

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: January 16-23

### In This Issue

[This week's news](#)  
[Regional Events](#)  
[Advocacy Reports](#)  
[Federal, State & Local Resources](#)

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.

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### Action Items

**LAST CHANCE:** This **Saturday, January 25th** is the deadline to submit comments for New York City's [proposed amendment 5](#) to its Action Plan for federal Sandy CDBG-DR funds.

Background information on the city's action plan is available on [our website](#). Also, the Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [this guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

New York State officials will release another \$100 million in disaster recovery funds for Long Island residents and will extend federal mortgage and rental assistance programs. [Newsweek](#)

Hoboken, NJ Mayor Dawn Zimmer alleges two top Christie Administration officials told her that Sandy relief aid was contingent on her support of a proposed development project. [WNYC](#) and [The Star-Ledger](#) and [The Washington Post](#)

ALSO: New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno denied allegations that she told Hoboken Mayor Zimmer to expedite the Rockefeller Group's plan to redevelop a site near the Lincoln Tunnel with 'significant tax abatements' in exchange for Sandy aid. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: New Jersey State Assemblymember John Wisniewski plans to widen his committee's investigation of the Christie Administration "Bridgegate" scandal to include allegations of withholding Sandy aid in order to obtain clearance for pet projects. [TIME](#)

ALSO: A list of the various investigations of the Christie Administration's allocation of Sandy aid. [The Washington Post](#)

After being criticized for ineffectively managing New Jersey's largest Sandy related contract worth \$68 million, the firm Hammerman Gainer, was removed from its job of resettling displaced residents. The firm also made \$1.7 million worth of campaign contributions to Gov. Christie's re-election campaign. [WNYC](#)

Hoboken's share of awards through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other disaster relief funds may be typical of awards to other municipalities. [Business Insider](#)

The office of HUD's Inspector General explained that its audit of \$25 million in relief aid for tourism marketing in New Jersey is routine, not an investigation. [Politico](#)

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### **Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency**

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito announced a new Recovery and Resiliency Committee, chaired by Council Member Mark Treger (D-Coney Island), which will begin by investigating why many storm-damaged NYCHA buildings still rely on temporary boilers for heat and hot water. [New York Daily News](#)

Rockaway Ferry service in Queens will be extended through May. The New York City Economic Development Corporation is expected to issue an RFP to determine whether to extend the service. [Queens Courier](#)

The New York State Public Service Commission is reviewing ConEd's plan to upgrade its facilities. The plan was developed by ConEd in consultation with city officials, consumer and environmental groups in advising the utility how it should prepare for climate change. [The New York World](#)

ALSO: Governor Cuomo outlined the use of \$1.4 billion in federal funds to protect the state's electrical grid from future storms. [The Associated Press via Brooklyn News 12](#)

Thirty-two community and faith organizations gathered at the Interfaith Pastoral Leader & Clergy Resource Fair to share resources on providing much needed social services to Staten Island in the wake of Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Senator Schumer (D-NY) [announced](#) he will push for \$2.7 million from FEMA to stormproof the Staten Island ferry terminals in St. George and Lower Manhattan. The five-day service disruption after Sandy was the longest in the ferry's history.

ALSO: This [Staten Island Advance editorial](#) asks the city's Department of Transportation why the four escalators servicing the Staten Island Ferry's Whitehall terminal in Lower Manhattan have not been repaired.

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) \$730 million in combined FEMA and CDBG funds will go for repairs of the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant in Nassau County for repair and resiliency.

Senator Schumer (D-NY) [announced](#) \$886 million from the Federal Transit Administration for reimbursement to the MTA for repairs to subway tunnels that were inundated with flood water during Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

A design idea for storm-proofing Manhattan involves a narrow canal surrounding the island with trash-filled shipping containers. [Metro](#)

A survey found that for the first time since Sandy, the majority of top commercial real estate executives speculate the commercial property in Lower Manhattan will become more expensive this year. [MarketWatch](#)

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## Housing

An interview with Adam Gordon, an attorney with New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center, about data FSHC obtained revealing that minority applicants were disproportionately rejected for relief aid in his state. [Salon](#)

HOPE Worldwide Sandy Recovery project held a MLK-day kick-off event by organizing volunteers to repair 175 homes of Staten Islanders who were left out of the Build it Back repair program. [Staten Island Advance](#)

A recent tour of Bright n' Green, a newly built 'Living Building' reveals aspects of the development that are sustainable post-Sandy. [Sustainable Cities](#)

## Jobs

Mold continues to fester in Sandy-flooded homes despite New York City's \$15 million mold removal program. This opinion piece suggests more locally trained union workers are needed for a proper mold remediation program. [Next City](#)

The Urban Land Institute is working with the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability in New York City to identify retail development opportunities in Far Rockaway, Queens. A study will identify underutilized public and private sites for possible future redevelopment. [Real Estate Weekly](#)

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## Events

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

### Upcoming deadlines

**January 25** Deadline to submit comments to the New York City Amendment to its Action Plan for Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Relief. Background information on the city's action plan is available on [our website](#). Also, the Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [this guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

**January 31** [Request for Proposal](#) deadline for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program. The program will provide \$100 million in funding through the U.S. Department of Interior for projects to restore, enhance or create ecological systems that benefit fish and wildlife species and protect them against threats from flooding and severe weather.

