

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: February 13 - 20

Data! Data! Read all about it!

Today, Good Jobs New York launched our 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. The database will be a useful a tool for many New Yorkers including those working at community-based organizations, elected officials, journalists and anyone advocating for a fair and equitable rebuilding.

[Learn more about GJNY's Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money Database](#)

We will continue to update the database and work with our community partners to advocate for increased transparency in the allocation of rebuilding funds. In the meantime, we look forward to hearing from you about your experience using the database and what we can do to make it better.

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Transparency Tip

Interested in searching for RFPs and other bid solicitations? Check out [BidsUSA.net](#) from Unicom Systems, Inc.

Action Items

New York City and New York State have opened public comment periods and scheduled public hearings for proposed amendments to Action Plans for Sandy CDBG-DR funds.

New York City Proposed Action Plan Amendment:

Deadline to submit comments: Sunday, March 2

Website: To read the proposed amendments, submit comments online, or find details about the public hearings, check the [NYC Recovery website](#).

Public hearings:

Monday, February 24 at 7 pm
Sheepshead Bay High School
3000 Avenue X, Brooklyn

Tuesday, February 25 at 7 pm
Knights of Columbus
333 Beach 90th Street, Queens

Thursday, February 27 at 7 pm

Have you checked out 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.](#)

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

New Dorp High School
465 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island

For information on previous amendments and the city's Action Plan visit the [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#) section of our website.

**New York State Proposed Action Plan Amendment:
Deadline to submit comments:** Wednesday, March 19

Website: Details on the action plan can be found on the [New York Rising](#) website.

Public hearing in New York City:
Tuesday, March 4 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
New York Law School Auditorium
185 West Broadway
New York, NY 10013

(a complete listing of all six public hearings in other counties is on the [New York Rising](#) website and in the events section, below)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Katheryn Mallon stepped down as head of New York City's Build it Back on Wednesday. The de Blasio Administration has not announced a replacement. [DNAinfo](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Capital New York reports that Michael DeLoach is now temporarily heading the program, though his title and exact role have not been revealed. [Capital New York](#)

ALSO: Many residents have criticized Build it Back, the city's housing rebuilding program, for the slow pace of disbursing rebuilding funds. [Queens Chronicle](#)

Gov. Cuomo outlined emergency preparedness proposals in his executive budget that would expand the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program to include 22 more communities. Other budget highlights relating to Sandy include funds for developing a public safety communication network, and a new \$40 million competition to design and build a system of 10 microgrids throughout the state. [NY MuniBlog](#)

ALSO: The first in a two-part series on microgrids explains what they are, and why they are crucial to sustainable and resilient cities going forward. [Solar Feeds Network](#)

New York State lawmakers question Gov. Cuomo's budget proposal to use \$15 million for the creation of a college for emergency preparedness. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

A third of New Jersey's federal housing aid went to projects in counties that were not severely damaged by Sandy. [The Star-Ledger](#) and [The Washington Times](#)

ALSO: More questions face the Christie Administration, this time over \$4.8 million in relief funds that went to an apartment complex in New Brunswick, a town relatively undamaged by Sandy. [NBC New York](#)

Ocean Township, New Jersey is slated to receive a \$1.5 million FEMA grant to help pay for debris removal after the storm. [NJ.com](#)

The 2013-14 New York Times Neediest Cases appeal raised \$1.6 million for Hurricane Sandy victims. [The New York Times](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The Christie Administration terminated a second Sandy rebuilding contract with URS Corporation, which was contracted to run the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation housing program. [WNYC](#)

Sandy rebuilding took center stage at a recent public meeting of Gov. Christie's where he expressed frustration with the slow allocation of rebuilding funds from Washington. [CBS News](#)

ALSO: Ortley Beach, NJ residents point to lingering storm debris and damaged roads and infrastructure for feeling neglected from the recovery efforts in other parts of the state. [The Star-Ledger](#)

A [report by Ceres](#), a non-profit group, reveals how many companies' self-disclosure on climate change risk often does not match the amount of rebuilding or restoration costs they claim from the government. The SEC has issued guidelines on climate risk reporting, but does not enforce them. [Huffington Post](#)

Even though New York City libraries saw no budget cuts last year, libraries in Sandy-impacted areas remain closed, despite being a valuable public resource. [New York Daily News](#) and [Salon](#)

A profile of John McAvoy, the new chief executive of ConEd, reveals he will have a challenge managing the utility without rate increases, and questions how he will manage the contract with the Utility Workers Union of America. [The New York Times](#)

U.S. Senator Schumer (D-NY) is calling for \$36 million in FEMA funding for breakwaters, underwater stone walls built offshore, to act as a natural barrier off of the South Shore of Staten Island. [Staten Island Advance](#)

An interview with MIT professor JoAnn Carmin discusses her research on strategies global cities have used for climate change adaptation and resiliency. [MIT News](#)

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (which is overseeing a competition for Sandy recovery called [RISE:NYC](#)) hosts a [blog post](#) on the changing definition of "Resiliency"

and reiterates how NYCEDC plans to invest in strategies to address the effects of climate change.

