

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: January 1-8

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Action Items

New York City, New York State, and New Jersey have released proposed amendments to Action Plans for the use of CDBG-DR funds. GJNY has an archive of [information on previous amendments](#) on our website.

New York City

Monday, January 19: Deadline to submit comments on New York City's proposed Action Plan amendment for the use of approximately \$994 million in Sandy-related CDBG-DR funds. A summary of what is included in the amendment, links to the complete action plan and information on submitting comments are available on the [NYC Recovery webpage](#)

Upcoming public hearings in New York City include:

TONIGHT: January 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Coney Island Hospital Auditorium
2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Hunts Points Recreation Center Gymnasium
765 Manida Street, Bronx

Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Educational Alliance, Manny Cantor Center 6th Floor
197 East Broadway, Manhattan

New York State

Thursday, February 5: Deadline to submit comments on New York State's proposed Action Plan amendment. A complete list of public hearings, and links to the proposed amendment can be found on the [New York Rising website](#).

New Jersey

Thursday, January 15: Deadline to submit comments on New Jersey's proposed Action Plan amendment. A complete list of public hearings, and links to the proposed amendment can be found on the [reNew Jersey Stronger website](#).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Monday, February 9: Deadline to submit comments for the public comment period on New York City Economic Development Corporation's request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discharge fill into a wetland to facilitate a mitigation bank within the Sandy Hook-Staten Island watershed. The public notice, supporting documents and instructions for filing public comments are on the [website](#) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

At Tuesday's public hearing in Staten Island on the City's amended Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds Amy Peterson of the Mayor's Housing Recovery Office announced that the city has exceeded its rebuilding goals. Some residents praised officials for the efforts of Ms. Peterson's team. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Information on proposed changes to the city's Action Plan. [DNAinfo](#)

Despite recent tensions, Mayor de Blasio accomplished significant progress in Hurricane Sandy rebuilding that will benefit Staten Islanders. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: The Steven Siller Foundation, in the news recently for its offer to pay off the mortgages of the two slain New York City police officers, also rebuilt 150 homes damaged by Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

In New Jersey, the number of families classified as Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed - ALICE - has increased by 24% since 2007, with many of the working poor hit hardest by Sandy, stagnant wages, and the decline of the casino industry in the state. [NJ Advance](#)

Self-proclaimed philanthropist Bill Loiry was ordered by the New Jersey State Attorney General's office to pay over \$46,000 as restitution for an allegedly phony "Superstorm Sandy Reconstruction Summit," which prosecutors claim was a false and fraudulent scheme intended to take advantage of Sandy victims. [NJ.com](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Despite vetoing a proposal four years ago to increase commuter capacity between New Jersey and New York City, Gov Christie endorsed a panel's new proposal to deal with the issues. [Bloomberg](#)

ALSO: The report also offered several proposals to conserve finances at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, including suspending PATH service between 1-5 am to allow maintenance on Sandy-damaged parts of the line. [Bloomberg](#)

ALSO: Individuals weigh in on the proposal to suspend overnight PATH service for Sandy repairs. [Muckrack](#)

Nine developments expected to come to fruition in 2015 include the start of construction on the "Big U," a berm surrounding lower Manhattan. [Curbed](#)

A team of architects and climate scientists is seeking new ways to envision flood zone planning along the East Coast, including the development of "amphibious suburbs" tolerant of periodic flooding. The team's design will guide a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers examining flood risk to coastal communities along the North Atlantic coast. [Princeton News](#)

A roundup of the top 10 international climate events scheduled for 2015. [Huffington Post](#)

Revised guidelines for the Retail Fuel Station program of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, will expand eligibility to gas stations throughout the state. The program is funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. [CSPnet](#)

During repairs to tunnels for the L train that flooded during Sandy, the MTA plans to also build a station entrance at Avenue A that will be ADA compliant. The L will close on weekends for repairs. The contract is expected to extend for 40 months. [Second Avenue Sagas](#)

