

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: June 11-28

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

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### In the headlines

#### Disaster Relief

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [announced](#) finalists for its \$1 billion national disaster resiliency competition. Organizations with the winning proposals will receive funds to implement resiliency and disaster preparedness strategies. \$181 million is set aside for projects in New York and New Jersey.

An audit by the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General found that the Federal Transit Administration has not implemented proper oversight for awarding Hurricane Sandy relief funds. [Stamford Advocate](#)

Concerning a lawsuit brought by department store Lord & Taylor, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that the New York Container Terminal could not reasonably have protected 2,200 containers that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. [AmericanShipper.com](#)

Some homeowners are skeptical of the process of reopening their FEMA claims, tired of filing redundant paperwork and wary of FEMA's policy of recapturing overpayments. [WNYC](#)

The New York Assembly and Senate passed legislation that would slow the rate at which property taxes increase on properties repaired after Sandy damage. [Long Island Herald](#)

A 24-hour deli in Coney Island was damaged during Sandy but continued to serve local residents in need of supplies in the immediate aftermath of the storm. When the deli lost its lease earlier this year, the community spoke out to save it from closing. [WNYC](#)

#### Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

A Florida-based company, Geosyntec Consultants, was selected to install and implement OptiRTC technology at Sandy-impacted small businesses in New York City. The technology combines cloud-based sensors, physical flood-proofing, and alert systems. [NYCEDC](#)

ALSO: A New York-based company, [Renewable Edge LLC](#), has installed 1,000 wireless solar payphones in existing NYC payphone kiosks.

The newly enacted Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA) requires planning at all levels of government to ensure that future infrastructure projects consider sea-level-rise projections. Four public comment meetings will be held prior to the issuance of a draft regulation by New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. [New York Muni Blog](#)

ALSO: A U.S. Department of the Interior [report](#) details how more than \$40 billion of national park infrastructure is at high risk of damage due to sea level rise.

The Earth Institute's National Center for Disaster Preparedness is starting a new initiative to protect children in disasters. A pilot program will focus on communities in New York and Arkansas. [Earth Institute blog](#)

A blog by FEMA discusses the importance of community-based preparedness for hurricane season. [FEMA blog](#)

As labor unions increasingly join the campaign for climate action, a rally will be held in Toronto in July in advance of the Pan-American Climate Summit and an Economic Summit. [Rabble](#)

Beginning July 11, the MTA's subway tunnel under the East River for the A and C trains will be closed every weekend for 16 months to repair damage done by saltwater corrosion from Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

The Nature Conservancy, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, and the National Parks Service are collaborating to establish an ecosystem in Jamaica Bay that is tolerant of rising sea levels. [NY1](#) and [Treehugger](#)

ALSO: Volunteer-led restoration of the salt pond at Alley Pond Park in Queens is currently underway. [Queens Courier](#)

U.S. Congressman Jerold Nadler and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation [announced](#) \$2.8 million in FEMA grant will be used to repair two parks in Lower Manhattan that were damaged by Sandy.

## Housing

Tuesday, June 30 is the deadline to submit forms for rebuilding homes through New York City's Build it Back program. Through the program, homeowners can choose their own contractor, or use the city-selected developer, Arverne by the Sea, LLC. [Queens Courier](#)

Many of the historic and affordable beach bungalows in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn have been replaced with much larger homes. Rebuilding from Sandy was the impetus for some to expand. [Brownstoner](#)

The Affordable Housing Alliance in New Jersey has plans to build 15 low-cost modular bungalows in Monmouth County that meet state building codes and requirements for the state's Sandy home rebuilding grant program. [Modular Home Builder](#)

## Jobs

Rebuilding Together NYC is the non-profit selected by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to lead job training programs in Brooklyn and Staten Island for low-income workers in Sandy recovery projects. [Staten Island Advance](#)

**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](#).

Workforce1 is hosting a series of information sessions where individuals can learn more about pre-apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry, doing work with the Build it Back program on Sandy related repairs. Please [register](#) to receive an appointment time.

**Wednesday, July 1, 6:30 pm:** Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez is holding a Red Hook Town Hall Workforce Training Sandy Rebuilding. Red Hook Miccio Center, 110 West 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231 (Near Hamilton Avenue). Learn about job and training opportunities, representatives from New York City Mayor's Housing Recovery Office, Workforce1, NYCHA Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability and others will be there to describe the process and answer questions. For more information, contact Congresswoman Velázquez's Office at (718) 222-5819.

**Wednesday, July 8, 3:00 pm:** New York City Department of Environmental Protection [2015 Green Infrastructure Grant Program workshop](#). DEP is engaged in a city-wide effort to soften impervious urban landscape and help absorb rainwater that would otherwise drain into the combined sewer system and contribute sewer overflows into local waterways. A workshop led by DEP will explain the eligibility requirements and the application process for community groups, non-profits, and property owners. Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street in Manhattan Room 1019.

**Wednesday, July 15, 2:30-4:00 pm:** Webinar: [Building Resiliency in Your Economy](#). Registration required.

**Action item: August 10-11:** The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will convene a Hurricane Sandy Conference: [Translating Research into Practice public meeting](#). "The purpose of the meeting is to broadly share, with interested stakeholders, outcomes of Hurricane Sandy recovery science research and training projects."

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

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

[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.

### **Contact us**

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