

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 3 - 17

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

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Disaster Relief

FEMA extended the deadline to reopen homeowner flood insurance claims from damage due to Sandy. The new deadline is October 15. [The New York Times](#)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will not require 3,000 New York and New Jersey homeowners to repay recovery funds if FEMA increases their flood insurance claim payments. [New York Daily News](#) and [National Mortgage Professional](#)

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which closes operations on September 30, 2015, has provided oversight of \$36 billion in federal funds from 2012 and 2013, including federal Sandy relief funds. It is not expected that the Department of the Treasury will take over the RATB's assets, citing cost. The RATB issued a report weighing the costs and benefits of authorizing a new entity to take over the responsibilities of oversight of federal expenditures. [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#)

In Sandy-damaged communities, federal emergency grants designed to cover the costs of basic municipal services are now expiring. The grants were designed to be a bridge program for communities whose property tax base was drastically diminished due to Sandy damage and covered expenses including the salaries of police officers and teachers. [USA Today](#)

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) that \$388 million in combined funding from New York State's CDBG disaster relief funds and the Environmental Facilities Corporation Revolving Fund will pay for design, review and construction of expanded sewers in Suffolk County, Long Island.

NJ Transit board members voted on an \$11.5 million contract for Environmental Impact Statements and developing a coastal storm surge warning system. [Asbury Park Press](#)

ALSO: An oversight report monitoring how NJ Transit has spent \$1.3 billion in Sandy relief from the U.S. Department of Transportation is lacking details. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The New York Times editorial board [applauds](#) the governors of New York and New Jersey for finally coming to consensus over the urgent need to rebuild the Amtrak tunnels under the Hudson River. The next step forward requires a decision over whether the Port Authority is the best organizing entity to oversee the massive project.

ALSO: A panel of speakers hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center, led by former U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, discussed how to design effective public-private partnerships for large infrastructure projects like the Gateway tunnel. [NJ Spotlight](#)

MTA officials say that three-years after Sandy there are many repairs yet to be made in subway tunnels that were flooded. The MTA will use \$57 million in federal funds to make critical upgrades throughout the system. [TimesLedger](#)

The New England Wildflower Society has collected seeds from native plant species along the Atlantic Coast and will plant them in Sandy-impacted areas in a \$2.3 million project aimed at making areas more resilient to future storms. AP via [The Christian Science Monitor](#)

Nearly a million artifacts from Ellis Island's collection were returned after being in storage during extensive repairs from flooding. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Opponents of a residential development in Brick Township, NJ are calling plans for 13 homes on a 1.3 acre beachfront plot "obscene over-development." [NJ Advance](#)

Housing

New York City Council Members Ritchie Torres and Mark Treyger requested that NYCHA officials provide specifics on the \$3 billion contract with FEMA to repair Sandy damage at NYCHA properties. The oversight is necessary to ensure the funds also support jobs for NYCHA residents. [New York Daily News](#)

National Grid has said it will waive connection and re-connection charges for Long Island homes that must be elevated to comply with new flood insurance requirements. [Newsday](#)

[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](#).

Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:00 am - 7:00 PM: [Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush presents a mortgage help open house](#). HUD-certified counselors will be available to discuss options in eliminating mortgage delinquency. Canarsie Office, 9715 Avenue L, Brooklyn, NY 11236
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

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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