

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: July 10-17

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### Transparency Tip

The State of New Jersey [posted](#) the newly revised list of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program awardees and each recommended allocation amount.

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

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer [announced](#) the results of his office's first Sandy-related [audit](#), which found poor management and oversight of contracts by the New York City Department of Homeless Services after Sandy.

A document prepared by the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs revealed that the state spent nearly \$100 million on eight contractors for Sandy rebuilding. [Metropolis](#) by The Wall Street Journal

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has released a revised list of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant awardees, after an investigation found irregularities and errors in the scoring process for distributing the aid. The state also announced an additional \$13 million in Hazard Mitigation Grants will be available. [NJ Spotlight](#)

A business consultant offers advice to small businesses in Red Hook, Brooklyn and elsewhere as they rebuild businesses damaged by Sandy. [Brooklyn Based](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard will use \$14 million of its federal Sandy appropriation to repair the Coast Guard Station at Manasquan, NJ. [The Daily Journal](#)

An audit conducted by the Small Business Administration's Inspector General suggests that the internal process for loan applications may obscure the actual time it has taken the agency to approve loans. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Staten Island Beach Fest is a public event launched by the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency, the New York City Economic Development Corporation and other city agencies to boost the Staten Island economy in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

#### Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

President Obama announced the [National Disaster Resiliency Competition](#), funded by \$1 billion in Hurricane Sandy CDBG funds, which will be open to all states that had a major disaster declared in 2011-2013 and is aimed at helping those areas prepare for future

how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

climate-related disasters. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: As part of the President's announcement on climate readiness, a \$13 million three-dimensional mapping program was announced to help communities update flood maps. [Switchboard](#)

New York City Department of Transportation is proposing new permits that would allow building owners to install removable flood barriers on city streets and sidewalks around their buildings. A public hearing on the [proposed rules](#) will be held August 7 (see event listing below). [Habitat](#)

A report, [Protecting Our Capital](#), analyzes climate change data and potential risk for businesses and economies in over 200 cities worldwide and provides case studies on how cities are working with business to increase resiliency. [Fast.coExist](#)

The design firm responsible for the 'Living Breakwaters' project, one of the winners of the Rebuild By Design competition, will be conducting a feasibility study through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Fund examining offshore breakwaters for a site adjacent to Great Kills Harbor in Staten Island. [COWI](#)

In this opinion piece, James Florio and Christine Todd Whitman write that New Jersey must invest in upgrading its decaying water infrastructure as more employers are relocating to dense, urban areas in New Jersey. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Business districts throughout Long Island still recovering from Sandy depend on summer train tourism and are especially anxious about a potential walk out by LIRR workers. [Newsday](#)

ALSO: If LIRR workers strike, the MTA plans to run a free ferry in Glen Cove, Long Island to lower Manhattan. The Seastreak ferry service, subsidized by the NYCEDC after Hurricane Sandy, is another option to connect residents of Long Island's south shore towns to lower Manhattan. [Long Island Herald](#)

The MTA reinvention commission, recommended by Gov. Cuomo following Sandy, had its first public convening to discuss options for revitalizing the MTA. [Capital New York](#)

If cost effective for homeowners, a backup generator that runs on natural gas and is quieter and more fuel efficient than diesel generators, may be attractive to anyone who suffered loss of power during Sandy. [Forbes](#)

A community liaison from the NYC Office of Emergency Management presented information on the city's updated hurricane evacuation zones to Queens community boards 12 and 13. [Queens Chronicle](#)

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## Housing

Mayor Bill de Blasio provided an update on the status of repairs through the Build it Back program: construction has begun on 132 homes, 30 are complete. Details on the recovery can be found at [NYC Recovery](#).

A redevelopment plan for Sandy damaged neighborhoods in Staten Island allows for building slightly taller homes. Staten Island Borough President James Oddo is proposing the city buy up multiple adjacent properties and sell to developers to build slightly denser, more resilient housing. [WNYC](#)

The NYU Furman Center [released a report](#) examining the challenges of retrofitting aging multifamily buildings and preserving affordable housing in them.

In a report analyzing financial risk to homes along the Atlantic coast, it was determined that the New York City metro area has the largest amount of homes at risk of storm surge and the greatest potential cost: approximately \$250 billion. [Marketwatch](#)

Owners of vacation homes in New Jersey weigh the options of rebuilding, as the properties are not eligible for federal disaster aid and many must be elevated to qualify for flood insurance. [The Record](#)

An apartment complex in Far Rockaway, Queens will receive an \$8.7 million acquisition bridge loan for renovations of the building, which was damaged during Sandy. [Business Wire](#)

## Events

List your upcoming event here! Email [elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org)

### Action Item

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has proposed new [Coastal Zone Management Rules](#); a public comment period is open through **August 1, 2014**. Comments may be [filed online](#) or mailed to:

Gary J. Brower, Esq.  
ATTN: DEP Docket No.03-14-04  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection Office of Legal Affairs  
Mail Code 401-04L;  
PO Box 402401 East State Street, 7th Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

**Thursday August 7, 10:00 AM:** New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) public hearing on a newly [proposed rule](#) that would allow building owners to use some public streets or sidewalks to install removable flood barriers around their buildings. 55 Water Street, Bid Room A, New York, NY 10041

### 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, July 18, August 1, August 15.** 9 am - 11 am: NJ Volunteer Lawyers for Justice offers free legal clinics for Sandy victims. Brick Presbyterian Church 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ.

**Friday, July 18, 9:30-11:30 am.** Enterprise's Resilience Speakers Series: How Do We Prepare our Seniors for Emergency Events? Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

**Wednesday, August 6th - Thursday August 7th:** UPROSE presents the 4th NYC Climate Justice Youth Summit. Urban Assembly School for Green Careers, 145 W. 84th Street, New York, NY 10024

**Sunday, September 21:** People's Climate March: A Weekend to Bend the Course of History. Details on location to come.

## 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.

## Queens

**Thursday, June 24,** 6:00 pm: Climate Change Training Hosted by Rockaway Wildfire, facilitated by the Climate Justice Alliance and Ruckus Society. This training will discuss the root causes of climate change and what a just transition look like. This training is aimed at Sandy survivors and those living in vulnerable communities. Arverne Pilgrim Church 74-16 Beach Channel Drive, on the corner of 75th st.

## Advocacy Reports

**NEW:** 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:** 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 has 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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