

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

Subject: Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: New Sandy-related Workforce1 Centers to connect individuals with recovery work opportunities; Infrastructure problems persist in New Jersey

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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 Recovery Money Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: May 14-28

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

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

FEMA has mailed the first round of letters to homeowners who filed Sandy-related claims through the National Flood Insurance Program. Policyholders who receive a letter must contact FEMA within 90 days to have a case worker review the file. [Insurance Journal](#)

F. William Brown LLC, a Norwich, CT construction management company, is one of the winning firms of the RISE:NYC award, for the development of a method of dry floodproofing commercial and high-rise residential buildings. [Norwich Bulletin](#)

OptiRTC, another RISE:NYC winner, will provide a floodproofing technology system that will monitor and deliver information about severe weather risk or current flooding conditions for small business owners. [Waterworld](#)

NYCEDC [profiles](#) Red Hook Initiative's work to expand a resilient broadband network in the neighborhood. RHI will share up to \$30 million with the other winners to further expand WIFI coverage for Sandy-impacted small businesses in the neighborhood.

The New York City Department of Health is launching a campaign to encourage New Yorkers to seek out free mental health services for children and adolescents affect by Hurricane Sandy,

through screening and evaluation programs. [Staten Island Advance](#)

The New Jersey Senate unanimously passed a bill that would require the state to inform Sandy aid applicants when they can expect funding and requires the Department of Community Affairs to set quarterly targets for distributing disaster relief. [NJ.com](#)

Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (both D-NY) joined Mayor de Blasio in [announcing](#) \$1.1 million in FEMA funding for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation for repairs to parking areas that were damaged by Sandy.

ALSO: Senator Schumer is [urging](#) Congress to provide federal funds to improve and restore the Gateway National Recreation Area, including the Jacob Riis bathhouse and Jamaica Bay's West Pond, which were both seriously damaged by Sandy.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations and Workforce1 are partnering with local employers to connect Sandy-affected residents to recovery- and resiliency-related career opportunities and job training. Sandy Recovery services are available in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Far Rockaway, Queens. [Press Release](#)

ALSO: The new Workforce1 employment center that opened in Coney Island will connect Sandy-impacted residents with employers working on Build it Back contracts, as well as employers in other sectors. Job seekers can get more information about new opportunities in the [Workforce1 Career Bulletin](#). [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

Chevron Corp. shareholders voted in favor of allowing some shareholders to nominate independent candidates for the board. The vote was promoted by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer's [boardroom accountability project](#) which seeks to establish more diverse boards, with an awareness of climate change issues. [Bloomberg News](#) and [ThinkProgress](#)

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) the kickoff of the Living Breakwaters reef project off the coast of Staten Island, one of the Rebuild by Design winning projects. The first phase will include data gathering and mapping the underwater floor. A summary of the studies will be made available to the public in the first week of June 2015.

At the National Adaptation Forum, advocates for "frontline communities" - low income neighborhoods that may lack resources to adapt to climate change - seek to incorporate greater equity awareness into resiliency and climate adaptation planning. [ThinkProgress](#)

ALSO: New research illuminates the need to better engage communities in caring for vulnerable, "orphaned" baby boomers, particularly in disaster situations. [Newsmax](#)

The New Jersey Attorney General's office may begin eminent domain proceedings in order to acquire nearly 400 outstanding property easements, necessary for building a massive engineered dune system to protect the beaches and private properties along the Jersey Shore. [WNYC/WHYY](#)

New Jersey is facing a transit crisis, with emergency bridge closings and other infrastructure failures. The problems have been exacerbated by the Governor's decision to halt construction of a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River to replace existing tunnels damaged by Sandy. Business groups are complaining that poor infrastructure is hurting the state's competitiveness. [The New York Times](#)

This New York Daily News [Op-Ed](#) calls for reforms to allow badly needed infrastructure repair projects to move forward.

Senator Schumer [attended](#) a ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of a boat marina at Great Kills Park in Staten Island. The marina lost 350 boat slips during Sandy and initially no funding was secured to rebuild the marina.

Mayor de Blasio attended the ribbon cutting of the first segment of the Rockaway boardwalk to reopen since Hurricane Sandy. [Capital New York](#)

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Congressman Jerold Nadler broke ground with the New York City Parks Department on repairs to the 79th street boat basin in Riverside Park, which was heavily damaged by Sandy. [Metro](#)

For National Hurricane Preparedness Week, officials are urging people to make a plan: information on how to build an emergency kit, make a family communication plan and other preparation tips are available at <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

ALSO: President Obama visited the National Hurricane Center Thursday for a briefing on scientists' predictions of the upcoming Hurricane Season, expected to be three to six hurricanes. [The New York Times](#)

Housing

Mayor de Blasio signed legislation that lowers the assessed value of property that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy but subsequently increased after renovations or reconstruction. [NY Real Estate Law Blog](#)

Gov. Cuomo [signed](#) legislation extending a property tax abatement for homes that were damaged by Sandy through 2020.

ALSO: Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman obtained a default judgement against two law firms for running a fraudulent mortgage rescue scheme. [Press Release](#)

Sandy victims in New Jersey rallied to protest the slow pace of recovery in New Jersey, where many blame the management of Gov. Christie. [Insurance Journal](#)

ALSO: [Bring the Jersey Shore Home](#) is holding a bus tour today to raise awareness of the slow pace of recovery in New Jersey.

ALSO: The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency launched a Rental Assistance Program that allows eligible homeowners who were displaced by Sandy up to nine months of rental assistance. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Gov. Christie [announced](#) the 300th property was acquired by the state through the Blue Acres home buyout program, which purchases homes in areas prone to chronic flooding and returns them to open space.

Gov. Cuomo is revoking his promise from April 1 to set aside \$100 million from the state budget for NYCHA, the funds were planned to be used to repair leaky roofs and mold infestation. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: \$3 billion from FEMA will restore and protect Sandy-damaged waterfront NYCHA complexes. [DNAinfo](#)

A Q&A with Holly Leicht, Region 2 Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In one part of the interview she discusses how HUD is working to oversee the implementation of Rebuild by Design winning projects as well as ensuring that housing reconstruction does not put people in harm's way. [City & State](#)

[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.

TONIGHT: Thursday May 28, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm: [Natural Disaster Risk Reduction in NYC and Norway](#); Achieving Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions, with lessons from New York City post-Sandy. A debate organized by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the government of Norway. Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America, 58 Park Ave, New York, NY 10016

Tuesday June 2, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: [Sandy Recovery Career Opportunities Information Session & Resiliency Training](#). Community Voices Heard and Faith in New York are co-sponsoring a training on neighborhood-based resiliency strategies in the face of climate change. Additionally, NYC Housing Recovery Office and Small Business Services will provide an introduction to the new Sandy Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Voucher program. St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, 1920 New Haven Ave, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. For more information, please contact Andrew Hausermann, Director of Organizing at 718-208-9824 or email andrew@faithinnewyork.org.

Thursday June 4, 10 am - Noon; Wednesday June 17, 6 pm - 8 pm: [Gerritsen Beach flood insurance workshop](#). 2676 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn.

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.

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