

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

Subject: Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up: Army Corps study is dismissive of large-scale barrier to protect NYC from flooding

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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.

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Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: January 22 - 29

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has opened an investigation into allegations brought by Sandy victims that insurance companies used false engineering reports as a basis for rejecting flood damage claims. [Insurance Journal](#) and [Property Casualty 360](#)

Madelaine Chocolates will receive \$13.2 million in Hurricane Sandy Business Loan and Grant program benefits through the [New York City Industrial Development Agency](#). The company employs about 400 people and its manufacturing facility, located in the Rockaways, Queens, was flooded during Sandy. [New York Daily News](#) and [NY1](#)

Of the \$4 million renter and homeowner relief funds it was allocated, Hudson County, NJ relinquished over \$2 million because county agencies did not effectively conduct outreach to impacted, high-need communities. [Hudson Reporter](#)

After a recent blizzard had much less impact than was predicted for New York City, Gov. Andrew Cuomo took the opportunity to explain his plans to use \$24 million in federal Sandy funds to implement a high-tech, real-time weather detection station around the state. The system would help officials make critical decisions in emergency preparation. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Citing Hurricane Sandy and an increase in violent storms, MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast defended shutting down the subway during the recent blizzard in New York City. [New York Daily News](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a long-awaited study of the flood vulnerability of the East Coast, which concluded that a large sea wall across New York harbor would not be an effective way to protect New York City. The report points to oyster beds and wetland restoration as having more benefits. [WNYC](#)

City officials announced new design proposals for a flood protection system for Red Hook, Brooklyn, paid for with city and state funds. The design includes flood walls, raised streets, and pump improvements. [The New York Times](#)

In the fall, Amtrak will begin an environmental review of a project to dig two new train tunnels under the Hudson River, a first step towards being able to conduct thorough repairs on the existing tunnels, which were damaged by Sandy. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Though funding for implementing the first phase of the Big U project to construct a 10-mile berm around lower Manhattan was included in the most recent Action Plan amendment, site surveying, permit acquisition and environmental review will take several years. City officials estimate phase one will be complete in 2019. [Inhabitat](#)

New York City has released plans to overhaul several public library branches to include some affordable housing. Almost 150 branches are located in or near a flood zone and served as community centers during Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

A call for better planning to account for climate-induced migration, particularly in flood-prone areas. [Huffington Post](#)

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

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.

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

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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