

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

Subject: Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up: Submit comments on City's Action Plan amendment by Monday, January 19

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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 8-15

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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

TONIGHT: Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm: Public hearing for proposed Amendment 8 of New York City's Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds. Educational Alliance, Manny Cantor Center 6th Floor, 197 East Broadway, Manhattan

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](#)

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

New Jersey's Democratic legislators called on Gov. Christie to increase transparency of Hurricane Sandy rebuilding oversight reports and to address needs of homeowners seeking rebuilding aid. [NJ Advance](#)

ALSO: Gov. Christie made no mention of Hurricane Sandy rebuilding progress or needs in his State of the State address, despite persistent problems with the State's recovery. [NJ Advance](#)

The New York City Office of Management and Budget is planning new measures to increase its monitoring of CDBG-DR funding, in response to issues raised by the HUD Office of the Inspector General audit. [Funding Attractions](#)

A report reviewing the state of emergency response in Long Beach following the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy concludes that the closure of the Long Beach Medical Facility, the only hospital serving the barrier island, is having the largest effect on the fire department. The report offered various recommendations for streamlining and increasing communications capacity. [Long Island Herald](#)

A New York City Park's Department administrator who was instrumental in the debris-removal and clean-up effort of Rockaway parks and beaches, is leaving to become parks commissioner in North Hempstead. [New York Daily News](#)

An Oklahoma contractor admitted to stealing more than \$38,000 from Sandy victims by entering into a rebuilding contract though he was unauthorized to work in that capacity in New Jersey. [NJ Advance](#)

Drew Brees, quarterback of the New Orleans Saints, provided \$200,000 to repair a home in Long Beach, Long Island, through the Brees Dream foundation. [Long Beach Patch](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Despite warnings from coastal and climate experts, rebuilding on vulnerable barrier islands has actually increased following devastation by major storms and hurricanes. Often coastal development includes the construction of barrier protection systems that are harmful to coastal ecosystems. [Yale Environment 360](#)

Former heads of the MTA were joined by a coalition of transit advocates in calling on Gov. Cuomo to fully fund the MTA's capital plan, invoking the need to repair Sandy damage and increase the resiliency of the subway system. [Mass Transit Mag](#)

ALSO: Since the closure and reopening of the Montague tunnel of the R train due to Sandy repairs, many have complained that delays have gotten worse. [The Brooklyn Paper](#)

The Times-Union editorial board writes that projections of a spending decline at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are particularly worrisome as greater enforcement is needed with climate-related events and air and water quality concerns on the rise. [The Times-Union](#)

Over 500 people turned out to a U.S. Coast Guard public hearing on a proposed floating liquid natural gas plant 30 miles off the coast of New York Harbor. Many opponents of the plan, including New York City Councilman Donovan Richards, raised the concerns over safety in the event of a hurricane. [Capital New York](#)

New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver denied community requests to reconsider a plan to replace parts of the Coney Island boardwalk with a mix of concrete and recycled plastic. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Coney Island residents are protesting the city's plan to dismantle the board walk - which survived Sandy - and preemptively replace the wooden planks with concrete and plastic. A rally is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. [CBS New York](#)

A new report published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases found that during Hurricane Sandy there was an increase in the number of deaths of kidney patients in New York and New Jersey, suggesting that hospitals' emergency plans were not responsive enough to the needs of patients in need of daily dialysis treatment. [Medical News Today](#)

In New Jersey, the state legislature has reviewed or passed more than ten significant laws as a direct result of Hurricane Sandy. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Judith Rodin of the Rockefeller Foundation writes about the progress of the National Disaster Resilience Competition in supporting disaster mitigation projects nationwide. [Kansas City Star](#)

Steven Spinola, outgoing president of REBNY, the Real Estate Board of New York, discusses how REBNY members influenced public committees in rebuilding from Hurricane Sandy. [GlobeSt.com](#)

Housing

New Jersey's Affordable Housing Alliance, a nonprofit that helps residents through the Sandy rebuilding process, received a \$200,000 grant through Bank of America's Neighborhood Builder's program, and \$125,000 from the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Members of Manhattan Community Board 1 in lower Manhattan are questioning why their hard-hit district has received a disproportionately lower share of the recovery funds. Most of the city's CDBG-DR allocation is being directed to housing. [Downtown Express](#)

Councilmember Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island, Bensonhurst) seeks to create a special task force to evaluate the damage to houses of worship during Sandy, and to research available aid to help those institutions. The task force would also issue a report on how to better incorporate houses of worship in future disaster planning. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

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 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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