

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

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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

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 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

The New York City Economic Development Corporation [announced RISE:NYC](#) a \$30 million competition to award CDBG funds to winning proposals from local, national or international firms that improve resiliency of building systems, energy infrastructure, or telecommunication for small businesses.

Newly obtained emails between Hoboken, NJ Mayor Dawn Zimmer, Christie Administration officials and real estate lobbyists reveal pressure to develop along Hoboken's waterfront. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: WNYC [lists](#) the many attempts by journalists and advocacy groups to obtain documents from the Christie Administration that have been refused or returned with largely redacted documents. Several Sandy-related inquiries are on the list.

Some question whether \$6 million in CDBG funds for a senior center and residential complex in Belleville, NJ was a reward for the Democratic Mayor of Belleville endorsing Gov. Christie in his re-election campaign. Belleville did not suffer extreme damage from Sandy and no residents were displaced from the storm. [The Star-Ledger](#)

A group of clammers filed a lawsuit against New York City claiming the city should be responsible for the release of millions of gallons of raw sewage which flowed into surrounding waterways after Hurricane Sandy, destroying two months of shellfish harvest. [New](#)

York Daily News and The New York Post

Gov. Cuomo announced \$886 million in federal funds from the Federal Transit Administration will go to the MTA to pay for Sandy related storm repairs and resiliency projects. The MTA received an initial grant of \$194 million from the FTA in March 2013. Details of funded projects are provided.

U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand from New York and Assemblyman Goldfeder (D-Rockaway) announced \$5.85 million in FEMA funds to reimburse three schools in Queens and Staten Island for repairs after Sandy.

A Long Island, NY woman pleaded guilty to filing fraudulent claims to FEMA and over \$18,000 in rental assistance; federal agents also arrested four men for filing false claims of damaged apartments.Newsday

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

A new report from the Brooklyn Recovery Fund analyzes conditions in six coastal Brooklyn neighborhoods and offers recommendations on how to address persistent recovery challenges. Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Build it Back is scheduled to begin construction on Sandy damaged homes in Staten Island in February. Reimbursements for construction may also be sent then. Staten Island Advance

Gov. Christie vetoed the Access to the Region's Core rail tunnel between New Jersey and New York City in 2010, which many now consider essential in storm-resiliency planning. MSNBC

President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim called for immediate action on climate change, citing recent natural disasters including Hurricane Sandy as evidence that extreme weather is a grave threat to the world's resources. Huffington Post

At a forum for Borough Presidents, James Oddo of Staten Island reiterated his priority of rebuilding communities damaged by Sandy.Staten Island Advance

Long Beach Medical Center in Nassau County, Long Island, the only hospital serving the community, has been closed since it was flooded by Sandy is expected to declare bankruptcy. A free-standing emergency-only clinic is planned to replace it despite concerns from residents about the future of the shuttered hospital. Newsday and Long Beach Patch

ALSO: A dozen protesters staged a 'die-in' outside the Long Beach medical Center to demonstrate the need for emergency services in the community. Newsday

U.S. Senator Schumer (D-NY) announced that the Environmental Protection Agency has approved the expansion of the Staten Island

Bluebelt, a storm water management system, which also recently received \$7.5 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture funding.

New York State Senator James Sanders, Jr. (D-South Ozone Park) and New York Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach) introduced legislation that would reimburse St. John's Episcopal Hospital in the Rockaways, Queens, for \$4.3 million it spent sheltering Sandy victims. [New York Daily News](#)

Plans to renovate the damaged roller hockey rink in Far Rockaways, Queens will go forward after a \$600,000 contribution from New York City Council Member Eric Ulrich. [Inhabitat](#)

A scientist reviews the history of Hoboken's land use decisions and how it needs science-based policies to drive future development. [Union of Concerned Scientists blog](#)

Housing

New York City building managers are seeking various ways to stockpile emergency equipment and supplies for the next disaster. [The New York Times](#)

The U.S. Senate [passed](#) a bill that would delay the scheduled National Flood insurance rate increase. But the measure is not supported by the House or the White House. [AP via ABC News](#)

ALSO: A coalition of New York State lawmakers urged Congress to delay rate increases of the National Flood Insurance Program. [The New York Post](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

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 10 (Deadline Extension): 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 for further details. Deadline for applications has been extended to Feb. 10th, 2014.

February 13 Applications due for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants](#)

February 14 Applications due for ConeyRecovers [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](#).

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 Recoveryseries](#) from Restore Your Economy.

February 7, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: [Coastal Community Resilience](#) workshop, from the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, Peconic Institute at Stony Brook Southampton 239 Montauk Hwy. Southampton, NY 11968.

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, Manhattan.

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, Manhattan.

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, February 8 to Monday, February 10: [2nd Sandy Design Help Desk: Red Hook](#), providing free design, technical, and financial consultation for residents and property owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Red Hook Volunteers, 360 Van Brunt Street.

Manhattan

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.

Monday, February 3, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: [Rebuild by Design BIG Team Community Workshop](#). The

Lower Eastside Girls Club, 101 Avenue D

Wednesday, February 5, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm: [NYC Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable Training for Disaster Case Managers \(DCMs\)](#). The Training is FREE -- Space Limited to 50 Participants. Metropolitan College of New York, 431 Canal Street.

Thursday, February 6, 9:00 - 10:30 am: [Water Management to Lower Costs in Multifamily Buildings](#). Enterprise Community Partners, 1 Whitehall St, 11th Floor, RM B4.

New Jersey

TONIGHT January 30, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: [Rebuild by Design Sasaki/Rutgers/Arup Community Workshop: Barrier Island](#). Tom's River Township Town Hall, L. Manuel Hirshblond Meeting Room, 33 Washington Street Tom's River

Tuesday, February 4, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm: [Community Open House](#). Learn about project updates and developments, see preliminary design ideas for the Events Center and have the opportunity to speak with the design team. Seaside Heights Community Center, 1000 Bay Blvd.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: [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.

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

NEW: A new [report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an assessment of state and local health emergency preparedness, including an evalution of the response to Hurricane Sandy.

NEW: 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.

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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