Housing

Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity was granted additional funding through the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund for rebuilding 12 additional homes damaged by the storm. [Newsworks](#)

A Long Island man addresses many community questions about New York Rising, including confusion over recently changed design requirements for Sandy-damaged homes, which may require individuals in the midst of rebuilding to restart. [Long Island Herald](#)

Jobs

In New Jersey employment law in 2014, Gov Christie signed the "Sandy Law" which expands eligibility for leave under the state's family leave act to include employees who were laid off as a result of a state of emergency. [Mondaq](#)

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](#):

January 23, 2015: Lights Out: Measuring the Impact of Power Outages on Multifamily Buildings [.Register](#)

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

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.

NYU Furman Center: [The Price of Resilience: Can Multifamily Housing Afford to Adapt?](#)

[Stakeholder Engagement Report: Environmental Justice Climate Change Preparedness in New Jersey](#) [to view the report, follow the link and click on 'Environmental Justice']

The New York League of Conservation Voters: [Taking Stock: Sustainability and Resiliency Progress during Mayor de Blasio's First Six Months](#)

The International Economic Development Council released a guide to help local economies recovering from a disaster: [Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

New York Communities for Change: [Thousands of Homeowners Still Drowning in Underwater Mortgages: How Toxic Loans Keep Fueling Foreclosures and the Need for Eminent Domain](#)

Risky Business Project: [American Climate Prospectus: Economic Risks in the United States](#)

Report from the ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank - [Climate-Smart Development: Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change](#).

Fifth Avenue Committee, [Guidelines to Building Resiliency](#)

North Star Fund, [From The Edge Of Disaster: How Activists and Insiders Can Use the Lessons of Hurricane Sandy to Make the City Safer](#)

New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

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

Federal, State & Local Resources

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](#)

New York City Department of Environmental Protection, [Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan\[update\]](#)

New York City Department of City Planning: [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#)

Urban Justice Center's [Mental Health Project](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [A Green Bond Program for New York City](#)

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General: [Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response During Superstorm Sandy](#)

Swiss Re report: ["The Big One: The East Coast's USD 100 billion hurricane event"](#)

[Government Accountability Office audit](#) outlining opportunities to enhance FEMA efficiency in operations.

The [New York Recovery Network](#) provides links to disaster relief funding programs, regional trainings and events, and other news and related information on statewide Sandy recovery. Website registration is required.

[New York City's Quarterly Performance Report to HUD](#), April-June 2014.

U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Flood Vulnerability Assessment Map](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: [Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes around the United States](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report on the New York City Housing Authority's Section 3 and Resident Employment Programs](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office released the annual [ClaimStat report](#) along with interactive maps which reveal claims against the city as reported to five city agencies, including sewer overflow claims from 2012-13 reported to the New York City Department of Environmental

Protection.

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report](#) on the Department of Homeless Services' Oversight of Contractors Hired to Assist Individuals and Families Displaced by Hurricane Sandy

RISE:NYC, a competition to innovate technologies that will help prepare small businesses for climate change, announced 37 finalists. To read more about the finalists and links to competition updates see the [NYCEDC blog](#)

The Canarsie Coalition prepared a [resource guide](#) including contact information for organizations and individuals involved in addressing unmet needs in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

[LawHelpNY.org](#) launched a mobile site to provide mobile access to information and referrals for low-income New Yorkers seeking help with problems in areas such as housing, family law, consumer debt and immigration.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods in partnership with the New York State Attorney General, hosts a [Homeowner Hotline](#), a confidential service available to answer housing counseling or legal questions. 311 in New York City, or 855-HOME-456.

New York City Office of Emergency Management [Know Your Zone Hurricane Preparedness website](#).

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Final Plans are now available: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/hyrcr/final-plans>

[One City, Rebuilding Together](#): A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

The [Program Management Office](#) of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its [monthly report](#) [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A helpful [visual guide](#) to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released [an update](#) of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid have been allocated.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

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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