

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 Recovery Money Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: August 20 - September 3

The Hurricane Sandy News Round-up is a bi-weekly publication.

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Disaster Relief

September 15 is the deadline for homeowners to request a review of their Sandy-related claims filed through the National Flood Insurance Program. [FEMA](#)

Under current federal regulations for disaster relief, up to 3,000 city homeowners who have requested that FEMA reopen their insurance claims may be required to repay funds received for rebuilding through the city's Build it Back program. Mayor de Blasio has requested a review of the federal rule. [New York Daily News](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)

According to an [audit](#) released by the Inspector General's office for the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA officials were careless in spending over \$3 million for establishing a disaster response field office in New Jersey. [NJ.com](#)

ALSO: The Sandy Recovery Office at FEMA released an updated [Hurricane Sandy: By the Numbers tally](#).

Gov. Cuomo's Office of Storm Recovery [announced](#) that it will partner with the non-profit Center for New York City Neighborhoods to create a \$7.5 million Residential Technical Assistance Pilot Program to fund resiliency audits, offer advice on retrofitting and provide financial counseling.

Empire State Development approved a \$300,000 grant for the City of Long Beach, Long Island to launch a marketing campaign to attract tourists year-round. [Newsday](#)

New York City Council member Mark Treyger has been heavily influenced by the effects of Sandy in his tenure as a city lawmaker and discusses the ongoing impacts of the storm on his constituents. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Mayor de Blasio [announced](#) \$100 million in city capital funds will help pay for a flood protection system for lower Manhattan. The investment is in addition to over \$15 million previously announced for the project and could improve the city's chances of qualifying for \$500 million in federal HUD funds for storm resiliency. [DNAinfo](#)

U.S. Senator Schumer (D-NY) is urging Congress to repurpose \$550 million in Sandy relief funds to repair the aging Hudson River Amtrak tunnels. [The Hill](#)

New Jersey Transit will receive over \$71 million in Sandy relief aid through the Federal Transit Administration to be used for recovery and resiliency projects, including elevating substations and electrical upgrades. [Transportation Infrastructure New Daily](#)

Gov. Christie signed legislation making nearly \$2 billion in financing available to 280 projects that will protect local drinking and wastewater infrastructure that was compromised after Sandy. [American City and County](#)

Environmental group NY/NJ Baykeepers is growing oysters at the Naval Weapons Station in Middletown Township, NJ, through a special permit to support research on the resiliency benefits of oyster beds. [NJ.com](#)

The city of Long Beach, LI will receive an additional \$9 million in FEMA funds to repair its boardwalk which was destroyed by Sandy. The \$9 million was allocated in response to an appeal by the city and Gov. Cuomo for FEMA to cover the full cost of repairs. In 2013 FEMA had paid for \$40 million in initial repairs, but did not cover resiliency enhancements included in the project. [Newsday](#)

Housing

In comparing the recovery processes after Katrina and Sandy, some Katrina survivors recognize similar patterns in Sandy rebuilding including the gradual transition of impacted neighborhoods from recovery to gentrification. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: In an interview, Deborah Gans, architect and planner, discusses the recovery efforts after Katrina and how those experiences shaped the Sandy recovery. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: PBS Newshour interviews University of Delaware professor Rick Sylves who tracks FEMA to discuss how the agency has evolved since Hurricane Katrina. [PBS](#)

The non-profit group, Friends of the Rockaways, has fully rebuilt 102 homes in Queens and has provided direct assistance to 150 properties. [WABC](#)

Some New Jersey renters who were displaced by Sandy are moving into homes built by O.C.E.A.N., Inc., a local anti-poverty agency. [Asbury Park Press](#)

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

Events

Regional Events

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

Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:00 am - 7:00 PM: [Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush presents a mortgage help open house](#). HUD-certified counselors will be available to discuss options in eliminating mortgage delinquency. Canarsie Office, 9715 Avenue L, Brooklyn, NY 11236
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

NYU College of Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Social Work and Institute for Families, Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness, and Colorado State University's Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis:

[The Hurricane Sandy PLACE Report](#): Evacuation Decisions, Housing Issues, and Sense of Community

[The Hurricane Sandy PERSON Report](#): Exposure, Health, Economic Burden, and Social Well-Being

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: Office of the Inspector General Department of Homeland Security: [FEMA's Process for Selecting Joint Field Offices Needs Improvement](#)

U.S. Government Accountability Office: [An Investment Strategy Could Help the Federal Government](#)

[Enhance National Resilience for Future Disasters](#)

[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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