

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 dollars Weekly News Round-up: August 22 - August 29

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New from GJNY

Dazed and confused about the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013? We can help. Check out Good Jobs New York's new tool to help New Yorker's understand the Federal Disaster Relief Act and New York City's plan for the first round of CDBG funds.

[At-a-Glance: Federal Disaster Relief After Hurricane Sandy](#)

联邦政策一瞥：飓风桑迪救援资金分配 - (中文) ([In Chinese](#))

Action Item

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a [public notice](#) of proposed activity in a 100-year flood plain. \$225 million of CDBG-DR funds has been proposed to renovate 16 multifamily buildings. Written comments, including alternative proposals and concerns about adverse impacts are due by September 7. Comments may be sent to HPD at:

100 Gold Street, New York, NY 10038

Attn: Patrick Blanchfield, Director of Environmental Planning, Office of Development, Room 9I-7

Comments may also be submitted electronically
tonepa_env@hpd.nyc.gov.

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Thousands who are rebuilding post-Sandy may have been exposed to mold, asbestos and other harmful toxins. The Deborah Heart and Lung Center received funding from the Robin Hood Foundation to conduct free screenings in Ocean County, NJ. [The Star-Ledger](#)

\$1 million in grants will be distributed among 50 small businesses as part of the Small Business Storefront Improvement program funded by Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City with the NYC Department of Small Business Services. [Crain's New York Business](#)

New York City officials [announced](#) 16 private institutions will provide matching funds for Hurricane Sandy relief. A total of over \$3 million will go to medium and long-term planning and rebuilding projects.

Many localities along the Jersey Shore are borrowing heavily to pay for Sandy recovery work, yet federal reimbursements are slow in coming. [Bloomberg News via Asbury Park Press](#)

ALSO: Officials in Toms River, NJ say FEMA and other federal funds needed for rebuilding have been very slow in reaching the area. Only \$4 million of \$14 million that was requested has been received. [Patch.com](#)

Transparency Tip:

The Star Ledger created an interactive tool to help track the use of Sandy funds in New Jersey municipalities. [Sandy Recovery Scorecard](#)

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ALSO: FEMA has approved [\\$1.7 billion in public assistance grants](#) for reimbursements in New York State and [\\$852 million in public assistance grants](#) in New Jersey.

\$9.6 million in FEMA Sandy aid will go to Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and the New Jersey Department of Transportation for repairs due to Sandy. [The Star-Ledger](#)

New Jersey launched the \$75 million Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization Program to focus on community needs. [The Star-Ledger](#)

New Jersey Gov. Christie is urging local businesses to take advantage of the state's grant and loan programs. Small Businesses can apply for up to \$50,000 grants, and loans up to \$5 million. However, few businesses have applied for the aid. [Newsworks/WHYY](#)

The American Red Cross has awarded \$239,000 to the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula for the long-term recovery programs it runs. [American Red Cross](#)

The Emergency Conservation Fund (a USDA program) profiles a Chinese immigrant whose small New Jersey farm was damaged by Sandy and received federal aid. [USDA blog](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

In a [three-part series](#) of blog posts, Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report released last week, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#). [Clawback](#)

Wood reclamation firms report increased competition for wood salvaged from buildings and boardwalks destroyed by Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)

By next Memorial Day, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will add 3.5 million cubic yards of sand to beaches along the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, doubling the width of beaches and increasing height to 14 feet. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: New York City officials respond to reports of rust, leaking windows and broken ramps and railings on the new comfort stations along Rockaway Beach; repairs will be made in the fall. [DNAinfo](#)

An upcoming report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change featured in National Geographic, offers revised predictions of six foot sea level rise by the end of the century. Earlier predictions estimated sea level rise of 23 inches. [New York Daily News](#)

Fire Island, a barrier island off the coast of Long Island, NY lost more than half of its beach during Sandy, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey. [NBC News](#)

Over 2,000 trees in New York City that were badly flooded with salt water during Sandy are now at risk of falling during rain or wind storms. The Parks Department has said it will remove all damaged trees. [New York Daily News](#)

New York City will demolish three dozen Staten Island, NY homes that were damaged by Sandy. [NY1](#)

New Jersey Gov. Christie is calling on beachfront property owners, including State Assemblyman John McKeon (D), to sign an easement allowing an Army Corps of Engineers dune system to protect the Jersey Shore. [The Star-Ledger](#)

New Jersey Gov. Christie does not blame NJ Transit officials for not following hurricane emergency plans after Sandy that resulted in over \$120 million in damages to rail cars. [Transportation Nation](#)

Housing

This Op-Ed offers a critique of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, which is reducing the federal subsidy for flood prone properties and drastically raising the costs of insurance. [The New York Times](#)

