

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 16-23

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Notice of the third allocation of CDBG-DR funds was published in the [federal register](#). This triggers the timeline for amendments to the action plan, which will require 30 days for public comment before being submitted to HUD for final approval.

In a televised interview, City Councilman Mark Treyger and Michael Berkowitz of 100 Resilient Cities discuss the implications of Hurricane Sandy and the state of resilience in the city two years later. [NY1 Online](#)

U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, (both D-NY) [announced](#) \$2.4 million in FEMA Public Assistance funds will go to repair and restoration of Long Beach City's West Elementary School. This is the last installment of funds needed to complete repairs on the building.

In a debate between two candidates for New York State's 63rd Assembly District, Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island) and Republican Joe Tirone each presented ideas for Sandy redevelopment, including Tirone's suggestion that the city and state combine resources to get rebuilding funds to storm victims more efficiently. [Staten Island Advance](#)

With most city property uninsured, the potential cost to the city of another Sandy, would cause financial disaster. [WNYC](#)

The New Jersey Superstorm Sandy Blue Acres program will purchase 19 flood-prone properties in Pompton Lakes and convert them into open space and a coastal buffer area. In New Jersey, 321 homeowners have sold their homes through the program so far. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

FEMA guidelines on home elevation requirements to avoid a hike in flood insurance premiums are designed only for single family homes and may prove difficult to adopt in multifamily and attached buildings which are predominant in New York City's coastal neighborhoods. FEMA has not responded to suggestions from city officials and advocates to make considerations for the unique building stock in the city. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Many Chelsea art galleries flooded during Sandy are now moving further inland to avoid the higher insurance premiums required for flood zones. Insurance premiums have risen as much as 30 percent. [New York Observer](#)

Last week's 'Summit on Resilience' emphasized the need to strengthen public-private partnerships to make urban infrastructure more resilient. [PR Web](#)

New York City Department of Homeless Services released plans to open a second homeless shelter for men on the Rockaway Peninsula, in a former nursing home which flooded during Sandy. Local elected officials criticized the plan for putting vulnerable populations in the flood zone. [DNAinfo](#)

The Living Breakwaters, a \$60 million project that will grow oysters on a constructed reef off the shore of Staten Island to reduce wave velocity of storms, has been approved by the federal government. New York State must now set a timeline for the project. [DNAinfo](#)

Plans for a new waterfront park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn were unveiled and have many resilient design features, including storm-tolerant landscaping and an elevated waterfront edge to meet FEMA regulations. [Inhabitat](#)

In Red Hook, Brooklyn, a damaged NYCHA senior center has not yet been rebuilt. [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: PortSide New York [summarizes](#) the history of Sandy's impact in Red Hook, Brooklyn and the struggle for recovery there.

The New York City Police Museum, which was completely flooded during Sandy, has moved its collection to a temporary space while it waits for repairs of its landmarked building in lower Manhattan. [The New York Times](#)

Two new books about Hurricane Sandy have been released: "Storm Surge" recounts the science and policy impacts of Sandy and "Superstorm: Nine Days Inside Sandy" chronicles the days and weeks before the storm when weather scientists were evaluating and predicting its course and potential impacts. [The Washington Post](#) and [National Geographic](#)

Housing

Mayor de Blasio [announced](#) progress of the Build it Back program and set new goals of starting construction on 1,000 storm-damaged homes and sending reimbursement checks to 1,500 homeowners by December 31. [New York Daily News](#) and [Capital New York](#)

Suffolk county homeowners who applied for property tax refunds after their homes lost value due to storm damage will receive refund checks in the next days and weeks. Refunds total about \$8 million. [CBS Local](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

All Hurricane Sandy flood proofs of loss must be filed **October 29, 2014**. [Property Insurance Law Blog](#)

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, October 25, 7:30 am: [Race2Rebuild](#) 5K run/walk/ride and volunteer opportunities with Rebuilding Together NYC to rebuild one of 10 Sandy-damaged homes.

Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 pm: [Light the City before we light the shores](#): Sandy 2 Year Anniversary. Let's unite the city in remembrance of our loss, in recognition of our ongoing struggles, and in celebration of communities dedicated to a recovered and more resilient NYC. We will carry our messages and lights back to "Light the Shore" vigils at our home boroughs on October 29, 2014. Bowling Green Park, Manhattan. #sandyanniversary #lightthecity #lighttheshore

Tuesday, October 28, 9:30 am - 11:30 am: [Envisioning Site Resilience on Campus Style Housing Sites In NYC](#). Many larger housing communities are located within the 100-year flood plain - areas with significant risk of stormwater and coastal flooding. A panel of experts will discuss best practices for site planning and stormwater management strategies to increase the resilience of campus-style housing in a storm event. Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

Wednesday, October 29, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: LES Ready: A long term recovery group from the Lower East Side presents: [Remembering Sandy - Still Standing Strong Two Years Later](#). Information: Lilah Mejia, 212-358-1231 or lesreadyinfo@gmail.com La Plaza Cultural Garden, 9th Street & Ave C. Music and Refreshments.

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.

Tuesday, October 28: 6pm-9pm: [Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk in Canarsie](#), Beraca Baptist Church 9602 Flatlands Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236.

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.

Staten Island

Friday, October 24: 3 pm-8 pm and Saturday, October 25: 10 am-4 pm: [Sandy Neighborhood Design Help Desk in Staten Island](#). Staten Island Alliance, 274 Colony Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306

Wednesday, October 29, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm: [Light the Shore: Second Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy](#). Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization. Picnic Area at Midland & Lincoln Ave,

Staten Island NY

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/nyrcr/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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