

With many issues still unresolved in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on government money in the rebuilding process. For more on opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. And let us know how we can make this alert better.

Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: November 27-December 4

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

An [audit](#) by the inspector general of the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that \$183 million in CDBG-DR funds went to the city's Health and Hospitals corporation for unsupported salary and fringe benefits because of poor oversight of the disbursements. [Capital New York](#)

ProSource Technology, a private consultant that had an emergency contract with New York State for recovery work after Sandy, is suing the state for allegedly demanding that the company hire subcontractors with "strong New York political relationships." [The Daily Gazette](#)

U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Corey Booker (D-NJ) are questioning FEMA's handling of homeowners' appeals of damage assessment reports. [NJ Advance](#) and [NJ.com](#)

A second insurer is accused of falsifying damage reports in order to avoid paying insurance claims for homes damaged by Sandy. [The Washington Post](#)

Three magistrate judges are instructing attorneys to treat Hurricane Sandy insurance cases with "a sense of urgency." There are currently 1,300 eastern district cases disputing underpayment or claim denials from insurance companies. [New York Law Journal](#)

ALSO: The Fordham Law Review published a paper examining how both the tort and insurance systems fail to adequately compensate victims of hurricanes. [Fordham Law Review](#)

Foundations and social service organizations have contributed over \$380 million to Sandy relief efforts in New Jersey, vital for recovery needs not covered by FEMA or insurance. [Newsworks](#)

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey (D-Westchester/Rockland) and U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) [announced](#) that more than \$1.7 million in FEMA funds will go to the Village of Nyack for repairs to a waterfront park and marina that were damaged by Sandy.

The Fund for the City of New York will honor Rockaways teacher, Kerri Naples, for her commitment to her students in the aftermath of Sandy. [DNAinfo](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

New Jersey State Senator Steve Sweeney is calling for construction of a new tunnel connecting

New York and New Jersey to alleviate congestion when the current tunnels must be closed for repairs due to Sandy damage. [New Jersey Newsroom](#)

Many of the resiliency plans for New York City do not address the need for greater protection of the city's subway system, which is particularly vulnerable to salt water damage and extreme heat. [Business Insider](#)

ALSO: John O'Grady oversees the flood-proofing projects being planned for the subway system and discusses some of the innovations being implemented. [The Guardian](#)

Gov. Cuomo announced [new coastal resiliency projects](#) on Long Island that would reduce nitrogen pollution after storms and would devote \$383 million to sewer infrastructure upgrades. [Water Online](#)

Nilda Mesa will be New York City's director of the new Office of Sustainability. [Associated Press](#)

Bronx Borough President Reuben Diaz Jr. responded to Mayor de Blasio's announcement about converting payphones into Wi-Fi hotspots, saying that the upgrades should do more to incorporate sustainability and resiliency technologies and thus be better prepared for future Sandy-like emergencies. [City & State](#)

Regina Myer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, wrote in a letter to the editor of the Brooklyn Paper that the Pierhouse development project is in compliance with height requirements according to updated floodplain elevations and NYC building code following Hurricane Sandy. [The Brooklyn Paper](#)

As was pointed out in the recent report, Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to Create a Community-Based Disaster Plan for the Future, the Lower East Side badly needs a community-based disaster relief plan to mitigate or prevent crisis during future disasters. [City Limits](#)

Current costs of the train station at the World Trade Center do not include several hundreds of millions in damages at the site due to Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

Housing

The New Jersey Institute of Technology Center for Resilient Design is exploring raised platforms for entire low-lying communities along the Jersey Shore. [Newsworks](#)

A newly renovated 11-unit Coney Island apartment building, which was badly damaged during Sandy, recently sold for \$3.78 million. [Rebusiness Online](#)

Twenty-three newly renovated apartment units in Harlem will be reserved for Sandy-impacted families and other low- and moderate-income residents. [Multi-housing News](#)

[Subscribe](#) to the new Build it Back newsletter for regular updates of the city's progress with housing recovery efforts.

Events

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

Regional Events

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

Upcoming free webinars on Disaster Preparedness and Economic recovery through RestoreYourEconomy.org:

December 11, 2:30-4:00 pm: 'Open for Business': Crisis Communication. [Register](#).

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.

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: Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development: [Social Resiliency and Superstorm Sandy: Lessons from New York City Community Organizations](#)

LES Ready!: [Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to create a community-based disaster plan for the future](#)

Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Council of New Jersey Grantmakers; Foundation Center; Philanthropy New York: [Philanthropy and Hurricane Sandy: A Report on the Foundation and Corporate Response](#). A new report looks at the role of philanthropy in the response to Hurricane Sandy and how contributions help fund community advocacy, social services and other redevelopment planning processes.

Union of Concerned Scientists: [Encroaching Tides: How Sea Level Rise and Tidal Flooding Threaten U.S. East and Gulf Coast Communities over the Next 30 Years](#)

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods: [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#)

[FloodHelpNY](#) is a dynamic map that allows users to find out what their flood insurance rate will be when new federal flood maps are available in 2016 and provides links to information on purchasing flood insurance.

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: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General audit: [The City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, administration of CDBG -DR Assistance Funds awarded to the city.](#)

NEW: Northeast-Midwest Institute: [Building a Climate-Resilient Great Lakes: Federal Resources and Assistance for State and Local Governments](#)

New York City Economic Development Corporation and New York City Department of City Planning: [Water Street: Transforming Water Street's Privately Owned Public Spaces \(POPS\)](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [On the Frontlines: \\$129 billion in property at risk from flood waters](#)

New York City Department of Environmental Protection, [Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan\[update\]](#)

New York City Department of City Planning: [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#)

Urban Justice Center's [Mental Health Project](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [A Green Bond Program for New York City](#)

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General: [Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response During Superstorm Sandy](#)

Swiss Re report: ["The Big One: The East Coast's USD 100 billion hurricane event"](#)

[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/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.

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