

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 28-June 11

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

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

The New York City Independent Budget Office [analyzed](#) the \$1.3 billion in federal Hurricane Sandy aid that has been included in the city budget. Of the total, over \$700 million is for housing reconstruction work through the Build it Back program.

The Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development exposed flaws in the bidding process that awarded a large Sandy recovery contract in New Jersey to a Canadian firm, CGI Federal. The firm also lost the contract for the federal healthcare.gov website, after its problematic rollout. [The Daily Caller](#)

State Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky together with State Sen. Thomas Croci (R-Sayville) has introduced legislation requiring the State to issue monthly progress reports on status of disaster relief funds being allocated through New York Rising. [Long Island Herald](#)

In testimony to a House Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, Brad Kisserman, the outgoing director of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, warned that the program has become increasingly out of touch with its customers and lacks oversight from FEMA. He characterized the program as a melting iceberg. [Insurance Journal](#) [Testimony text embedded]

ALSO: Roy Wright, the newly appointed director of the National Flood Insurance Program, believes the organization needs to refocus on the welfare of disaster victims and address gaps in insurance coverage. [Newsday](#)

Reflecting on the long approval process for small business disaster loans, U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) and others are advocating for online platforms that can more quickly secure emergency financing for small companies. [TheStreet.com](#)

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation will spend \$3.2 million to remove trees that were damaged by Sandy and will replace them with new saplings by late 2016. [DNAinfo](#)

Approximately 1,000 policy holders have responded to the first round of letters sent on behalf of the National Flood Insurance Program, offering the opportunity to re-open claims that were denied or underpaid. [Insurance Journal](#)

U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) [announced](#) over \$1.3 million in FEMA Public Assistance funds will go to reimburse the Battery Park City Authority for repairs to the Battery Park Community Center which was damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) is urging New York State officials to allocate federal funds to build an ocean outfall pipe for East Rockaway's Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant. The plant, which has been rebuilt after severe Sand-damage, continues to discharge effluent into local waterways, making the waterways out of compliance with Environmental Protection Agency's standards. [Long Island Herald](#)

ALSO: Senator Schumer is also calling on the U.S. Department of Interior to provide funding for improving the Jacob Riis bathhouse and adding amenities such as bicycle rentals, food and other concessions. [New York Real Estate Law Blog](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Despite available FEMA funding, the hospital of Long Beach, Long Island has not been rebuilt after it was destroyed by Sandy. Residents are increasingly at risk during medical emergencies due to long trips in heavy traffic to the next nearest hospital. [Huffington Post](#)

According to a [report](#) by the NYCIBO, just 16% of funding the MTA received for Sandy-related projects had been committed at the end of 2014. [New York Daily News](#)

Excavation of a drinking water tunnel between Brooklyn and Staten Island is now complete. Tunnel boring operations were suspended after Sandy due to flooding and extensive damage to the excavation equipment. The completed tunnel is part of harbor deepening initiative by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. [Civil & Structural Engineer](#)

The College of New Jersey has launched an online collection of personal stories about Hurricane Sandy, called the [Hurricane Sandy Oral History Project](#). [Newsworks](#)

Hoboken City Council will allow a feasibility study for planned flood prevention structures as part of the Rebuild by Design plan for the city. [Hudson Reporter](#)

According to a new report by New Yorkers for Parks, Wolfe's Pond Beach in Staten Island is in need of federal funds for sand replenishment and other upgrades after devastation from Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Housing

Acquisition for Redevelopment, New York City's home buy-out program, has not been nearly as effective as similar state-run programs on Long Island. Officials say that the state will take over the home acquisition process in Staten Island. [NY1](#)

In New Jersey, homeowners protest the slow pace of the recovery, and describe dangerous and

low-quality work done by contractors hired through the state's main Sandy housing program, RREM.

[CBS News](#)

ALSO: Recovery efforts have stalled for thousands in New Jersey still displaced from their homes, and many are blaming Gov. Christie. [NorthJersey.com](#)

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.

Saturday June 13, 11-4:00 pm: CAMBA Legal Services Open House for individual needing help advocating with mortgage companies or Build it Back. 885 Flatbush Ave, 2nd floor (corner of Flatbush and Church Avenues)

Wednesday June 17, 6 pm - 8 pm: [Gerritsen Beach flood insurance workshop](#). 2676 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn.

Wednesday July 1 (time TBD): Red Hook Workforce 1 information session. Miccio Center, 110 W 9th St, Brooklyn, NY 11231. For more information, follow [@rhookinitiative](#)

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.

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