

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 27 - March 6

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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

Interested in searching for RFPs and other bid solicitations? Check

Action Item

New York State currently has an open public comment period and has scheduled public hearings for proposed amendments to its Action Plan for Sandy CDBG-DR funds.

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. (Also, 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

NJ Spotlight investigated Hazard Mitigation Grant Program data and revealed that Hoboken was granted far less than other New Jersey towns, even according to the Christie Administration's own ranking system. [NJ Spotlight](#)

ALSO: Analysis of the program also reveals that Hoboken should have received funding for seven back-up generators rather than just one. [WNYC](#)

FEMA is allocating \$22 million to New York City for debris removal and storm protection measures, in addition to the \$2.4 billion already awarded in New York State. [NY1](#)

New York City Mayor de Blasio acknowledged the slow pace of recovery and that it would take years to address all the issues and rebuilding needs. [The Associated Press via Times-Herald Record](#)

In comments on the the New York State Action Plan for the next \$2.1 billion in CDBG funds, the National Resources Defense Council says the plan does not go far enough to provide unified accounting of how funds will be spent towards resiliency and climate adaptation, and urges greater transparency on how funds will be used for economic development. [Switchboard](#)

A breakdown of federal funds shows how they have been appropriated in New Jersey. [NJ Spotlight](#)

The Sandy mediation program through the New York State

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Department of Financial Services has been extended to May 15. The program requires mediation for insurance policy claims filed between October 26 and November 15, 2012. [Insurance & Reinsurance Report](#)

A contributor to [NYU Local](#) argues that it was ethically murky but not illegal for NYU Langone Medical Center board chairman Kenneth Langone and other hospital leaders to solicit contributions from NYU Medical faculty for elected officials who backed the Disaster Relief Act.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

This month nearly three million cubic yards of sand will be spread on beaches in the Rockaways, Queens. [The New York Times](#)

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs [announced](#) that in 2013 over 3,750 complaints were received on home improvement contractors, largely due to the increase in Sandy rebuilding. Over \$5.8 million was paid in restitution.

A data storage company specializing in big data is opening a facility in New Jersey rather than expanding in New York City, citing concerns over lack of resiliency plans. Many similar facilities were forced offline during Sandy. [NJ Biz](#)

Infrastructure experts throughout the region continue to grapple with how to fortify sewage systems against storm surge in order to prevent sewage spills like those that resulted from Sandy. [Water Online](#)

In response to New York State's "after-action" report which strongly criticized a private firm that managed the state's emergency tracking system, the firm reported that it was the State's computer network that could not handle the volume of incidents reported during Sandy. [Times-Union](#)

Confidential emails disclose how Gov. Cuomo's aides have been directing agencies to turn out staff and family members to "crowd-build" turnout at the Citizen Preparedness Corps, a Cuomo-initiative to disaster response. [The New York Post](#)

Despite Sandy's damage in South Brooklyn, developers are again showing interest in building in the area. [Commercial Observer](#)

Housing

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. If passed in the Senate, it will roll back flood insurance rate hikes imposed by the Briggert-Waters Act of 2012 which eliminated subsidies that made flood insurance more affordable for people living in coastal areas and flood zones. [Queens Chronicle](#)

A New York City Council hearing at a NYCHA complex in Coney

Island drew residents who testified on housing conditions since Sandy left them relying on temporary boilers. [NY1](#)

ALSO: NYCHA revealed it spends \$3 million a month on temporary - and unreliable - boilers at housing developments inundated by Sandy, which won't be replaced with permanent fixtures until 2016. [New York Daily News](#)

New Jersey housing advocacy group Fair Share Housing Center criticized the Christie Administration for missing its deadline to establish new affordable housing rules, particularly needed as residents seek to rebuild after Sandy. [Globe Street](#)

U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) announced their support of Gov. Christie's request to President Obama to extend the temporary housing aid program in the state for six months. [The Star-Ledger](#)

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard Constable defended the administration's allocation of \$10 million in CDBG funds to the Belleville senior housing complex despite the area being relatively undamaged by Sandy and pledged seniors "impacted by the storm" would receive priority applications. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

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

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](#).

TONIGHT Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: 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.

Thursday, March 13, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm: [Building Sustainable Disaster Networks Resource and Support Exchange](#). American Red Cross 520 W 49th Street New York, NY 10019.

Friday, March 14: [NJ Future Redevelopment Forum](#), at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. Session descriptions and registration online.

Wednesday March 26, 9:30 am - 11:30 am: Enterprise's Resilience Speakers Series | Operations and Maintenance for Disaster Preparedness. Enterprise Community Partners. One Whitehall

Street 11 Floor New York, NY 10004 [Info and webex access.](#)

Friday March 28, 7:30 am - 11:00 am: Fix & fortify Sandy Recovery Work Contract Opportunities at the MTA. Club 101 101 Park Avenue, New York.

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.

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.

Queens

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

Advocacy Reports

NEW: Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: [Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy](#)

NEW: Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City](#)

NEW: 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

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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