

With a high volume of media coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on how government money is proposed to be spent in the rebuilding process. For more information on transparency and opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Also, let us know how we can adjust this alert to make it better

Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: April 10 - 17

In This Issue

[This week's news](#)
[Regional Events](#)
[Advocacy Reports](#)
[Federal, State & Local Resources](#)

[Have you heard?](#)

Good Jobs New York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money database](#) to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

Transparency Tip from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

[How to Track Government Projects Like a](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Today, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [released](#) a report, [One City, Rebuilding Together: A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward](#), that outlines the administration's plans to rework the city's rebuilding effort. [CBS New York](#)

ALSO: The report outlines ways to engage communities in recovery, and improve public communication through a web portal for tracking application status. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: The report outlines recommendations for reforming Build it Back, expanding eligibility, and addressing the needs of undocumented immigrants. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Mayor de Blasio announced he is seeking support in Albany for legislation that would provide a partial tax abatement for Sandy victims who rebuilt their damaged homes and now face property tax hikes due to the increased value of the homes. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer announced that his office will be conducting an audit of the Build it Back program, through the Sandy Oversight Unit. He will hold town hall meetings in affected communities to listen to testimony from residents. [New York Daily News](#)

Internal memos released by the Christie Administration show that most of Hoboken's requests for Sandy-related energy grants were not awarded due to data entry errors. [The Star-Ledger](#) and [NJ Spotlight](#)

In New Jersey, over 2,000 residents have signed grant agreements for rebuilding funds and 100 have received funds and are beginning construction. Many residents remain uncertain about where they are in the aid application process. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Governor Christie's approval rating for Sandy recovery has dropped to 48%. [CBS Local](#)

It remains difficult to clearly outline how the American Red Cross spent over \$312 million in charitable donations it received to help

Defense Contractor

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victims of Hurricane Sandy. [ProPublica](#)

ALSO: Four New Jersey-based non-profits will share \$225,000 in donations that went to an unregistered - and now shuttered - charity, The Hurricane Sandy Relief Foundation. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) [is calling](#) for Long Island North Shore communities to receive federal funding for key resiliency projects.

ALSO: Senator Schumer [is also calling](#) on FEMA to approve \$6.7 million in Hazard Mitigation Grants for repairs to the Troy Seawall, which was damaged from flooding during Tropical Storm Irene, and is covered under the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act.

The MTA is removing a public service advertisement thanking Governor Cuomo for securing funds for Sandy-related subway repair work, because the ad did not receive proper approvals from the governor's office. [DNAinfo](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Dan Zarelli, the director of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency in the de Blasio Administration says he intends to keep many resiliency efforts outlined in the Bloomberg Administration's "A Stronger, More Resilient New York," a report he helped author. [Crain's New York Business](#)

A pilot study recommended by the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency and launched under the Bloomberg Administration would analyze city populations most vulnerable to extreme heat. The study, now stalled indefinitely due to budget shortfalls at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, would have examined the South Bronx. [Capital New York](#)

ALSO: The 2014 Farmer's Almanac predicts an unusually hot and humid summer, as well as a severe hurricane in September following a similar path as Sandy. [New York Post](#)

Environmental advocates urged Mayor de Blasio to commit to addressing the city's environmental concerns. [Capital New York](#)

ALSO: The New York Knicks partnered with conservation groups to help plant trees in Jamaica Bay Park, Queens. [Broadway World](#)

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding issued a list of Sandy rebuilding policy proposals in advance of a speech marking his first 100 days in office, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. [The New York Times](#)

Efforts at coastal sustainability will demand a collaborative approach from government, communities, scientists, planners and engineers. [CoExist](#)

Some residents of an apartment building in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn are reacting to plans to install an elevated comfort station on the beach in front of the apartment building by May 24. [The New York Times](#)

Housing

Announcing new initiatives in the New York City recovery effort, Mayor de Blasio promised the city will begin construction on 500 damaged homes by the end of the summer. [Staten Island Advance](#)

On her first tour of storm-damaged homes on Staten Island since becoming director of the Housing Recovery Office, Amy Peterson said the major challenge will be communicating the facts about Build it Back, including the acquisition-for-development aspect of the program. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Shola Olatoye, chair of NYCHA, toured six public housing developments in the Rockaways, Queens to become familiar with post-Sandy rebuilding and infrastructure needs. [NY1](#)

Mayor de Blasio discussed how his administration will work with local non-profits in the Sandy rebuilding via a Google Hangout moderated chat. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Jobs

The mayor's plan unveiled today also includes an initiative to help Sandy-impacted New Yorkers find jobs in community rebuilding. [Times Ledger](#)

The Bay Parkway Community Job Center, which provided support, training and tools for many immigrant laborers who cleared debris and did reconstruction work following Sandy, celebrated its 12th anniversary. The Worker Justice Project, which supports the center, was presented with a Proclamation by New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Events

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Upcoming deadlines

Monday, April 28: Proof of Loss must be RECEIVED by your flood insurer. Refer to this [Touro Law Center Disaster Relief Clinic flyer on Flood Insurance claims](#) for more details.

Wednesday, May 7: Responses due for the Request for Proposals for the [Enterprise Community Partners Capacity Building Grants Program](#). The RFP application materials are [posted online](#). Organizations may apply for up to \$150,000 across a maximum of three grant program areas. Awards will be announced beginning July 7, 2014.

