

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: April 16-23

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Widespread inconsistencies in the practices of insurance adjusters, often accused of undermining homeowners' storm damage claims, make it difficult to prove wrongdoing. [WNYC](#)

New York State Senator Daniel Squadron summarizes how much money has been secured for recovery and resiliency projects in his district, including \$335 million for the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (formerly known as the Big U), along with redevelopment plans for Pier 42. [The Villager](#)

The New York City Council passed a bill that would cap the assessed value of properties that have been redeveloped and upgraded as a result of repairs from Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

U.S. Senators Menendez and Booker (both D-NJ) announced nearly \$8 million in grants will be used to purchase flood-prone homes in Manville and Woodbridge counties. [My Central Jersey](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Mayor de Blasio [released](#) his administration's update of the city's sustainability plan, rebranded as OneNYC, which includes a vision for climate resiliency. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: This Daily News [editorial](#) is critical of the plan for its lack of performance benchmarks and funding commitments.

NYCHA tenants are filing another lawsuit against the housing authority, claiming it is not in compliance with mandatory time limits for responding to mold complaints, as required by an earlier court settlement. [Capital New York](#)

NYCHA is set to begin work on "primary projects" at Sandy-damaged facilities, which will be funded with \$3 billion from FEMA. Primary projects include elevating electrical systems, installing new boilers, replacing roofs, and adding generators. A published schedule for repairs is provided in this article in [City & State](#)

A Staten Island woman who has been suffering from a variety of diseases that she traces back to toxic mold exposure from Sandy, believes government agencies did not do enough to warn

residents about the potential danger of mold in or near their homes. [pix11](#)

ALSO: Uncommonly high blood lead levels are being reported in Sandy-impacted neighborhoods; many believe the problem was caused by lead becoming airborne during demolition of older Sandy-damaged homes. [NJ TV News](#)

New York City officials praise the recent rehabilitation of a pumping station in Brooklyn for the impact it will have in strengthening resiliency in Sandy-impacted communities. [New York Real Estate Law Blog](#)

Not all of New Jersey's beach replenishment projects include funding for adding protective sand dunes. Congress only agreed to fund beach repair to pre-Sandy designs, but the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is requesting that the Army Corps of Engineers incorporate stronger protections. [Associated Press](#)

ALSO: Some critics of New Jersey's coastal repair projects are concerned that the sand being used to widen beaches is sourced from a fishing area two miles offshore and that the dredging could threaten fish and wildlife habitats. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Despite damages once estimated at over \$9 billion, Gov. Christie offered to settle with Exxon Mobil for \$250 million to clean up pollution and restore wetlands that have been degraded by years of oil leaks. The settlement cost does not factor in the true value of coastal protection offered by healthy marshes and wetlands. [Salon](#)

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

Action Item

Thursday, April 30, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: As a first step in the process of preparing an environmental impact statement for the Rebuild by Design Living Breakwaters and Tottenville Dune Projects, the New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery will hold a public scoping session on the [Draft Scope document \[pdf\]](#), [CYO-MIV Community Center, 6541 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10309](#). *(A hard-copy of the draft scope is available for viewing at 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004 from the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.)*

Deadline extended: Wednesday, May 6 is the new deadline for public comments on the draft guidelines for implementing the [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\)](#). The standard builds on work done by the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, which announced in April 2013 that all Sandy-related rebuilding projects funded by the Disaster Relief Act must meet a consistent flood risk reduction standard. FEMA is seeking input from all stakeholders regarding implementation of the standard.

Events

Regional Events

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

April 28, 7:00 pm: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction awards Hoboken, NJ "[Model City](#)" for resilience. Pier A, Hoboken, NJ, East end of 1st street.

Friday, May 1, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: [Pratt Institute Symposium Series](#), Pratt Manhattan 144 W 14th St, Room 213, New York ,

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.

Advocacy Reports

Fair Share Housing: [The State of Recovery - Two and a Half Years later, over 15,000 families still waiting to rebuild. Second Annual report](#)

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.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW: [One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#)

[National Flood Insurance Program and Mitigation Resource List](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller: [Audit Report on the Administration of the New York City Build It Back Single Family Program By the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General audit: [Superstorm Sandy National Emergency Grants: ETA Awarded Funds Promptly, But Could Improve Grant Modification and Eligibility Verification Processes](#)

[Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency: New York City Panel on Climate Change 2015 Report](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers: [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study Report and Related Documents](#)

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: [New York Rising 2012-2014](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Primary Protection: Enhancing Health care](#)

Resilience for a Changing Climate

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.

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

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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