Queens. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Developers and city officials are predicting that the long term effect of Sandy and Irene will mean less development along the shore in Asbury Park, NJ and more concentration in the downtown area. [The Star-Ledger](#)

The refrigerated fruit warehouse of the New York Container Terminal in Staten Island, which was damaged by Sandy, is undergoing repairs and enhancements so it can be marketed to a larger network of vendors. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Post-Sandy road repair and construction is disrupting traffic and business along the Jersey Shore. Business owners question why the construction was scheduled during the busy summer tourist season. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Although much of the Rockaway boardwalk remains to be rebuilt, New York City officials are hoping that a craft fair featuring local vendors selling handmade items on a portion of the boardwalk will boost the local economy, which has suffered since Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

Researchers from the University of Leicester are studying the ways news and social media activity during and after a disaster can better inform public officials' response and preparations for

future disasters. [Science Daily](#)

Environmentalism Bill McKibben writes that global warming increased the severity of Hurricane Sandy; the People's Climate March in September will be an opportunity for the world to come together in New York City demanding action on climate change. [The Independent](#)

Steven Cohen, executive director of the Earth Institute, writes that both Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo need to do more to prioritize sustainability and integrate it into their progressive-leaning policy agendas. [Huffington Post](#)

Housing

Some Long Island residents have expressed concern that homes purchased through the New York Rising home buyout program have been empty for months, becoming havens for squatters. [News 12 Long Island](#)

New Jersey's Neighborhood Enhancement Program, funded by CDBG-DR money, provides zero-interest loans to developers to convert abandoned or severely damaged properties into affordable housing. Owners of a building in Jersey City will receive \$700,000 through the program. [The Jersey Journal](#)

Jobs

Anthony Weiner, Former Congressman from New York, is involved in a job-training program in the Rockaways called the Rockaway Restoration Kitchen, a restaurant that will provide job-training for Sandy victims and other unemployed Rockaways residents. [MSNBC](#) and [WGAL](#)

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.

Friday August 15, 9:00 am - 11:00 am: NJ Volunteer Lawyers for Justice offers free legal clinics for Sandy victims. Brick Presbyterian Church 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ.

Monday, August 18, 3:00-6:00 pm: [Free Mortgage Foreclosure/Sandy Recovery Assistance](#) available at Nassau Bar Association. Reservations are requested by calling the Bar Association at 516-747-4070. Attendees are asked to bring their mortgage documents or other important papers and correspondence to the clinic. NCBA headquarters at the corner of 15th and West Streets, Mineola.

Thursday, August 21, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm: Webinar: [Creating Successful Partnerships with the Private Sector](#). Drawing on case studies of recovery from Hurricane Katrina and other recent disasters, this webinar will outline the key actions for developing trusting strategic alliances between the public and private sectors. Registration is required.

Saturday August 23, 2014: [Hurricane Sandy Recovery Programs and the HOPE worldwide NY METRO Chapters](#) have teamed up with the New York City Church of Christ and the Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization to rebuild the homes and lives in Staten Island. Information: 484-586-4070.

Tuesday, August 26, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: [Planning for Streamside Habitats and Flood Resilience](#). Presented by Ron Frisbee, CCE Columbia Greene & Gretchen Stevens, Hudsonia, Inc. This seminar includes an overview of stream dynamics and flooding, and a presentation on Catskill Creek habitats and their role in flood prevention. This seminar will increase your understanding of how streams work and steps communities can take to decrease vulnerability to flooding. Catskill Town Hall, 439 Main Street, Catskill, NY. Register at: (518) 622-9820 x 33.

Wednesday, September 3, 1:00-2:30: [Green Infrastructure and Smart Growth webinar](#). Speakers from EPA, the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Upstate Forever Communities will discuss how communities can leverage green infrastructure as part of broader smart growth initiatives.

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday, August 20, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm: NYC Recovery Build It Back Program and the Department of Financial Services will be present to provide personal assistance for those still experiencing issues with Build It Back, mortgages, insurance and more. Ancient Order of Hibernians at 2750 Gerritsen Avenue. [More information here](#)

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

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

Wednesdays, August 27 and 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

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

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

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

NEW: [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/nyrcr/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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