

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 9-16

Scroll down for:

[Regional Events](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

FEMA's settlement talks with Sandy victims reportedly stalled when the General Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security overruled a FEMA offer of additional funds to cover the legal fees of plaintiffs. [New York Daily News](#)

The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed a bill that would bar FEMA from recapturing overpayments to disaster victims after three years. FEMA has demanded repayment of \$8 million from over 1,000 New Jersey residents. [NJ Advance](#)

ALSO: This commentary decries a FEMA insurance premium surcharge which assumes all properties are secondary homes and adds a higher (\$250) surcharge. The surcharge for primary residences is \$25, but homeowners must contact FEMA if they qualify for that rate. [Staten Island Advance](#)

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announced \$202 million will go for dune restoration, levees, flood walls, tide gates and other resiliency measures, and wetland restoration for Union Beach, NJ. [Atlantic Highlands Herald](#) and [CBS Local NY](#)

U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [announced](#) \$2.5 million in FEMA funding will be used to repair buildings of the Bayshore Regional Sewage Authority, which has received a total of \$20 million in FEMA funds for Sandy damage at its facilities.

U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) [announced](#) \$1.3 million in FEMA funds will be used to reimburse the Battery Park City Authority for repairs to the community center that was damaged by Sandy.

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) [announced](#) \$1 million in FEMA funds will help restore the walkway in Crescent Beach.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

In anticipation of the release of the PlaNYC progress report on April 22, this in-depth article examines the progress and funding of the City's infrastructure resiliency plans that were laid out in the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency report of 2013. [Gotham Gazette](#)

Despite several large scale resiliency projects being planned for Staten Island, many residents and officials are eager to see progress and are calling for a more aggressive "acquisition for

redevelopment" program for Staten Island waterfront neighborhoods. [Gotham Gazette](#)

ALSO: The Staten Island boardwalk will be demolished and rebuilt as part of a \$500 million Army Corps of Engineers plan for installing a rock and sand seawall. [New York Post](#)

With Gov. Cuomo's announcement in March of the opening of a research lab for smart grid technology and a \$160 million investment in alternative energy, some experts are looking to New York State to become a national leader in microgrid technology and innovation. [Climate Central](#)

The New York Federal Reserve is adding staff to its Chicago branch in anticipation of future flooding of its lower Manhattan location. [New York Daily News](#)

Skanska [announced](#) it has won a contract with New York City Economic Development Corporation to rebuild the Rockaway Boardwalk for \$57 million.

[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](#).

Friday, April 17, 9:30 - 11:30 am - Preparing for the Future: Multifamily Resilience Manual. [Register](#)

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

[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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