

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: June 19-26

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Transparency Tip

HUD released a progress report on implementation of Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force goals. The report can be found [here](#).

Also, an updated table of federal agency spending through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act can be found [here](#).

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

New Jersey has received less than half as much Sandy aid from the Department of Housing and Urban Development as New York State and New York City combined. Some speculate it is because New Jersey has not given enough consideration to sea level rise due to global warming in its recovery plans. [NJ Spotlight](#)

The American Red Cross argues data about its Hurricane Sandy relief spending includes 'trade secrets' and claims it therefore does not need to comply with Freedom of Information Law requests regarding Sandy money. [ProPublica](#)

New York City small business owners cite a long, confusing application process and impossible credit solvency standards in the city's business recovery programs. Some are concerned that the present system will drastically alter the commercial landscape in Sandy-impacted neighborhoods. [The Brooklyn Paper](#)

Long-term recovery groups and other small non-profits have stepped in to more quickly provide grant money to families still waiting for government aid to pay for home repairs and rebuilding. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Using the experience of Asian Americans For Equality (AAFE) during Sandy, this blog discusses what qualities allow community development corporations to succeed in offering disaster relief when government and large relief organizations fail. [What Works for America blog](#)

ALSO: The Chronicle of Philanthropy argues that privately funded nonprofits can complete disaster recovery work with greater speed and efficiency since they are not required to follow federal regulations for worker protection, insurance, or recipient income status as local governments must. [Philanthropy.com](#)

Many New Jersey State Senate Republicans who were initially supportive of the Sandy Bill of Rights reversed their support at the last moment on a vote to override Gov. Christie's veto of it. The legislation aims to provide more transparency about the process of distributing rebuilding aid in the state. [The Star-Ledger](#)

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!

New York City Council Member Steven Matteo of Staten Island objected to the new formula for distributing the Council's discretionary grants, or "member items." Matteo cited his district's need from Hurricane Sandy in his response to receiving one of the lowest allocations. [Capital New York](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

A new [report](#) studying the overall cost of global warming on the U.S. economy estimates that annual losses from storms could be as much as \$35 billion. The report, from the non-partisan Risky Business Project which is co-chaired by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, also considers risks to parts of the country where increased heat and humidity will affect productivity. [ClimateCentral](#) and [CBS News Moneywatch](#)

ALSO: In this [New York Times Op-Ed](#), Henry Paulson, former Treasury Secretary under George W. Bush and co-chair of Risky Business, encourages fellow Republicans to see climate risk evaluation as a conservative principle and that properly pricing carbon will actually reduce government spending as fewer taxpayer interventions to rebuild homes and cities destroyed by violent storms will be required if global warming is addressed now.

ALSO: A third co-chair of Risky Business is Tom Steyer, a hedge-fund billionaire environmentalist who is strongly opposed to the keystone pipeline and says he will not donate to campaigns of any Democrat who supports it. [Investing.com](#)

With the long-term disruption in R train service due to the closure of the Montague Street tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan, residents of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn have started to notice larger and more frequent tremors from the subway running under Fourth Avenue. NYC Transit has been working to mitigate the vibrations, which caused a section of limestone to break off of a school building. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

The [People's Climate March](#), scheduled for September 21, 2014 during a summit at the United Nations, is expected to bring many affected by Hurricane Sandy to rally for a progressive change in the fundamental structures of our economy as the only way to effectively address global warming. [rabble](#)

A [report](#) by the World Bank and ClimateWorks Foundation finds that addressing global warming through increased public transportation and energy efficiency will increase global GDP by up to \$2.6 trillion a year and save nearly 100,000 lives each year. [desmogblog](#)

Missiles loaded with cold water, directed at the eye of a hurricane to slow its velocity and off-shore wind farms that can harness the power of a hurricane and dilute its strength are two innovations being developed to modify storm impacts. [MyFoxNY](#)

ALSO: New York State is planning to build a \$24 million

system of weather stations to predict oncoming disasters, including severe weather and terrorist attacks; the cost would be shared by SUNY Albany and FEMA via the New York State Homeland Security office, yet details on how the costs would be shared remain opaque as FOIL requests for the information were returned redacted. [syracuse.com](#)

[RISE:NYC](#), a competition funded through the New York City CDBG-DR allocation for business programs, announced 37 [finalists](#) to design resiliency innovations for small businesses. Small businesses impacted by Hurricane Sandy can apply to be a project site.

ALSO: NYCEDC's Big Idea competition, a partnership with RISE:NYC and Climate Central, aims to develop an app to help New Yorkers visualize and prepare for global warming. [NYCEDC blog](#)

A data hackathon attempted to understand New York City's utility infrastructure and energy grid. [BetaBeat](#)

Officials from the Federal Railroad Administration will be inspecting the Norwalk, Connecticut's Walk Bridge for a month to evaluate the aging infrastructure. Connecticut is seeking \$349 million in Federal Railroad Administration funding through the federal Sandy Relief appropriation, but strong competition for the funds from New York and New Jersey may derail the plans for a new bridge. [CT Mirror](#)

Housing

A [new report](#) reveals African Americans and Latinos, many in areas hard hit by Sandy, are at disproportionate risk for losing their homes to foreclosure and calls on the city to use eminent domain to buy these mortgages for the public's benefit. [New York Observer](#)

In Neponsit, Queens residents complain that mold and trash left in abandoned and foreclosed homes have been causing respiratory illness and pests. [CBS Local](#)

The prefabricated post-disaster housing units unveiled by the Office of Emergency Management last week are designed to be erected in the neighborhood of residents displaced by a disaster, and can be connected to municipal systems for long-term temporary use. [Inhabitat](#)

The Rockaway Times, a new weekly newspaper covering the Rockaway Peninsula, will focus on Hurricane Sandy unmet housing needs in the area as well as local interest stories. [New York Observer](#) and [Capital New York](#)

Disaster preparedness training tips were presented to community members during the SUNY Plattsburgh Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program including creating a family emergency plan, keeping stocked with vital supplies, and registering for NY-ALERT. [Press Republican](#)

Events

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

Upcoming Deadlines

Friday, June 27: New York City Economic Development Corporation issued a [Request for Proposals](#) for a study examining flood protection and mitigation surrounding Coney Island Creek.

