

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 30 - November 6

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Companies that secured contracts for Sandy rebuilding work in New Jersey contributed nearly \$600,000 to the Republican Governor's Association which provides campaign donations for Republican candidates. [International Business Times](#)

As of August 31st, 2014, 39% of the federal disaster relief appropriation has been obligated for a specific purpose and 23% has been disbursed - with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers having spent only 12% of the total. This blog calls for greater reform of disaster rebuilding policy to incentivize more resilient rebuilding. [Taxpayers for Common Sense](#)

ALSO: Several key recommendations, prepared in consultation with New York City's storm czars, rebuilding experts and advocates from New York, New Jersey and Louisiana, would help streamline future disaster recovery efforts. [NJ Spotlight](#)

ALSO: Critics of the federal disaster policy say that the government's system of paying for disasters is inefficient and does not provide enough resources to prepare against extreme weather or disasters. [Huffington Post](#)

City Councilman Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island) is calling on the federal government to prioritize spending at Coney Island Hospital, a public facility that was badly damaged during the storm and has received just \$22 million from FEMA. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Doctors of the World, which operates a free health clinic in the Rockaways, released an analysis of medical need of residents and the prevalence of stress, anxiety and depression in the population since Sandy. [TimesLedger](#)

The Hurricane Sandy Business Loan and Grant program disbursed \$5.2 million in aid to 33 Brooklyn businesses affected by Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Brooklyn, Queens) and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams are urging large financial institutions to develop low-interest loan program to help houses of worship rebuild after Sandy. These institutions are barred by law from applying for federal disaster relief aid. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Gov. Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio announced a "Race for Space" disaster recovery program for Staten Island small businesses, originally developed through the New York Rising Community planning process. The program will award \$400,000 to businesses opening up stores in buildings that were damaged or vacant since the storm. [DNAinfo](#)

FEMA is recouping \$5 million in funds it mistakenly issued to individuals for damages caused by Sandy. [skyNews](#)

The owners of a popular restaurant at the South Street Seaport that was destroyed by Sandy chose to reopen on higher ground, but because of the relocation they could not qualify for any disaster relief assistance. [Downtown Express](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Klaus Jacob, Columbia University climate scientist, discusses why the city's planning efforts may actually be creating risk for New York City. [The Guardian](#)

Community groups concerned about the replacement boardwalks in Coney Island and Brighton Beach say they haven't been able to meet with city Parks Department Commissioner Mitchel Silver due to his frequent trips away from the city at speaking and teaching engagements. [DNAinfo](#)

Despite calls by local elected officials to retain the Rockaway Ferry service, the temporary service has ended. NYCEDC president Kyle Kimball says a better solution is an overall economic development strategy for the peninsula. [NY1](#)

A new [report](#) by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer revealed that assessed property values for buildings in the newly defined 100-year floodzone are worth \$129 billion, representing an increase of 120% over a four-year period. [The Real Deal](#)

For mayors in Sandy-impacted towns in New Jersey, their handling of Sandy recovery was a prominent issue in their reelection campaigns. [Associated Press via NJ.com](#)

Plans to build a \$2 billion two-mile long sea wall around Jersey City would create valuable new waterfront real estate along a newly constructed coastline. [The Jersey Journal](#)

A new \$42 million storm resilient building at the South Beach Psychiatric Center on Staten Island opened last week. [Staten Island Advance](#) and [Crain's New York Business](#)

A number of initiatives seek to improve the quality and resiliency of Staten Island's transportation systems, including high ground parking spaces, public transportation, and green streets. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Despite flooding and damage at its flagship store in South Beach, a locally-owned Staten Island pharmacy has expanded in recent years, inconsistent with a citywide trend of limited growth among small businesses. [Staten Island Advance](#)

This [New York Times Op-Ed](#) calls for greater investment in weather infrastructure, technology and communication systems to alert residents to severe weather situations.

ALSO: A new forecasting system currently in development will alert residents three days in advance if their street is likely to flood. [CBS News](#)

A photo essay documents how the MTA proactively maintains its subway cars and tracks and repairs parts before they fail. [Business Insider](#)

The new New York Aquarium, which will fully reopen in 2016, will provide a new focus on protection of New York's rivers, harbors and seashore. [Huffington Post](#)

While drilling under the sea floor to prepare to build a protective seawall off the coast of New Jersey, drillers discovered remnants of a vessel that may have sunk over 100 years ago. [ABC News](#)

Housing

The New Jersey Blue Acres home buyout program reached a milestone this week with the purchase of the 200th home and 500th buyout offer made to property owners. [Atlantic Highlands Herald](#)

Jobs

Interviews with undocumented immigrant day laborers reveal the dangerous conditions they faced doing Sandy recovery and clean-up work. [Buzz Feed](#)

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.

Saturday, November 15, 9:30 am Sandy Relief Mission Day Co-sponsored by Presbyterian Hope in Action and the Presbytery of New York City Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. For more information and to sign up, contact Debbie Mullins (deborramullins@att.net). FAPC has continued to partner with PHIA and First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens, to contribute to ongoing rebuilding efforts in the Far Rockaways and Staten Island.

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.

Manhattan

Monday, November 10, 6:00 pm: South Street Seaport Public Forum to learn the latest about what is being proposed for the future of the neighborhood, including developments on the historic district, the Seaport Museum and the possibility of a farmers' market return. Expected speakers at the event organized by Save Our Seaport and the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance are New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and City Councilmember Margaret Chin. [RSVP to attend](#). Spruce Street School Auditorium, 12 Spruce St.

Advocacy Reports

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: 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/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.

Contact us

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