**January 31** Application deadline for The Avenue NYC Grant Program. Grants are available for non-profit economic development corporations in low- to moderate-income communities across the five boroughs to implement commercial revitalization activities.

**January 31** Public comments due for the draft permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for continued streamlined permitting for bulkhead repairs for Long Island residents.

**February 1** Capacity Fund Grant deadline for the City Parks Foundation.

**February 3** New York Disaster Interfaith Services is accepting proposals for its Volunteer Group Housing Capital Grants. This program will fund reconstruction or equipment purchases, up to \$10,000, for nonprofit organizations who wish to house SuperStorm Sandy rebuild volunteers. Contact [volunteerhousing@nydis.org](mailto:volunteerhousing@nydis.org) for further details.

**February 13** Applications due for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

**February 15** Applications due for grants for civil infrastructure resilience research through The National Science Foundation Hazard Mitigation and Structural Engineering program.

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

**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.

## **Regional Events**

Ongoing, citywide: New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics.

**Tuesday, January 28**, 2:30 - 4:00 pm: Webinar: Disaster Preparedness and Economic Recovery series from Restore Your Economy.

**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.

## **Bronx**

**Tuesday, January 28**, 6:30 pm: A dinner discussion and workshop on preparing Hunts Point for the next Hurricane Sandy. The Point CDC, 940 Garrison Ave.

## **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.

**Friday, January 24**, 6:30 pm: New York Rising Gerritsen Beach/Sheepshead Bay Planning Committee Meeting. Amity School, 3867 Shore Pkwy.

## **Manhattan**

**Wednesday, January 29**, 9:00 - 10:30 am: Preserving Housing Credit Properties. Enterprise Community Partners, 1 Whitehall St, 11th floor, RM B4.

**Friday, January 31**, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and **Saturday, February 1**, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm: [Workshop Series on Community Organizing](#). New York Foundation, 10 E. 34th Street, 10th Floor.

## Queens

**TONIGHT Thursday, January 23**, 6:00 pm The office of New York City Councilman Donovan Richards hosts a meeting for all residents who are impacted by flooding on Pinson Street. The Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Design and Construction, and State Senator James Jr. answer questions. Information at: 718-471-7014. Far Rockaway office, 1526 Central Ave.

**Monday, January 27**, 3:30 - 5:00 pm: Rebuild By Design community meeting in the Rockaways at Rockaway Youth Task Force offices: 19-20 Mott Avenue and Central Avenue.

**Monday, January 27**, 7:00 pm: [New York Rising Howard Beach Planning Committee Meeting](#). NYFAC Building, 164-14 Crossbay Blvd.

**Wednesday, January 29**, 2:00 - 4:00 pm: Innovations in Wetland Design and Restoration workshop and webinar. For more information or to RSVP, contact: Bill Ypsilantis at FEMA: [William.Ypsilantis@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:William.Ypsilantis@fema.dhs.gov). Forest Hills Tower, Room #1102, 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills.

## Staten Island

**Wednesday, January 29**, 7:00 pm: [New York Rising Staten Island Community Planning Meeting](#). New Dorp High School, 465 New Dorp Lane.

## Advocacy Reports

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.

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.

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 Sandy Regional Assembly released its community-based analysis of the Bloomberg Administration's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) report.

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.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money

## Federal, State & Local Resources

In his State of the State address, Gov. Cuomo outlined his plans for \$17 billion in infrastructure upgrades, resiliency initiatives, and storm repairs under a plan called 'Reimagining New York for a New Reality.' Details of the plan can be found here.

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.

This podcast informs disaster behavioral health professionals about the concepts and signs of retraumatization and associated risk and protective factors and to highlight promising treatment

strategies and tips for avoiding retraumatization. Visit [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) to learn more about resources dedicated to disaster behavioral health.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection released its 2013 progress report in [Strategy 2011-2014](#)

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.

[Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.](#) - Brooklyn Sandy Relief Legal Clinic.

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.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released its [Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Performance Evaluation Study](#), as required by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

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.

[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.

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.

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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