Friday, June 27: Deadline to apply to be a project site for the RISE:NYC technology installation. Application does not guarantee selection as a project site. [Program details and application information here.](#)

Regional Events

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

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

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.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: 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: 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](#)

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

NEW: 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.

New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: The [2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report](#); a comprehensive assessment of the NYC voluntary sector's rebuild capacity in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Center for an Urban Future: [Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York's Aging Infrastructure](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy](#).

[Future-Proofing Cities](#): A report from the U.K. Department for International Development and University College London looking at the risks and opportunities for inclusive urban growth in developing countries. 129 cities, 5 urban types and over 100 practical solutions, statistics and analysis.

[Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities](#) from the National Disaster Interfaith Network

The International Economic Development Council released [Case Studies in Small Business Finance Following a Disaster](#), a report of six case studies of effective long-term economic recovery efforts of disaster-affected communities.

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: [Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City](#)

Rutgers University: [Overlooking Oversight: A Lack of Oversight in the Garden State is Placing New Jersey Residents and Assets at Risk](#).

Ceres report: [Cool Response: The SEC & Corporate Climate Change Reporting](#): SEC Climate Guidance & S&P 500 Reporting - 2010 to 2013.

[Brooklyn Communities Speak: An Action Guide for Local Decision-Makers Post Sandy](#). This report from the Brooklyn Community Fund and coalition partners analyzes conditions in six coastal Brooklyn neighborhoods post-Sandy, with recommendations for government agencies on how to address persistent recovery challenges while building resiliency in partnership with local communities.

White Paper prepared by Queens Legal Services: [Homes Underwater: Forbearance Alternatives for Sandy-Affected Homeowners](#)

[Superstorm Research Lab: A Tale of Two Sandys](#). This whitepaper, based on interviews with a broad range of Sandy-impacted individuals and aid organizations in New York City, offers recommendations on how to address the inequalities entwined with Sandy's aftermath.

[New York City VOAD Volunteer and Construction Committee Resource Guide](#): This list includes voluntary organizations providing rebuild services in New York City.

New report from the Municipal Art Society: [All hands on deck: Mobilizing New Yorkers for a Livable and Resilient New York](#)

New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center documents its concerns that African Americans and Latinos are being rejected from Sandy relief at higher rates than Caucasians. [Fair Share Housing Center Blog](#)

Parsons Brinckerhoff produces [The Sandy Disaster Awareness Report](#), a summary of key developments and funding priorities in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy.

[Day Labor, Worker Centers & Disaster Relief Work in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy](#). This report discusses the challenges that workers faced during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the role that worker centers played to protect the health and safety of workers in New York and New Jersey.

[Hurricane Sandy Fall 2013 Update: FEMA Assistance Analysis](#). Enterprise Community Partners examines the level of need and the response efforts in New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. This brief includes data related to FEMA inspections of those who registered for assistance and the amount that had been awarded to those with assessed damage.

[Hurricane Sandy: Housing Needs One Year Later](#). Enterprise Community Partners provides a summary of early findings from a survey of storm victims to measure the ongoing impact of Hurricane Sandy, one year after the storm.

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

Federal, State & Local Resources

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

The Government Accountability Office report, [Emergency Transportation Relief: Agencies Could Improve Collaboration Begun during Hurricane Sandy Response](#).

The Government Accountability Office report, [Disaster Resilience: Actions Are Underway, but Federal Fiscal Exposure Highlights the Need for Continued Attention to Longstanding Challenges](#), examines the challenges to resilience building.

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

The New York Times provides a [video archive](#) of Hurricane Sandy survivors' stories and rebuilding progress.

[The National Climate Assessment Report](#)

[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 [report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an assessment of state and local health emergency preparedness, including an evaluation of the response to Hurricane Sandy.

Online briefings from [World Care Centers](#) on disaster volunteer training for communities.

Information on [New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams \[pdf\]](#), along with an application for their 10-week training program.

The Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [this guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

[Crowdsourcing ideas for FEMA](#) - Help FEMA plan for disasters. Join and submit your ideas to their crowd-sourced feedback community and vote on others' ideas.

[New York Rising Year End Report](#). Includes accounting of mass transit investment, reform of Long Island Power Authority, and projected storm recovery and rebuilding costs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers released its [Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Evaluation Study](#)

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

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Community Mapping project has posted interactive online maps for six New York Rising communities in New York City. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on their community's plan. Final Community Reconstruction Plans are due by March 31, 2014.

FEMA has released its preliminary [Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMs\)](#); see also FEMA's guide of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the new maps.

The New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs [Hurricane Sandy Immigrant Outreach Initiative Report](#) on efforts to address the needs of immigrant New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

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.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce released a [Disaster Preparedness Checklist](#) for small businesses.

Next City, a weekly urban affairs publication, is launching a new the [Resilient Cities](#) series, which will focus on preparation and resiliency planning for disasters in urban areas around the world.

FEMA's [Hurricane Sandy: One Year Later](#) provides updates on recovery efforts, a timeline and other resources.

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](#).

[Hurricane Sandy: An Assessment of Impacted Commercial Corridors and Recommendations for Revitalization](#) [pdf]. This report by the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the New York City Economic Development Corporation provides an assessment of commercial corridors in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Queens.

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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