

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: December 5 - 12

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### **New from GJNY**

We are proud to announce our updated website [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#). Now it's easier than ever to find news, resources, upcoming events and other helpful materials. Check it out, tell us what you think, and keep an eye out for more expansions.

### **Transparency**

#### **Tip:**

Newsday has a [map tool](#) that displays how \$3.8 billion in FEMA and SBA aid has been allocated in the tri-state area as of September 2013.

Like our weekly

### Action Items

It's not too late to fill out the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program [survey](#) for Sandy-impacted businesses on Staten Island.

### This Week's News

#### **Disaster Relief**

In its second National Action Plan on Open Government, the White House promoted expanding Participatory Budgeting and re-committed to making government data more accessible. [The White House Blog](#)

Due to apparent mismanagement after Katrina, the process for allocating CDBG grants now have much stronger government oversight, which some fear make it difficult to distribute Sandy funds quickly. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: The New York Times provides this [infographic](#) on categories of spending for \$1.4 billion in FEMA emergency assistance grants after Hurricane Sandy.

Incoming Brooklyn New York City Councilmembers Carlos Menchaca and Mark Treyger are proposing a committee to assess the city's progress in rebuilding. [Politicker](#)

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced a settlement with four Shell gas stations in Westchester, NY for alleged price-gouging in the weeks after Sandy that caused widespread gas shortages. [Hudson Patch](#)

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) [is calling](#) for Sandy aid to pay for a double dune flood-protection system for Breezy Point, Queens, similar to dunes being planned for the rest of the Rockaway Peninsula.

The Monmouth County, New Jersey Long-Term Recovery Group coordinated a collaboration of non-profits, government agencies, volunteers and businesses to provide services to families and individuals struggling after Sandy. [VOAD Vision](#)

round-up? Please forward to a friend.

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## Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

FEMA's 2004 digitized flood maps for New York City used outdated data and were poor predictors of flood-prone areas. Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk Counties' maps, which were based on more recent data, were more successful in predicting flooding. [ProPublica](#)

ALSO: FEMA's preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) can be found [here](#) and FEMA released a guide to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the maps.

The largest solar installation system in New York City was completed on top of Jetro Cash & Carry in the Bronx and is expected to provide resiliency against outages of ConEd's grid. [PV Magazine](#)

ALSO: PSE&G will be investing \$1.2 billion to upgrade its electricity infrastructure in preparation for increased usage. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Plans for redevelopment of Pier 42 on Manhattan's East Side will be presented for a vote at the Community Board 3 meeting next week. [The Villager](#)

The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, a business group designing a waterfront park from Bay Ridge to Greenpoint, is exploring options for a sea wall to protect parts of Sunset Park from storm surge. [The Brooklyn Paper](#).

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection will implement new stormwater management initiatives in parts of Southeast Queens to help the area deal with chronic flooding during storms. [Press Release](#)

Mayor-elect de Blasio appointed Anthony Shorris as first deputy mayor. Shorris is credited with the quick recovery of the NYU Langone Medical Center from flooding after Sandy. The hospital was fully functional after nine weeks. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Monday was the last day for comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rockaway Pipeline Project in Queens. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which is leading the project noted that parts of the pipeline may be vulnerable to flooding and high winds but expects to address potential problems in the design. [Gotham Gazette](#)

New Jersey groups seek infrastructure projects such as wetland restoration, deepening lakes, and establishing maritime forests to protect the shoreline in New Jersey. [The Record](#)

Based on feedback from residents, New Jersey Spotlight ranks the 10 New Jersey communities most overlooked in the recovery. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Designing for Disasters: Flood Resilient Design is a collaboration of architecture students from Oxford Brooks University and New York

Institute of Technology that designed flood resilient structures for the Brooklyn Navy Yard. [Asian Correspondent](#)

An art exhibit, "Come Together: Surviving Sandy" currently on display in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, was conceived as a way to honor artists whose works were destroyed by Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

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## Housing

Rebuilding after Sandy may provide an opportunity for Mayor-elect de Blasio to address issues of inequality in the New York City by soliciting greater input on community projects from community and advocacy groups. [City & State](#)

More than 30,000 residents of New York and New Jersey remain displaced, waiting for financial assistance from government and insurance to rebuild or resettle. Less than half of the people who applied for FEMA aid received any, says The New York Times. [The New York Times](#)

