

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: October 23-30

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

An [investigation](#) of Red Cross Sandy relief efforts exposed numerous examples of mismanagement, endangerment and "diverting assets for public relations purposes." [ProPublica](#)

The Staten Island Long Term Recovery Group has successfully coordinated 95 relief organizations doing volunteer rebuilding and community service projects in Sandy-damaged neighborhoods. [Huffington Post](#)

New Jersey residents and housing advocates met with Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro to speak about ongoing problems in accessing disaster relief through flood insurance payments and HUD-funded housing recovery grants. [NJ Advance](#)

The Government Accountability Office found that the federal Small Business Administration took nearly twice as long as the agency's goal of 21 days to process Sandy financing requests. Fewer than half of all applicants for small business loans have received funds. [The Washington Post](#)

FEMA has [obligated](#) nearly \$65 million for 42 emergency planning projects at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission wastewater treatment facility, which was overwhelmed by a 12-foot storm surge and discharged millions of gallons of raw sewage into New York Harbor.

Volunteers with Occupy Sandy have had significant impact in the Sandy recovery through data accessibility, worker-owned cooperatives in Far Rockaway, and on-the-ground rebuilding work and advocacy for those left homeless by the storm. [Huffington Post](#)

A report by Rutgers School of Law found that many of the last-minute emergency voting measures put in place in the aftermath of Sandy, including online voting, violated state law, caused chaos and confusion, and opened the possibility of vote hacking. [NJ Advance](#)

A commemorative essay tells how 18 volunteer firefighters in Breezy Point, Queens rescued 41 civilians and remained in the community to guard it against possible looting. [amNY](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

An investigation found that state emergency rebuilding programs rely on a small pool of contractors,

which largely subcontract the work, and are unable to effectively funnel federal funds to residents. Only three firms bid on post-Sandy recovery work in New York City. [WNYC](#)

New York City rebuilding officials have been making progress in a variety of resiliency projects; many experts working in New York City today feel confident that the city will be better prepared for the next storm. [The New York Times](#)

ConEd reports that it is at the halfway point in its \$1 billion work plan to harden the city's electrical grid against future storms. It has spent approximately \$300 million so far on protecting substations and sealing conduits and flood doors protecting electrical stations. [Capital New York](#)

A review of Gov. Cuomo's Moreland Commission investigation into the Long Island Power Authority's response to Sandy shows that the commission did little to investigate the Governor's role in LIPA's shortcomings. [The New York Times](#)

The New York City Office of Emergency Management has coordinated development of 14 additional playbooks for emergency readiness of special needs populations and seniors, particularly during a coastal storm. [Downtown Express](#)

As more homes along the waterfront in Broad Channel, Queens are removed, it has created an opportunity for a coalition of volunteer community groups and government agencies to clear out otherwise inaccessible sections of wetlands that were infiltrated by debris during Sandy. [Queens Chronicle](#)

Low-income communities in New Jersey are struggling to access government relief programs, and many call the official relief programs inequitable. [International Business Times](#)

ALSO: During a tour of Sandy recovery along the Jersey Shore, Gov. Christie angrily responded to a protester raising questions about inequity in New Jersey's Sandy recovery. [WNYC](#)

New York City and State government have a combined total of 270 employees working on Hurricane Sandy recovery programs. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Before and after satellite images of Sandy-impacted areas document the redevelopment patterns along the coast and the progress of rebuilding. [Huffington Post](#)

Heritage Park, a new city park located in West Brighton, Staten Island, is the first post-Sandy resilient buffer space intended to protect nearby homes from flooding while also providing recreational space. The park is a joint project of the Trust for Public Land, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the city Parks Department. [Staten Island Advance](#)

While the first phase of the oyster restoration project failed to reestablish oyster colonies in and around New York Bay, the second phase, focusing on Soundview Park in the Bronx, is successfully growing oysters for coastal protection purposes. [The Guardian](#)

The Red Hook Initiative has been instrumental in rebuilding this coastal neighborhood. [New York Daily News](#)

Housing

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery is purchasing homes in a four-block stretch of Ocean Breeze, Staten Island. One homeowner who already repaired his home, decided to take the buyout and relocate. [WNYC](#)

In Breezy Point, dozens of houses have been rebuilt, the neighborhood has invested in a protective

dune, and generally refused to retreat from the waterfront, despite its location on a sandbar surrounded by ocean and rising sea levels. Bungalows have been replaced by larger elevated houses. [Curbed](#)

Of 172 storm damaged NYCHA residential units, 58 remain "under construction." Sixteen developments in flood zones continue to rely on temporary boilers for heat and hot water. NYCHA says repairs at Coney Island houses will begin next year. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Some residents of Coney Island houses are skeptical that the NYCHA development will actually receive over \$100 million in federal funding for repairs as announced by city officials. [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

A Mitchell-Lama housing development in Far Rockaways reopened after serious damage from Sandy destroyed its electrical and heating systems. The new development, now called Arverne View, received \$232 million in public and private funds. [MyFoxNY.com](#) and [Queens Courier](#)

On Long Island, only 2,000 of nearly 9,000 damaged homes have had repairs completed. [Newsday](#)

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](#).

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.

Thursday, Oct. 30, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm: [What's Next After Rebuilding? Making Resilience Happen](#). A symposium presented by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and New Jersey Future. Rutgers - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

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.

Thursday, November 13: 6pm-9pm: [Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk in Canarsie](#), Beraca Baptist Church 9602 Flatlands Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Tuesday, November 18: 6pm-9pm: [Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk in Canarsie](#), Beraca Baptist Church 9602 Flatlands Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Advocacy Reports

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

NEW: 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.

Contact us

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