

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 24-31

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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

Action Items

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

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

In New Jersey, disaster relief documents translated into Spanish were found to have many critical mistakes and some documents were never translated. [South Jersey Times](#)

NYU Langone Medical Center will receive over \$1 billion in FEMA funds, the second largest single-project award in FEMA's history. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: The New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation has also requested \$1 billion in FEMA funds to pay for infrastructure improvements at city public hospitals which were badly damaged by Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)

New Rochelle, NY will receive \$1.4 million in FEMA funds to repair the municipal marina and docks damaged during Sandy. [Mid-Hudson News](#)

Red Hook Volunteers, a relief organization providing direct services to individuals affected by Hurricane Sandy, is struggling to pay rent. [DNAinfo](#)

A profile of NYC Daylighting, one of the firms selected as a finalist to receive funds through the CDBG-DR funded RISE:NYC. [NYCEDC blog](#)

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-Staten Island) called on the Empire State Development Corporation to provide \$37 million in rebuilding funds for Staten Island to match what it spent promoting tourism in other parts of the state. [DNAinfo](#)

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

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Gov. Cuomo announced that \$5 million in National Park Service grants will go to assessing 14 Sandy-damaged historic sites for renovation and protection. Staten Island Advance

Gov. Cuomo announced that the NY Rising program will cover the costs of home elevations for over 6,500 homeowners.

Senators Menendez and Booker (both D-NJ), announced that a \$490,000 grant through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters program will go to the Atlantic City Fire Department to repair damage from Sandy.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Despite some progress on sustainability measures, many environmentalists want to see more commitment and leadership from the de Blasio administration on issues like clean energy, building efficiency, and climate change. Capital New York

A survey of the nation's stormwater utilities reveals that states affected by hurricanes in the last ten years are the most lacking in adequate, functioning stormwater utilities. Asbury Park Press

ALSO: Due to its overburdened sewer system, the city of Hoboken must act quickly to implement its Rebuild by Design project. Funding for the project must, however, wind through a series of approvals in federal, state and local government. Hudson Reporter

Professors from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ received a \$700,000 grant to study how man-made coastal adaptations will impact water quality in Jamaica Bay, Queens. PRweb

The White House released a report stating that inaction on climate change could cost the nation \$150 billion. The report was released prior to a series of EPA hearings on a proposed rule for limiting greenhouse gas emissions at existing power plants. Politico

ALSO: At a rally in Times Square, members of the Transport Workers Union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers along with other labor unions and community organizations called on elected officials to create policies that address global warming. The Epoch Times and Grist

A report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that minor flooding in coastal cities has increased up to 925%

since 1960, increasingly compromising infrastructure. [Think Progress](#)

The National Park Service is seeking a contractor to make needed repairs on Canarsie Pier, which was damaged by Sandy and is falling into disrepair. [New York Daily News](#)

The New York Academy of Medicine released a report offering recommendations on how to address the vulnerabilities of New York City's elderly population in a hurricane. It emphasizes the need for greater community preparedness rather than individual emergency planning. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Data collected by Rutgers University suggests that most New Jersey residents doubt that their Sandy-damaged communities will be rebuilt with greater resiliency. [USA Today](#)

Leading analysts in the fossil fuel industry recognize the future risks of climate change more readily than conservative Republicans. [Grist](#)

Housing

Mayor de Blasio cites progress in the Build it Back program based on 132 home repairs started. Yet this represents less than 1% of houses that require rebuilding and not all NYCHA buildings have begun making Sandy-related repairs. In some cases, roads and other infrastructure must be replaced before housing can be sufficiently repaired and protected from future storms. [City & State](#)

A [report](#) from the NYU Furman Center shows that not enough progress has been made to prepare multifamily residences located in the floodplain for future storms or to prevent higher flood insurance premiums for building owners. [New York Observer](#)

Displaced from their homes for nearly two years, some New Jersey homeowners have been told that their damaged homes can no longer be considered a primary residence for flood insurance purposes and will incur higher premiums. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Due to confusion over which FEMA advisory flood maps have been officially adopted by the state of New Jersey, some homeowners are facing a flood insurance bill exceeding \$30,000. [The Star-Ledger](#)

At a U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on Flood Insurance, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) gave [testimony](#) on behalf of residents of coastal New Jersey neighborhoods who have experienced high insurance rate increases.

ALSO: FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate provided testimony that Congress must address the long-term stability of the National Flood Insurance Program. [Times-Picayune](#)

Jobs

Though still controversial in the labor community, climate initiatives are becoming increasingly important for New York City labor unions, whose members have been deeply affected by lingering effects of Hurricane Sandy. [BeyondChron.org](#)

At a rally to give voice to the many Sandy survivors who have not yet heard whether they will receive rebuilding funds through the Build it Back program, Amy Peterson director of the city's housing recovery, pledged to hold a jobs fair for recovery jobs within the next two months. [New York Daily News](#)

An [audit](#) by the New York City Comptroller's office found that the NYCHA failed to comply with its own regulations that contractors working on Sandy rebuilding work hire 30% NYCHA residents for a portion of the jobs. [AP via the Wall Street Journal](#) and [CBS New York](#)

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 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.

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

Wednesday, August 13, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm: [NYC Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable Training Day - Mock Roundtable & Training](#), MCNY, 431 Canal St., 11th Floor Conference Room, New York, NY 10031 Registration required.

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.

Bronx

Monday, August 4, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: [Public Forum: A Resilient Future for The East Bronx Waterfront](#). Providence Rest Nursing Home, 3304 Waterbury Ave., Bronx NY 10465

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.

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

Queens

Wednesdays, August 13, 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

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

NEW: 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/nycrcr/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.

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