

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 Recovery Money Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: July 23-August 20

The Hurricane Sandy News Round-up is a bi-weekly publication.

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Disaster Relief

September 15 is the deadline for homeowners to request a review of their Sandy-related claims filed through the National Flood Insurance Program. [FEMA](#)

ALSO: Hurricane Sandy victims are conflicted over whether to move on with their lives or return to the long, bureaucratic process of re-filing a claim with FEMA. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: FEMA has begun issuing new payments to Sandy victims after reviewing claims that were initially underpaid by the National Flood Insurance Program. [NorthJersey.com](#)

FEMA is extending the deadline for New Jersey homeowners to use the Increased Cost of Compliance coverage benefit, a flood-insurance policy that provides up to \$30,000 for construction costs of home elevations or other requirements for homes in a flood zone. [Asbury Park Press](#)

U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (D-NY) [announced](#) \$20 million in Department of Transportation funding for resiliency upgrades along the Hudson River line of Metro-North. The MTA will provide about \$7 million to the project through its Capital Plan.

Gov. Cuomo announced that \$6.2 million in federal grants will go to repair 16 historical sites in Brooklyn. [The New York Times](#)

In conjunction with New York City and State, FEMA [announced](#) it has reached an agreement for 78 public assistance projects totaling nearly \$10 billion. The projects will be funded through FEMA's Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for Permanent Work.

FEMA's Public Assistance Program requires that communities replace damaged infrastructure with

similar structures and does not account for predicted changes due to climate change. An investigation found that millions of federal dollars were unused on the Louisiana coast after Katrina due to conflicting policies on climate mitigation. [New England Center for Investigative Reporting](#)

ALSO: Federal funds through the Hazard Mitigation Program pays for construction work to elevate houses that have suffered repeated losses, but critics say the program needs to be cut in order to fund more sustainable management of coastal areas. [Patriot Ledger](#)

New York University's College of Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Social Work and Institute for Families, Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness, and Colorado State University's Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis [released](#) two initial briefings from a million-resident Sandy Child and Family Health Study. Subsequent reports in the study will focus on unmet needs of New Jersey residents.

The South Street Seaport Museum, which has been struggling to rebuild since Sandy, will receive \$10.4 million through the FEMA Public Assistance Program. [The New York Times](#)

Congressman Jerold Nadler (D-NY) [announced](#) that \$10.3 million in FEMA funding will be used for hurricane-related repairs at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space museum. The museum complex has received a total of \$14 million in FEMA grants for Sandy-related repairs.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The Army Corps of Engineers unveiled plans for a levee to protect the southeastern shore of Staten Island. The proposal would cost approximately \$579 million to build but would be largely funded through federal Sandy aid and New York City funds. A public information session will be held next week (see below for details). [WNYC](#)

New York City broke ground on a large-scale design project along the waterfront in Belle Harbor Queens as part of a \$10 million FEMA-funded project to address Sandy-damaged areas, with an additional \$250,000 in city funds for neighborhood beautification. [NY1](#)

A bi-partisan group of U.S. Senators [announced](#) the release of a report from the Government Accountability Office that examined five federal programs' efforts in enhancing resiliency in post-Sandy rebuilding.

ALSO: The GAO report assesses increased risk of damage to the massive infrastructure projects built by the Army Corps of Engineers due to flooding and climate change. [Climate Central](#)

ALSO: The GAO report revealed that the U.S. does not have a comprehensive approach to disaster resilience investments which would help state and local officials coordinate recovery efforts. [Homeland Security Today](#)

FEMA's updated flood map for New York City is still subject to approval and will dramatically increase flood insurance requirements in flood zone areas. Using new data from an independent study of flood-risk, New York City is appealing the preliminary flood maps in hopes of keeping waterfront neighborhoods more affordable. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: With 40% of the U.S. population living in coastal counties, new research on the causes

of severe flooding - including rising sea levels - suggests that cities along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts are much more susceptible to flooding than at any other time in history. [International Business Times](#) and [Salon](#)

New Dorp, Staten Island is making a slow recovery from Hurricane Sandy and much of the neighborhood's character has changed with the elevation of some homes but not others. [The New York Times](#)

Gov. Cuomo believes the federal government should provide grants rather than loans to repair new train tunnels under the Hudson river that are decaying from old age and damage from Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) proposed creating a non-profit development corporation to oversee financing and construction of new rail tunnels under the Hudson River. [The New York Times](#) and [The Observer](#)

Many in New Jersey believe that Gov. Christie has not done enough in the Sandy recovery to address sea level rise along the coast and has avoided conversations about reimagining a more sustainable recovery. [International Business Times](#)

Mayor de Blasio [signed](#) into law Intro 425-A which requires the city to create a disaster management plan to protect telecommunications infrastructure.

A new emergency-care facility is opening in Long Beach, Long Island on the site of a medical center destroyed by Sandy. [Health Care Finance News](#)

A study shows how dialysis patients in New York City were unprepared for the disaster due to their reliance on electricity and transportation infrastructure that have little or no emergency back-up. Twenty-six percent of patients missed dialysis sessions during Sandy; fewer than half of the patients surveyed had a copy of their medication lists. [NJ.com](#) and [Science News](#)

Housing

Approximately 39,000 people remain displaced from their homes since Sandy. The economic toll of this displacement is disproportionately high for low-income families. In New Jersey, 40% of homes damaged were renter-occupied yet only 25% of the state's disaster relief has gone to tenants. [The Atlantic](#)

At a panel on affordable housing and disaster management, NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye discussed NYCHA's disconnection from citywide emergency planning and steps the agency has been taking to formulate a better response plan. [Politico New York](#)

New York City Council passed a text amendment to zoning rules that will bypass regulatory barriers and expedite reconstruction of Sandy-damaged homes in flood zones. [The Times-Ledger](#)

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

Events

Regional Events

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

Wednesday, August 19 and Thursday, August 20, 6:00 pm: Army Corps of Engineers [South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study](#) Informational Meeting. A fact sheet describing the project is available [here](#). Staten Island University Hospital, McGinn Center, 475 Seaview Ave., Staten Island, NY.

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.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: NYU College of Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Social Work and Institute for Families, Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness, and Colorado State University's Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis:

[The Hurricane Sandy PLACE Report: Evacuation Decisions, Housing Issues, and Sense of Community](#)

[The Hurricane Sandy PERSON Report: Exposure, Health, Economic Burden, and Social Well-Being](#)

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: U.S. Government Accountability Office: [An Investment Strategy Could Help the Federal Government Enhance National Resilience for Future Disasters](#)

[One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#)

[National Flood Insurance Program and Mitigation Resource List](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller: [Audit Report on the Administration of the New York City Build It Back Single Family Program By the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General audit: [Superstorm Sandy National Emergency Grants: ETA Awarded Funds Promptly, But Could Improve Grant Modification and Eligibility Verification Processes](#)

[Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency: New York City Panel on Climate Change 2015 Report](#)

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.

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