

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 20 - 27

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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

Interested in searching for RFPs and other bid solicitations? Check

### 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:**

**TONIGHT:** Thursday, February 27 at 7 pm

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 upcoming hearings in other counties is on the [New York Rising](#) website and in the events section, below)*

### This Week's News

#### **Disaster Relief**

A [report](#) by the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding shows that of the nearly 20,000 applicants to the city's Build it Back program, not a single homeowner has had reconstruction work begin. [New York Daily News](#)

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ALSO: City officials say they have been meeting with more applicants over the past month, and that priority will go to homeowners with significant damage and lower than median income. [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: New York State appears to be distributing rebuilding funds more efficiently than New York City: \$276 million has gone to over 6,000 homeowners from New York State's allocation, while city homeowners have received nothing. [NY1](#)

Groups organized by the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding rallied at City Hall and called on Mayor de Blasio to speed up the pace of recovery efforts. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: Many leaders spoke of wanting to work with the de Blasio Administration to speed the recovery. [Capital](#)

ALSO: New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio promised Sandy victims a "blueprint" on recovery efforts. However, he did not disclose plans to improve the Build it Back program. [Capital](#)

New Jersey Future compares the Action Plan Amendments from New York State and New Jersey and finds that New York State has allocated more federal resources to community planning and implementation of resiliency projects. [New Jersey Future blog](#)

In the wake of the Bridgegate scandal, Gov. Chris Christie is facing tougher criticism of post-Sandy rebuilding. [National Public Radio](#)

At a recent town hall meeting, Gov. Chris Christie blamed the President, Congress, and FEMA for the delays in Sandy aid, and did not discuss any of the ongoing investigations about Sandy aid abuses. [The Nation](#)

After NYU Langone Medical Center board chairman Kenneth Langone helped lobby for more than \$180 million in federal disaster relief, hospital leaders are soliciting contributions from NYU Medical faculty for elected officials who backed the Disaster Relief Act and raising concern from campaign finance experts. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Damage to city hospitals from Hurricane Sandy along with rising pension costs and uncompensated procedures, is blamed for the looming \$1.4 billion budget gap by 2018. [Capital](#)

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) released [a statement](#) expressing dismay that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will allocate only \$3 million of a \$75 million allocation to assist fisheries in New Jersey and New York that were impacted by the storm.

Of the businesses impacted by Sandy in New York City, 95 percent employed less than 50 people. The RISE : NYC program is designed to help finance small businesses to harden their

infrastructure and develop resilient energy sources and proven business models. [Breaking Energy](#)

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### **Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency**

New research found that very large offshore wind turbines can reduce windspeeds and therefore lessen the amount of storm surge that could inundate vulnerable coastal areas. [Mashable](#)

A new book by journalist McKenzie Funk investigates which banks, oil companies, and entrepreneurs are exploiting climate change for financial opportunities. [The Star](#)

In appointing Emily Lloyd as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio reiterated the agency's prominent role in the long-term task of making the city more storm resilient. [Staten Island Advance](#) and [Crain's New York Business](#)

ConEd reached an agreement with the New York State Public Service Commission requiring all utilities to consider climate change impacts in its plans. [State of the Planet](#)

Proposed design elements Lower Manhattan's Seaport City and "the Big U" - to provide a storm barrier for the area - are creating environmental controversies reminiscent of the Westway plan. [The Observer](#)

The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust closed on an emergency bridge loan for \$2.95 million to relocate a Sandy-damaged sewage pumping station. The state has estimated it has over \$2.6 billion in water infrastructure-related unmet needs. [Water World](#)

A team of New York architects are finalists in a national competition for their design to storm-proof Manhattan by using trash-filled storage containers as a barrier island. [Hudson Reporter](#)

Salvaged wood from the old Rockaway Beach boardwalk in Queens is being used in a section of the new walkway currently under construction by the Parks Department. [Inhabitat](#)

Over 60 million people visited New York State's parks and historical sites in 2013, the second highest attendance rate in history, despite some parks being temporarily closed due to damage from Sandy. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Although the Ft. Hamilton Army Garrison in Brooklyn, the only active military post in the five boroughs, was instrumental for staging regional recovery operations after Sandy, it may close due to military budget cuts. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

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### **Housing**

The New York City Council held a hearing Thursday at NYCHA's Carey Gardens complex in Coney Island to discuss the plight of residents who continue to depend on temporary boilers since the buildings were flooded during Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

One NYCHA residents' association speaks out against any plan for a land-lease agreement of NYCHA properties for market rate development given the state of vulnerability of Smith Houses on the Lower East Side to violent storms. [The Villager](#)

In the final public hearing for New Jersey's proposed amendments to its CDBG Action Plan, many residents expressed anger and frustration at the Christie Administration's handling of Sandy recovery and the slow pace of distributing aid. [Insurance Journal](#)

The new documentary *Shored Up* looks at the risks and costs of building and rebuilding along coastal areas, in light of rising sea levels and climate change. [New Jersey Future blog](#)

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## Events

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

### Upcoming deadlines

**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 14: Deadline extended:** [RISE: NYC competition](#) deadline for Stage 1 technology applications is extended to March 14.

**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 plans are due 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](#).

**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, March 14:** NJ Future Redevelopment Forum, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. Session descriptions and registration online.

**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

**Friday, February 28**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Panel/Discussion Event- Surviving Sandy. Bronx River Art Center, 305 East 140th Street (near Alexander Avenue).

**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.

**Saturday, March 1**, 11:00 am: Free emergency preparedness training in Brooklyn. To register, contact 212-875-2189 or email: outreach.gny@redcross.org and specify language.

**Tuesday, March 4**, 7:00 pm. New York Rising: Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Manhattan Beach and Sea Gate Planning Committee Meeting, NY Aquarium, Education Hall, 602 Surf Ave (Surf Ave and West 8th St), Brooklyn, NY 11224

## Manhattan

**Sunday, March 2**, 1:00 pm. New York Rising: Lower Manhattan public engagement meeting (open house) , Confucius Plaza, Community Room, 33 Bowery Street, New York, NY 10002

## Queens

**Friday February 28**, 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Saturday, March 1, 2:00 - 8:00 pm, and Sunday March 2, 2:00 - 8:00 pm: New York Rising: Rockaway West Public Engagement Meeting - open house. Rockaway Beach Surf Club 302 Beach 87th Street, Rockaway Beach, NY 11693

**Monday, March 3**, 3:00 pm: New York Rising: Howard Beach Public Engagement Meeting, Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd, Howard Beach , NY 11414

**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

## **Staten Island**

**Wednesday, March 5**, 7:00 pm: [New York Rising: Staten Island Planning Committee Meeting](#). JCC of Staten Island, 1466 Manor Rd, Staten Island, NY 10314

## **Advocacy Reports**

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

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**

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