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Subject: Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up: FEMA recaptures funds from Sandy victims

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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: January 15-22

Scroll down for:

[Action Items](#)

[This week's news](#)

[Regional Events](#)

[Advocacy Reports](#)

[Federal, State & Local Resources](#)

Action Items

New York State is accepting comments on its proposed amendment to the Action Plan for the use of CDBG-DR funds (see below). For more information on the proposed use of federal funds, see our website, [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

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](#).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Monday, February 9: Deadline to submit comments on the 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

FEMA is reclaiming aid given to some homeowners, even if funds were given due to the agency's

error. New Jersey lawmakers are seeking legislation that would protect Sandy victims from retroactive clawbacks if they received a FEMA payment due to a government mistake. [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [NJ Advance](#)

Skanska has won the \$70 million contract to perform restoration and upgrades on 12 bridges that were damaged during Sandy. [AZObuild](#)

FEMA will reimburse the MTA for \$3.8 million in repairs made to bridges and tunnels damaged by Sandy. [TWCnews](#)

U.S. Senator Schumer (D-NY) is [urging](#) FEMA to fully fund repairs, expected to have increased from \$2 million to about \$6 million, for the City of Kingston's sewage treatment plant, which was damaged by Sandy.

Over 6,000 National Flood Insurance claims were rejected, though the reasons for denial were not always clear. [NJ Spotlight](#)

New Jersey Future's comments on New Jersey's proposed Action Plan amendment 12 call for greater opportunity for community involvement, increased focus on vulnerable populations, and use of a flood elevation standard that will be protective through 2100, given sea level rise. [New Jersey Future](#)

ALSO: For selected comments on New York City's proposed Action Plan amendment 8, see GJNY's [website](#). The comment period in New York City is now closed.

After a two year delay, the Hoboken Housing Authority has approved spending \$400,000 to install already-purchased back-up generators for its low-lying public housing buildings. [Hudson Reporter](#)

U.S. Representative Tom MacArthur (R-NJ, 3rd Dist.) was named to sit on the House Resources subcommittee which handles Hurricane Sandy legislation. [NJ Advance](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Two prominent climate scientists agree that the Rebuild by Design process was a successful departure from traditional disaster rebuilding; however, Klaus Jacob and Cynthia Rosenzweig say that a bolder approach to flexible, regional climate adaptation is needed. [Earth Institute](#)

A new study by the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Coastal Research Center found that areas with wider beaches and higher dunes fared significantly better during Sandy than areas with minimal coastal protections. [NJ Advance](#)

A dozen companies working on Sandy rebuilding projects in New Jersey have been found by an independent monitor to have been involved in unresolved allegations of negligence or fraud in other states. [NJ Advance](#)

Representatives from the MTA presented plans at a recent meeting of Queens Community Board 2 to upgrade two Western Queens fan plant facilities, which were inundated during Sandy, to make them more weather-resistant. [Queens Chronicle](#)

Elected officials representing Long Island held a press conference opposing a proposal to build a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in the Atlantic Ocean, which many believe will be a threat to progress made on Sandy rebuilding projects. [Baldwin Herald](#)

ALSO: Anti-fracking activists are joining the fight against a LNG offshore terminal, pointing out that an accident at the proposed site would have the greatest effect on those hit hardest by Sandy: Long Beach in Long Island and the Rockaways in Queens. [Grist](#)

Three Sandy-damaged buildings will be demolished at the now closed Long Beach Medical Center. [Newsday](#)

Jobs

The Build It Back housing recovery program is issuing a new procurement for design and construction firms that will expand local hiring through construction apprenticeship programs. All construction-related recovery job opportunities will be posted at Sandy Recovery Workforce 1 centers. [TimesLedger](#)

[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](#):

TONIGHT, Thursday January 22, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm: National Park Service is holding an [open house](#) to provide a status update on the Jamaica Bay West Pond environmental assessment, as part of its planning to address storm damage at the Gateway National Recreation Area.

Friday, January 23 9:30-11:00 am: Enterprise Community Partners presents "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

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: [New York Rising 2012-2014](#)

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

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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