

From: Good Jobs New York <elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org>

Subject: Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up: Funds for regional transit projects awarded

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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: February 5 - 12

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

The New York City Council Committee on Recovery and Resiliency is going to create a task force to study the feasibility of reimbursing religious organizations that provided emergency social services in the aftermath of Sandy. Many of these organizations cannot be reimbursed by FEMA due to restrictions on extending government aid to religious organizations. [New York Observer](#)

U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (both D-NY) [announced](#) \$787 million in Federal Transit Administration grants for recovery and resilience projects at the MTA, including \$100 million for Metro-North. [WNPR](#)

ALSO: Schumer and Gillibrand also [announced](#) over \$1 million in Hazard Mitigation Grants for Staten Island University Hospital to help pay for elevating mechanical electrical and plumbing systems; the complete project will cost over \$23 million.

The town of Long Beach, Long Island received \$2.7 million in Federal Transit Administration funds to pay for replacing eight buses that were destroyed during Sandy. [Long Island Herald](#)

NJ Transit will receive \$850,000 from the Federal Transit Administration to improve its forecasting of flood events. [Mass Transit Mag](#)

FEMA approved \$480 million to rebuild the boardwalk in the Rockaways. Questions remain about why the project's costs have increased so dramatically from the original estimate of about \$270

million. [New York Daily News](#), [Capital New York](#) and [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: The School Construction Authority will receive \$16 million in FEMA funding for repairs and upgrades to a Coney Island school badly damaged during Sandy. Additionally, \$1.6 million in FEMA Funds will go to the Port Authority for repairs to the Red Hook Container Terminal in Brooklyn. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

The [Start Up New York Coalition](#) is a resource for small businesses impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Gary Bell, founder of U.S. Forensic, who was named in at least four lawsuits by Sandy victims claiming his firm had deliberately supplied faulty engineering reports to insurance companies, had faced nearly identical allegations after Hurricane Katrina. Cases brought against him in Mississippi were dropped. [Newsday](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed legislation this week that would require Amtrak to direct more of its profits to the Northeastern corridor lines, in part to help finance repairs of Hudson River tunnels damaged by Sandy. [NJ Advance](#)

Despite plans for massive development along the North Shore of Staten Island, city transportation officials said at a council hearing that the area, located in a flood zone, was not suitable for a planned bus rapid transit system. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Staten Island residents were puzzled that the Mayor proposed a fast ferry service for the North Shore, effectively duplicating the route made by the Staten Island ferry to lower Manhattan. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Demolition crews dismantled an apartment complex in Sea Bright, New Jersey, the fifth building in the township to be sold to the state and the land returned to open space. [NJ Advance](#)

Scientists have determined that Sandy transplanted a colony of Antarctic microbes to areas that were inundated by floodwater, in particular the South Ferry subway station, which remains closed. [Quartz](#) and [Scientific American](#)

Housing

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito proposed increasing access to civil lawyers for homelessness prevention, pointing out how the Legal Aid Society was instrumental in helping Sandy victims extend stays in temporary shelter while seeking permanent housing. [New York Observer](#)

Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island will receive \$600,000 in state funds for affordable housing units for Sandy victims and to rehabilitate homes destroyed by Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

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

Events

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Regional Events

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

Upcoming free webinars on Disaster Preparedness and Economic recovery through [RestoreYourEconomy.org](#):

Friday, February 20, 9:30 - 11:30 am: Ready to Respond: A Disaster Staffing Toolkit. [Register](#)

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.

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.

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: 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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