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Friday, April 25, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: [The Regional Plan Association's 24th Annual Assembly](#), discussing "A Vision for 2040" and showcasing winners of HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Friday, April 25, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm: [Bridging the Gap](#), a discussion on financing and communication approaches to address the financial and economical challenges of flood prevention projects and adaptation to climate change, with Marcel Ham, co-founder and co-owner of RebelGroup, a financial economic advisory firm headquartered in The Netherlands and Christien Stoker, a Dutch communication specialist. 666 3rd Ave New York, NY 10017

Tuesday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - [Multifamily Resiliency Measures](#). Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Superstorm Sandy Free Legal Clinic from the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. Recovery Information Center, Moonachie Presbyterian Church, 221 Moonachie road, Moonachie, NJ 07074.

Friday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - [Flood Resilient Code](#). Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Brooklyn

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-3:00: [Jubilee Legal Clinic](#), Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Avenue. Visit website for additional hours and information including income requirements.

Advocacy Reports

New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: The [2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report](#); a comprehensive assessment of the NYC voluntary sector's rebuild capacity in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Center for an Urban Future: [Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York's Aging Infrastructure](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy](#).

[Future-Proofing Cities](#): A report from the U.K. Department for International Development and University College London looking at the risks and opportunities for inclusive urban growth in developing countries. 129 cities, 5 urban types and over 100 practical solutions. statistics and

analysis.

Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities from the National Disaster Interfaiths Network

The International Economic Development Council released Case Studies in Small Business Finance Following a Disaster, a report of six case studies of effective long-term economic recovery efforts of disaster-affected communities.

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City

Rutgers University: Overlooking Oversight: A Lack of Oversight in the Garden State is Placing New Jersey Residents and Assets at Risk.

Ceres report: Cool Response: The SEC & Corporate Climate Change Reporting: SEC Climate Guidance & S&P 500 Reporting - 2010 to 2013.

Brooklyn Communities Speak: An Action Guide for Local Decision-Makers Post Sandy. This report from the Brooklyn Community Fund and coalition partners analyzes conditions in six coastal Brooklyn neighborhoods post-Sandy, with recommendations for government agencies on how to address persistent recovery challenges while building resiliency in partnership with local communities.

White Paper prepared by Queens Legal Services: Homes Underwater: Forebearance Alternatives for Sandy-Affected Homeowners

Superstorm Research Lab: A Tale of Two Sandys. This whitepaper, based on interviews with a broad range of Sandy-impacted individuals and aid organizations in New York City, sheds light on the inequalities entwined with Sandy's aftermath and recommendations for addressing inequality.

New York City VOAD Volunteer and Construction Committee Resource Guide: This list includes voluntary organizations providing rebuild services in New York City.

New report from the Municipal Art Society: All hands on deck: Mobilizing New Yorkers for a Livable and Resilient New York

New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center documents its concerns that African Americans and Latinos are being rejected from Sandy relief at higher rates than Caucasians. Fair Share Housing Center Blog

Parsons Brinckerhoff produces The Sandy Disaster Awareness Report, a summary of key developments and funding priorities in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Day Labor, Worker Centers & Disaster Relief Work in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. This report discusses the challenges that workers faced during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the role that worker centers played to protect the health and safety of workers in New York and New Jersey.

Hurricane Sandy Fall 2013 Update: FEMA Assistance Analysis. Enterprise Community Partners examines the level of need and the response efforts in New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. This brief includes data related to FEMA inspections of those who registered for assistance and the amount that had been awarded to those with assessed damage.

Hurricane Sandy: Housing Needs One Year Later. Enterprise Community Partners provides a summary of early findings from a survey of storm victims to measure the ongoing impact of Hurricane Sandy, one year after the storm.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW: One City, Rebuilding Together: A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

The Program Management Office of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its monthly report [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an assessment of state and local health emergency preparedness, including an evaluation of the response to Hurricane Sandy.

Online briefings from World Care Centers on disaster volunteer training for communities.

Information on New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams [pdf], along with an application for their 10-week training program.

The Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled this guide to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

Crowdsourcing ideas for FEMA - Help FEMA plan for disasters. Join and submit your ideas to their crowd-sourced feedback community and vote on others' ideas.

New York Rising Year End Report. Includes accounting of mass transit investment, reform of Long Island Power Authority, and projected storm recovery and rebuilding costs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers released its Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Evaluation Study

A helpful visual guide to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Community Mapping project has posted interactive online maps for six New York Rising communities in New York City. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on their community's plan. Final Community Reconstruction Plans are due by March 31, 2014.

FEMA has released its preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs); see also FEMA's guide of Frequently Asked Questions on the new maps.

The New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Hurricane Sandy Immigrant Outreach Initiative Report on efforts to address the needs of immigrant New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released an update of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid has been allocated.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce released a Disaster Preparedness Checklist for small businesses.

Next City, a weekly urban affairs publication, is launching a new the [Resilient Cities](#) series, which will focus on preparation and resiliency planning for disasters in urban areas around the world.

FEMA's [Hurricane Sandy: One Year Later](#) provides updates on recovery efforts, a timeline and other resources.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

[Hurricane Sandy: An Assessment of Impacted Commercial Corridors and Recommendations for Revitalization](#) [pdf]. This report by the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the New York City Economic Development Corporation provides an assessment of commercial corridors in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Queens.

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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