Sandy exacerbated the foreclosure crisis in parts of Long Island, which now has a 10% rate of seriously delinquent mortgages and where looting has also become a problem. [Bloomberg](#)

A profile of a couple whose flood insurance increased 900%, as an example of how increased flood insurance rates will affect homeowners all around the country. [Tampa Bay Times](#)

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## Jobs

A documentary tells the story of how a group of New York City firefighters formed a construction company to rebuild homes in Rockaway and Breezy Point, Queens. [Equipment World](#)

## Events

List your upcoming event here! Email [elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org)

### Upcoming application deadlines

The [Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program](#) funded by federal disaster relief appropriation will award \$100 million in grants to projects throughout the region affected by Sandy for wetland restoration and shoreline resilience.

### Regional

Tuesday, January 28, 2:30 - 4:00 pm: [Webinar: Disaster Preparedness and Economic Recovery](#) series from Restore Your Economy

### Brooklyn

Monday, December 16, 6:00 pm: [Red Hook New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). PS 15, 71 Sullivan Street.

Monday, December 16, 6:00 pm: [Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Manhattan Beach and Sea Gate New York Rising Planning Committee Meeting](#). New York Aquarium, Education Hall 602 Surf Ave at West 8th Street.

Wednesday, December 18 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: [Condo Owners Rights in Post-Sandy Reality](#), presented by Bridge Street Development Corporation in partnership with Brooklyn Jubilee. 9727 Seaview Ave., at 98th Street near Rockaway Pkwy.

### **Manhattan**

**TONIGHT:** Thursday, December 12, 8:30 am: [Lower Manhattan New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). Community Board 3 Office, 59 East 4th Street.

Friday, December 13, 9:00 am - to 5:00 pm: [Business Continuity Planning for Affordable Housing Organizations](#). Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., 1 Whitehall Street, 11th Floor.

### **Queens**

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 pm: [Howard Beach New York Rising Planning Committee Meeting](#) NYFAC Building 164-14 Crossbay Blvd.

### **Staten Island**

**TONIGHT:** Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm: [Staten Island New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). New Dorp High School, 465 New Dorp Lane

## **Advocacy Reports**

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.

[A Tale of Two Recoveries](#). A report by Street Easy reviews how quickly the real estate market recovered after Hurricane Sandy, and by how much by analyzing sales and rentals by boroughs and neighborhoods.

The New York Building Congress released its [annual forecast](#) and anticipates an increase in construction spending for 2013-2015, in part due to post-Sandy infrastructure projects.

After Sandy: [Advancing Strategies for Long-Term Resilience and Adaptability](#). A report from the Urban Land Institute offers 23 recommendations on land use, infrastructure, finance, and governance for local and federal post-Sandy community rebuilding plans.

The Urban Green Council maintains a [proposal tracker](#) to follow the status of the Building Resiliency Task Force report proposals geared at making New York buildings safer and more resilient to extreme weather.

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

[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](#) urban green council maintains a proposal tracker to follow the status of the Building Resiliency Task Force report proposals geared at making New York buildings safer and more resilient to extreme weather.

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

**NEW:** FEMA has released its preliminary [Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMs\)](#); see also FEMA's guide of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the new maps.

[Office of Inspector General Audit Report: Initial Assessment of FTA's Oversight of Emergency Relief Program and Hurricane Sandy Relief Funds](#)

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.

[NYC Service Initiatives Hurricane Sandy Recovery](#); links to ongoing volunteer opportunities for Sandy relief and recovery work.

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.

Presentations are available from the "Sandy: One Year Later" conference hosted by NJ Future.

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.

Rand Corporation report, Flood Insurance in New York City Following Hurricane Sandy

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

National Emergency Grant Awards categorized by year.

NYC Service, a citywide service opportunity portal, with links to various ongoing recovery and response projects.

New York City's Action Plan A for use of \$1.7 billion in Community Development Block Grants, including four amendments to the plan can be found at the NYC Recovery: Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery website. Also, read Good Jobs New York's comments on the recent amendment to the action plan and more on our page for Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds

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 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.

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**

Good Jobs New York  
11 Park Place, #701  
New York, New York 10007  
212-721-7996  
[www.goodjobsny.org](http://www.goodjobsny.org)

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