New York Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) \$71 million is available to build affordable housing units across the state and will give priority to areas affected by Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. [News 12 Brooklyn](#)

A grassroots watchdog group opposes the New Jersey Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program, claiming it does not require applicants to have suffered loss during Sandy. [Patch.com](#)

A group of Sandy victims on Long Island are calling on FEMA to amend a clause in its policy that denies reimbursement to property owners if the earth under any property has moved, even if caused by flooding. [News 12 Long Island](#)

Jobs

Jersey Central Power & Light is partnering with local electrical workers' union, IBEW Local 102, to boost staff levels during recovery work after future storms and power outages. [NJ.com](#)

Advocacy News

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

Regional

New York Rising Sandy Social Services Block Grant applications are due **Friday, August 30** by 3:00 pm. Requests for Proposals and applications are available [online](#).

Hurricane Sandy relief volunteer opportunities in New York City are listed at [New York Cares](#)

Brooklyn

Saturday, September 14, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. [Homeowner Resource Forum](#) sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush. Capital One Bank, 1425 Rockaway Pkwy (on the corner of Glenwood Rd) Brooklyn, NY 11236. For more information contact Tyrone McDonald at 718-469-4679 or email infoef_01@nhsnyc.org. Free.

Manhattan

Wednesday, September 11, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. NeighborWorks America Northeast Region presents [Navigating the Road to Housing Recovery: Training the Counselor](#). This one-day course is designed for housing counselors and others working with disaster victims. 641 Lexington Avenue (@54th Street), 4th Floor Conference Rooms B & C.

New Jersey

Friday, August 30, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Free legal clinics to help Sandy victims sort through legal forms. [Volunteer Lawyers for Justice](#). Brick Presbyterian Church, 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ.

Tuesday, October 29. [Superstorm Sandy: One Year Later conference](#). Monmouth University, West Long Branch, N.J. Presented by Monmouth University, New Jersey Future, New Jersey Recovery Fund.

Advocacy Reports

[A Disaster in the Making: Addressing the Vulnerability of Low-Income Communities to Extreme Weather](#). This new report from the Center for American Progress examines current disaster recovery policies and offers recommendations for how government can increase communities' resiliency after storm impacts.

[2013 New Jersey Hurricane Sandy Long-Term Relief and Recovery Assistance Guide](#) from the United Way.

The Superstorm Research Lab, a mutual aid research collective, is working to understand the changes in how New York City policy actors, NGO leaders, activists, volunteers, and residents are thinking about social, economic and environmental issues following Hurricane Sandy.

The Sandy Regional Assembly released its community-based [analysis](#) of the Bloomberg Administration's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) report.

New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio documents the efforts of community-based organizations providing disaster relief services for low-income families after Sandy: [Supporting Community-Based Disaster Response: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy](#)

The Center for Urban Real Estate: [NYC 2040: Housing the Next One Million New Yorkers](#)

American Planning Association-New York Metro Chapter for the Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation: [Getting Back to Business; Addressing the Needs of Rockaway Businesses Impacted by Superstorm Sandy](#)

The Sandy Regional Assembly, made up of environmental justice organizations, community-based groups, labor unions, and advocates have released [Recovery from the Ground Up: Strategies for community-based resiliency in New York and New Jersey](#). Based on input from grassroots groups, the Recovery Agenda includes priorities relating to low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding released [Sandy's Mold Legacy: The Unmet Need Six Months](#)

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

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

[Disaster Recovery Bulletin](#), August 2013. A weekly electronic newsletter from the Hurricane Sandy federal disaster recovery coordination team.

ProPublica's [list](#) of the best journalism on the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

[Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program](#). This program, through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior, aims to fund ways to rebuild wetlands, beaches and other ecosystems.

顯利街社服中心「希望之星」撫慰珊迪災民受創心靈 - Henry Street Settlement in Lower Manhattan provides free mental health counseling to people and families affected by Sandy. Hot line: (800) 543-3638; In Chinese: (877) 990-8585.

The New York [Community Reconstruction Program](#), formerly known as Community Reconstruction Zones; the program's website includes an interactive map of the "NY Rising Communities" and a prominent link for making public comment.

[The New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Sandy Recovery Resource Guide](#), updated July 9, 2013.

Report by the U.S. Department of Energy: [U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather](#). Part of the Obama Administration's national climate change adaptation planning, this report examines current and potential impacts of climate trends on the nation's energy sector. It includes an interactive map showing the location of current climate vulnerabilities in the energy sector.

[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.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation released its RFP for the "Neighborhood Game Changer" competition. Winning proposals will receive up to \$18 million in CDBG funds to support the proposed project. Deadline for submission is Monday, September 9, 2013. [NYCEDC Press Release](#)

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.

Contact us

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