

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: September 11-18

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### Transparency Tip

[NJ Sandy Transparency](#), launched by the New Jersey State Comptroller, provides public access to state contracts for the allocation and distribution of Hurricane Sandy disaster relief funds, in accordance with Executive Order issued by Gov. Christie.

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

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### Action Item

**Sunday, September 21:** A mass mobilization to bring attention to the crisis of climate change affecting New York City communities, [People's Climate March](#)

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

Federal Transit Administration allocated \$1.9 billion as the third and final tranche of federal funds for hardening transportation infrastructure to protect against future flooding. A complete breakdown of the federal allocation is provided: [Crain's New York Business](#) and [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (both D-NY) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) that \$191 million from the third tranche of Federal Transit Administration Sandy relief funding will go to two new storm-resistant ferry boats on Staten Island along with other resiliency measures.

ALSO: U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Corey Booker (both D-NJ) [announced](#) \$1.5 billion in Federal Transit Administration grants for repairs to the state's transit system.

ALSO: As part of the FTA grants, New Jersey Transit will receive \$146 million to install flood protection barriers at the Lackawana Train terminal near Hoboken. [Hudson Reporter](#)

Connecticut will receive \$161 million through a federal competitive grant program to harden transportation infrastructure and to replace the aging and unreliable Walk Bridge in Norwalk, the oldest bridge on the Metro North-New Haven Line. [CT Post](#)

New York City will be spending \$3.7 billion on coastal protection in the rebuilding and resiliency effort post-Sandy, basing financial calculations that every dollar spent on mitigation saves four dollars in repair costs. [The Financial Times](#)

Gov. Cuomo announced that Sea Gate, Brooklyn will receive \$2.8 million to rebuild its beach bulkhead, which was damaged by Sandy, to protect both Sea Gate and Coney Island. [New York Daily News](#) and [New York Observer](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

## **Have you heard?**

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!

Developmentlaunched the National Disaster Resilience Competition funded with \$1 billion in CDBG-DR funds from the Sandy disaster relief appropriation. About \$180 million will be set aside for unmet needs in New York and New Jersey. [NJ Advance](#)

ALSO: HUD released a [fact sheet](#) on the new disaster resilience competition.

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## **Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency**

Organizers of the People's Climate March write that extreme damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and New York City's vulnerability to climate change are among many reasons to march on Sunday. [Tom's Dispatch](#)

ALSO: Citing environmental concerns, Bristol County, Mass. District Attorney dropped charges against two climate activists who were set to go on trial for blocking a shipment of 40,000 tons of coal to a 51-year old power plant, one of the largest greenhouse gas contributors in the nation. The three now plan to march together in the People's Climate March. [Democracy Now!](#)

ALSO: Gov. Christie refuses to rejoin the regional cap-and-trade program aimed at reducing New Jersey's greenhouse gas emissions, despite the legislature twice voting in favor of rejoining. [The New York Times](#)

Reinsurance company Swiss Re released a [report](#) that predicts how a historic 1821 storm that hit New York City would impact the city today. It predicts that damage would be much greater due to the large population on the waterfront and that sea level rise would cause a much higher storm surge. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: A close analysis of hurricanes along the east coast since 1964 shows a distinct increase in strong and frequent storms. [The New York Times](#)

Despite recent progress with the Build it Back program, concerns persist that the rebuilding is simply helping residents live in harm's way. [Vice](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers entered into a \$25 million contract with H&L Contracting, LLC to construct jetties at Coney Island beach to prevent further coastal erosion. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Four Sandy-damaged public schools are still without a working fire alarm system. Instead of repairing the alarm system, the city contracts with a security firm to provide "fire watchers" at the schools. [DNAinfo](#)

Residents and preservationists are concerned with the land mark status of Sandy Hook, NJ in the face of the Coast Guard's planned renovations to buildings damaged by Sandy. [NJ Advance](#)

Scientists are raising concerns about the Army Corps of Engineers' \$207 million plan to dredge the shoreline of Fire Island for beach replenishment and dune construction. [NextCity](#)

