

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 6 - 13

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NEW TRANSPARENCY TIP

New York City is now posting [its quarterly performance reports to HUD](#) that explain how CDBG-DR funds are being obligated and outlayed for disaster recovery uses in the five boroughs.

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](#)

Action Items

The Christie Administration [announced](#) its proposed substantial amendment to New Jersey's Action Plan for use of CDBG funds, which can be found on the State of New Jersey [Department of Community Affairs website](#). The 30-day comment period for the proposed amendment closes **Wednesday, March 5**.

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

In his [State of the City address](#), New York City Mayor de Blasio reiterated his commitment to a comprehensive review of rebuilding plans and promised an equitable recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

ALSO: Staten Island residents agreed with Mayor de Blasio's promise to focus resources on rebuilding after Sandy, but local officials want more details of the mayor's plan to address unmet needs. [Staten Island Advance](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)

A draft report by the University at Albany criticizes the response to Sandy by the state Office of Disaster Planning. [Times-Union](#)

ALSO: The unpublished study was obtained by the Times-Union and is [posted](#) on its Capitol Confidential site.

ALSO: In response to the report, Gov. Cuomo defended the state's handling of emergency operations during Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

A new \$3.5 million loan program through the New York City Department of Small Business Services will provide bridge financing to small local contractors participating in the Build it Back program. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: Goldman Sachs will contribute \$2.8 million to the new loan program, and the Surdna Foundation will contribute \$700,000. [The Real Deal](#)

Gov. Cuomo launched [Business Mentor NY](#), a new program focused on small business owners who suffered damage or loss during Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Long Island residents question whether widespread overpayment of

materials. Check it out, tell us what you think, and keep an eye out for more expansions.

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FEMA claims after Hurricane Katrina is responsible for the apparent undervaluing of claims of Hurricane Sandy victims. [ABC Local 7](#)

The Christie Administration has closed the appeals process for storm victims who were denied rebuilding grants, despite growing concern that faulty data was used to determine eligibility. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: The Star-Ledger editorial board urges New Jersey officials to conduct a review of the state's housing recovery programs that rejected thousands of Sandy victims. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: Residents turned out to the first of three public hearings on New Jersey's second tranche of \$1.46 billion in CDBG funds. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: New Jersey Future provided [testimony](#) on the state's proposed Action Plan, addressing concerns on whether the plan addresses infrastructure needs, provides support for municipalities, and ensures transparency.

A review of federally funded reports of Medicare records before and after Hurricane Sandy may provide an understanding of the storm's impact on the behavioral health of senior citizens. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Legal experts consider the possibility of racketeering and conspiracy charges in the accusations that the Christie Administration threatened to withhold Sandy aid from Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Unusual street layouts complicate the rebuilding and flood-proofing process for a bungalow community in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. [WNYC](#)

New York City officials are submitting plans to use storm resiliency measures at the Bronx's Hunts Point Produce Market as part of the HUD-initiative Rebuild by Design. [New York Daily News](#)

A new [report](#) by The Economist and commissioned by Citigroup suggests that global cities that invest in environmental protections like clean air and water and storm resiliency will be more successful in attracting business investors. [Switchboard, the NRDC blog](#)

The Rockefeller Foundation highlights the Rebuild by Design regional analysis on issues facing communities affected by Sandy. [Rockefeller Foundation blog](#)

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) is pushing for funding for \$17 million for [five renewal projects](#) in and around Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens.

New York City Audubon released [draft recommendations](#) for the

restoration of a fresh water pond that was inundated with salt water after Hurricane Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

Scientists are studying bubbles to better understand and predict storm patterns. [Mashable](#)

Housing

The landlord of Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village agreed to a one-month rent reduction as compensation for renters at the complex who went without basic services in the aftermath of Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Congressman Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island) has sided with Republican colleagues against a bill he introduced to delay an increase in flood insurance rates. [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

February 14: Applications due for ConeyRecovery [grant application](#) for mental health organizations.

February 15: Applications due for grants for civil infrastructure resilience research through The National Science Foundation [Hazard Mitigation and Structural Engineering program](#).

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

Deadline extended: New York City has extended the comment period for [proposed amendment 5](#) to its Action Plan for federal Sandy CDBG-DR funds. The comment period will remain open until the public hearings for regarding the amendment are held. 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.

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

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.

Manhattan

RESCHEDULED to February 27 (originally scheduled for Thursday, February 13) 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,

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

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

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

[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

A new 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