

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 23-30

*Starting in May, the Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up will be sent bi-weekly. GJNY will continue to follow news related to Hurricane Sandy rebuilding and monitor how federal disaster relief is being spent in the recovery. Watch for our newsletter every other week. And of course, we always love to hear how this resource is beneficial to you, and how we can make it better.*

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### This Week's News

#### **Disaster Relief**

NYCEDC announced the winners of the Rise:NYC small businesses recovery awards. Eleven winners will receive a combined \$30 million to implement technologies to help support resiliency of small businesses in New York City. [AM New York](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved New Jersey's amended action plan for spending \$500 million in Sandy recovery funds. The approved plan includes an additional \$226 million for the housing reconstruction and elevation program, and \$240 million for multi-family housing programs. [NJ Advance](#)

A Congressional task force, which includes all four Senators from New York and New Jersey and senior officials from FEMA, will oversee FEMA's review of disputed insurance payments and aims to expedite the process of getting relief funds to homeowners. [CBS Local](#) and [NJTV online](#)

ALSO: At a Congressional task force meeting, FEMA head Craig Fugate pledged that the National Flood Insurance Program would be revamped to ensure that the full amount of legitimate claims is paid. [Associated Press via MyFoxNY](#) and [NJ Advance](#)

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) continues to build support for his plan to prevent FEMA from recapturing overpayments mistakenly distributed to storm victims. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Mayor de Blasio [announced](#) his signing of a new law that will effectively cap the assessed value of properties damaged by Sandy and subsequently rehabilitated through 2020.

ALSO: The tax relief will be effective once Gov. Cuomo signs similar state legislation, already passed by the State Senate and Assembly. [The Real Deal](#)

## Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The chief of engineers for the Army Corps of Engineers testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee, saying that the agency's Sandy operations are more than 70 percent completed. [U.S. Army website](#)

ILC Dover, developer and manufacturer of NASA spacesuits, was awarded a contract to produce deployable flood barriers in New York City subways in preparation for future flooding events. [PR Log](#)

Responding to the confusion that occurred in South Queens and the Rockaways about evacuation routes during Hurricane Sandy, New York City Emergency Management and the Department of Transportation have installed new signs. [Queens Courier](#)

Pratt Institute students and faculty launched a project that maps New York's sewer system, to help identify the city's worst sewage overflow areas. [Inhabitat](#)

## Housing

Thousands of residents displaced by Sandy are still waiting to move back to their homes; only 10 percent of homeowners who are enrolled in New Jersey's Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation program have completed work on their homes. Due to the slow pace of the recovery, many damaged homes are falling into a state of deep disrepair due to neglect. [NJ Spotlight](#) and [WNYC](#)

ALSO: Two and a half years after Sandy, approximately 1,200 New Jersey storm victims are still awaiting approval of their applications for aid to rebuild. [Philly.com](#)

Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization was featured on [The Daily Show with Jon Stewart](#) in a segment showing how many Staten Island residents are still waiting for government aid to rebuild.

**[Subscribe](#) to the new Build it Back newsletter for regular updates of the city's progress with housing recovery efforts.**

## Action Item

**TONIGHT: 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, May 1, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM:** [Pratt Institute Symposium Series](#) reflecting on lessons learned in designing for just, equitable, and sustainable places. Pratt Manhattan, 144 W 14th St, Room 213.

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

[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.

### **Contact us**

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