

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.

Following Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds Rebuilding News Round-up: September 17 - October 1

The Rebuilding News Round-up is a bi-weekly publication.

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Disaster Relief

The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a [report](#) that found the New York State home buyout program spent \$6.6 million for 19 properties that were already vacant or not significantly damaged by Sandy. Twelve of the properties were owned by a single company. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: The Inspector General report also found that the New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery did not sufficiently track funding to ensure at least 50 percent of recovery funds went to low-income homeowners. In some instances, funds were incorrectly distributed to homeowners for rebuilding a secondary, vacation home. [The Daily Caller](#)

FEMA officials acknowledged that the first applicants to have their Sandy insurance claims reviewed have now been waiting longer than the promised 90-days for review to be completed. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

In a New York City Council oversight hearing on Build it Back last Friday, Council members praised Build it Back director Amy Peterson for progress that has been made since she took over the program in 2014 and questioned her on specifics of community outreach and the pace of construction. [Queens Chronicle](#)

The U.S. Small Business Administration provided an online forum for disaster planning strategies for small businesses. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Sandy Recovery Workforce1, in conjunction with Build it Back, will be hosting its second annual recovery opportunity and resource fair in Coney Island on October 20. Register [here](#).

Housing

Mayor de Blasio announced the completion of the first 1,000 home repairs through the Build it Back program, representing over half of all active homeowner participants in the program. [The Forum News Group](#)

ALSO: City officials credit the uptick in progress in the Build it Back program to three new construction managers, allowing home elevations and construction starts to progress more quickly. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) that qualified developers can now submit proposals for developing affordable housing in areas that were affected by Sandy, Irene or Lee. \$20 million in federal recovery money will be available for creating 150-200 new rental units, half of which will be affordable to residents earning below 80 percent of the area median income. [ABC News 10](#)

A pair of bills currently in the New Jersey legislature seek to address the problem facing many Sandy victims whose homes are still under construction through the state's Recovery, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation program and are in foreclosure. The proposed legislation would freeze the foreclosure process on such homes until 60 days after owners return home. [The Star-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](#).

Tuesday, Oct. 20: [Sandy Recovery Opportunity & Resource Fair in Coney Island](#). 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. Register [here](#)

Tuesday October 20, 9:00 am- 11:00 am: [Hurricane Sandy +3: Building Resilient Neighborhoods](#). Center for New York City Affairs hosts a panel discussion on the topic of the post-storm state of social infrastructure in neighborhoods hardest hit by Sandy. The New School's Theresa Lang Community & Student Center, Arnhold Hall, 55 West 13th Street. Information and reservation [here](#).

Advocacy Reports

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: Office of the Inspector General Department of Homeland Security: [FEMA's Process for Selecting Joint Field Offices Needs Improvement](#)

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. Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

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