This [blog](#) from The Atlantic Cities criticizes wealthy developers of ocean-side properties who are lobbying to lower FEMA's flood insurance program, that would make the program inequitable.

Housing

The Township of Toms River, NJ began demolishing homes deemed abandoned. [Toms River Patch](#)

Stray cats in the Oakwood Beach section of Staten Island will no longer be cared for as more residents accept buy-outs and homes are demolished. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Jobs

Sixteen employees of Long Island, New York based Looks Great Services, will received \$137,000 in back wages after a New York Department of Labor investigation found instances of wage theft. [Newsday](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

February 24: Applications due for the [Youth Preparedness Council](#).

Grants for FY2014 Economic Development Assistance Programs through the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce [were announced](#). [Deadlines are posted for each program.]

February 28: Application deadline for [RISE: NYC competition](#).

February 28: Deadline for foundations to submit [reports on philanthropic response to Hurricane Sandy](#) to the Foundation Center.

March 2: Comments are due for New York City's [proposed amendment 5](#) to its Action Plan for federal Sandy CDBG-DR funds. Background information on the New York City's Action Plan is available on [our website](#). Also, the Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [a guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

March 19: Comments are due for New York State's [proposed amendment 6](#) to its Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds.

March 31: Final Community Reconstruction plans for the State's New York Rising community Reconstruction Program. [Online interactive maps for six New York City communities](#) are available for public feedback.

Regional Events

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

Saturday, February 22, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm: [Workshop: Using Design Thinking for Digital Storytelling in the Post-Sandy Era](#). CUNY Graduate School of Journalism 219 West 40th Street,

New York, NY. Price: \$10.00/per person.

Wednesday, February 26, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm: New York Citizen's Corp 2014 Special Needs Symposium: Leveraging Community Partnerships in Emergency Planning and Response. NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012. Light breakfast served.

Wednesday, February 26, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm: After Sandy: Recovery and Resiliency at NYC's Hospitals. The Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, New York, NY 10012

Thursday February 27, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Rebuild and Repair in New York City: Sandy Recovery Symposium II. A symposium for recovery staff and advocates on best practices of disaster recovery. Will provide updates from city and government programs as well as practical application of those programs. The Salvation Army Centennial Memorial Temple, 120 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011

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

Thursday, February 27, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, SUFFOLK COUNTY, Clerk of Suffolk County Legislature, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Monday, March 3, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, BROOME COUNTY, Binghamton Jewish Community Center, Auditorium, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, NEW YORK CITY, New York Law School, Auditorium, 185 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, ALBANY COUNTY, Empire State Plaza, Convention Center, Meeting Room 2 & 3, Albany, NY 12242

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, NASSAU COUNTY, Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building, Legislative Chamber, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501

Thursday, March 6, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Public Hearing for New York State Action Plan Amendment for CDBG-DR Funds, WESTCHESTER/ROCKLAND COUNTY, Palisades Center Mall, The Adler Room, 1000 Palisades Drive, West Nyack, NY 10994

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

Bronx

Through March 1, Wednesdays - Fridays, 3:00 - 6:30 pm; Saturdays, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm: "Brural: Shattering Phenomena," works by Russian and New York artists in response to Hurricane Sandy and the Chelyabinsk meteorite. Bronx River Art Center, 305 East 140th Street.

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.

Manhattan

Friday, February 21, 9:30 am - 10:30 am: [Enterprise Resilience Speaker Series - Interested in Protecting your Electrical Switchgear From the Next Superstorm?](#) 1 Whitehall St, 11th Floor.

Queens

TONIGHT Thursday, February 20, 3:00 - 7:00 pm: [Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder Welcomes PSE&G to Rockaway](#) for a Community Information Meeting with PSE&G. Knights of Columbus, 333 Beach 90th St, Rockaway Beach.

Wednesday, March 5, 3:00-5:00: [Rockaway Boardwalk Project Informational Session #2](#). Learn about the boardwalk's development and associated job opportunities. Far Rockaway Library, 1637 Central Avenue

Wednesday, March 26, 7:00-9:00: [Rockaway Boardwalk Project Informational Session #3](#). Learn about the boardwalk's development and associated job opportunities. PS 43 160 Beach 29th Street

New Jersey

TONIGHT Thursday, February 20, 7:00 pm: League of Women Voters of New Jersey screening of "Storming for the Vote: Hurricane Sandy and the Election," a 20-minute documentary chronicling the efforts to ensure that citizens displaced or disrupted by Superstorm Sandy were able to exercise their right to vote. For information call 201-947-0756. Leonia Public Library, 227 Fort Lee Road.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: 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: 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.

Contact us

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