

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 31 - August 7

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Transparency Tip

New York City's most recent quarterly performance report to HUD is now available on the [NYC Recovery website](#). The report details how the city is spending the federal allocation of CDBG-DR funds for the initiatives it proposed in its approved Action Plan.

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

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Action Items

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

Coney Island residents have mixed opinions on the future of the neighborhood's rebirth, despite an influx of Sandy recovery funds and a citywide rezoning. [New York Observer](#)

Gov. Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio and Congressman Meeks [announced](#) federal approval of \$1.2 million in Hazard Mitigation Grants for a feasibility study of a double dune barrier system for Breezy Point, Queens. Potentially \$56 million more could be approved to fund construction and implementation.

In an interview with Brad Gair, former head of Sandy recovery operations in New York City and creator of the Build it Back program, Gair suggests that a federally funded off-the-shelf disaster relief program should be developed to help communities put efficient rebuilding programs in place in the aftermath of a disaster. [WNYC](#)

Researchers from Columbia and Rutgers universities will be conducting door-to-door interviews in Sandy-affected areas to assess long-term health effects and the well-being of people who were significantly impacted by the storm. [Asbury Park Press](#)

In testimony given before a senate subcommittee FEMA Director Craig Fugate said that he asked his inspector general to ensure that the agency is giving priority to making flood insurance payments quickly, not just investigating fraud claims. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: During the hearing, it was revealed that as FEMA disputes flood damage claims to over 400 homeowners in New York, it may end up paying exorbitant legal fees; in some cases it is expected that legal fees paid by FEMA to its lawyers would be more than the insurance settlements paid to homeowners. [E&E Publishing](#)

Senators Menendez and Booker (both D-NJ) [announced](#) \$1.2

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!

million in FEMA aid will go to the Hoboken Catholic Academy for repairs.

Based on figures included in New Jersey's most recent quarterly performance report to HUD, the state has distributed about one third of the first round of federal Sandy relief aid. [The Star-Ledger](#) and [NJTV News](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Mayor Bill de Blasio and other city officials met with community members in Red Hook, Brooklyn to help raise awareness of emergency preparedness, particularly in NYCHA communities. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

A new mapping tool by the US Energy Information Agency shows flood risk for existing energy infrastructure. Most vital infrastructure in New York City is located in a flood-vulnerable area. [Ars Technica](#)

For her work leading the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, Marion McFadden is now a finalist for a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, a highly prestigious award for federal employees. [The Washington Post](#)

Hurricane Sandy Citywide Storefront Improvement Program reports progress made in restoring 68 storefronts of businesses damaged by Sandy. [NYC Neighborhoods](#)

The Superstorm Research Lab, run out of New York University, is studying the sociological effects of Hurricane Sandy on city life. [Next City](#)

Despite delays caused by Sandy, the 100-foot-deep water tunnel between Brooklyn and Staten Island is now on schedule to be completed in the spring 2015. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Housing

After successfully completing 36 home repair projects on Staten Island, Habitat for Humanity announced that it will expand the program to storm-damaged homes in Brooklyn. [New York Daily News](#) and [MarketWired](#)

Luxury residential properties in lower Manhattan have been installing the AquaFence, a quickly deployable flood barrier. [New York Observer](#)

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.

Saturday August 9 & 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 12, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm: Bringing it Home. This seminar will tie together the previous sessions to present a tool kit for individuals and agencies for times of disaster. Hosted by Department of Health, Office of Emergency Management CAUSE-NY and the Salvation Army. Registration is required.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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 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

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

NEW: 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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