The firm that is redeveloping Pier 57 into the 'SuperPier' - a huge retail mall and events space literally on the water - has announced a joint venture with RXR Realty to bring up to 300,000 square feet of office space to the development. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: Steven Spinola, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, praises the sustainability measures taken by some of the large development projects around the city and suggests they are an example for the United Nations Climate Summit to consider. [Real Estate Weekly](#)

The R train resumed service ahead of schedule; MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast announced that new resiliency measures such as water tight doors on the control room came in \$30 million under budget. [CBS Local](#)

ALSO: The MTA will be closing the Cranberry Street A/C train tunnel, which connects Manhattan and Brooklyn, for repairs related to flooding by Sandy. The repair schedule may be weekends-only due to high ridership and limited alternate routes. [New York Daily News](#)

At a preparedness forum hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, officials from the Office of Emergency Management urged citizen participation in planning for emergencies and took questions from the public. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Scientists are studying the possible effects of solar flares on power grids; power grids in the northeastern U.S. are most at risk. [VOX.com](#)

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## Housing

Despite warnings of the risks of climate change, federal and local governments are encouraging people to live on the coasts; in the Rockaways, real estate brokers are reporting a very strong market for housing sales by the water. Many of the 'as-is' Sandy-damaged properties were bargains that sold quickly. [New York Observer](#)

Hill International is the firm contracted by New York City to manage construction services for the Build it Back housing recovery program. [CNN Money](#)

## Events

List your upcoming event here! Email [elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org](mailto: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.

**Sunday, September 21:** A mass mobilization of the scale of the People's Climate March, to take place in New York City in September, is the necessary approach to bring attention to the crisis of climate change affecting all of New York City's communities. People's Climate March: A Weekend to Bend the Course of History. Details on location to come.

**Monday, September 22, 9:00 am- 5:00 pm:** Part I: Community Resilience Strategies for Multifamily Housing Organizations: Organizing Volunteers for Emergency Response. Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

**Monday September 22 and Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm:** People's Climate Justice Summit Church Center of the United Nations, 777 1st Avenue, E 44th St, NY, NY 10017 and The New School, 72 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Free but registration is required.

**Wednesday, September 24 - Friday, September 26:** 2014 Rising Seas Summit, Developing resources to inform decision making and planning for resilience. Crowne Plaza, Times Square, New York.

**Tuesday, September 30, 9:45 am- 11:00 am:** Part II: Resident Voices from the Field: Building a Prepared Community in partnership with Resident Leadership. Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

**Friday, October 10:** Second Annual Long Island Water Quality Symposium. The symposium is open to all members of the public. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. A confirmation email must be presented at the door. To reserve a seat, please email your request to: [LIwatersymposium@rivkin.com](mailto:LIwatersymposium@rivkin.com) by no later than October 2nd. Carlyle On the Green in Bethpage State Park.

## **Bronx**

**Saturday, September 20th, 12:00 - 3:00 pm:** South Bronx Environmental Justice Waterfront Tour & Cantastoria. Hurricane Sandy hit this flood zone during low tide, causing 3.5 foot flooding in the area, with forceful waves that ripped a pier from its concrete foundation. Learn about innovative solutions, such as the Mott Haven-Port Morris Waterfront Plan, which the community has developed to counter imminent climate change effects on the neighborhood. Meet at Brook Park, E 141st St and Brook Ave, Bronx NY

## **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.

## **Manhattan**

**Monday, September 22, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** September is National Preparedness Month. Enterprise Community Partners Multifamily Resiliency Speakers series: Part I: Community Resilience Strategies for Multifamily Housing Organizations. One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Register to attend.

## **New Jersey**

**Saturday, September 20, 7:00pm - 9:00 pm:** Free screening of Shored Up, a documentary about coastal development and sea level rise. Discussion with director, scientists and coastal experts

afterwards. Childcare provided. Holy Cross School, 40 Rumson Rd, Rumson, New Jersey 07760

## Advocacy Reports

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:** 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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