

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 30 - February 6

In This Issue

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

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](#). Public hearings and an informational webinar will be held the week of February 10, details can be found on the [New Jersey Future website](#). The 30-day comment period for the proposed amendment closes **Wednesday, March 5**.

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.

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

An analysis by NJ Spotlight and WNYC roots out irregularities in how Hazard Mitigation Grants were allocated in New Jersey townships and shows that Hoboken received less than other towns of equal size and with similar needs. [NJ Spotlight](#)

ALSO: New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center charges that the recently-fired contractor responsible for allocating disaster relief funds "botched" the process. New data released Wednesday indicates that three-quarters of residents who appealed denials of Sandy aid won the appeal. Some officials are calling for the programs to be re-opened, and for HUD to conduct independent monitoring. [NJ Spotlight](#)

ALSO: Integrity monitors, required by a New Jersey law signed by Gov. Christie, should be assigned to all projects receiving \$5 million or more of relief aid. The monitors were not put in place until January 2014, 10 months after the bill was passed, and after millions in Sandy aid have already been disbursed. [The Star-Ledger](#)

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

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New Jersey Future provides an analysis of the proposed substantial amendment for CDBG-DR funds in New Jersey applauding greater attempts at community outreach but questioning the lack of funds for infrastructure. [NJ Future](#)

ALSO: Many New Jersey residents personally expressed dismay to Gov. Christie on the slow pace of recovery during his visit to Keansburg. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Questions persist on whether Sandy relief funds were promised for a senior center in Belleville, NJ a town that wasn't particularly hard-hit by Sandy. [Belleville Times](#)

New Jersey Tourism officials plan to release a new advertising series focusing on progress of recovery in the state. [Rumson Patch](#)

Gov. Cuomo launched a new civilian disaster preparedness training program, The Citizen's Preparedness Corps, which aims to train 100,000 New Yorkers in 2014 to respond to disasters. [Staten Island Advance](#)

New York City first lady Chirlane McCray was cleared by the city Conflict of Interest Board to become chairwoman of the board of directors for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, which raises private funds for city projects including storm relief funds after Hurricane Sandy. [Capital New York](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Gov. Cuomo announced appointments to Empire State Development, including Charles S. Imohiosen, Chief Operating Officer who advised the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Taskforce on post-storm infrastructure issues. [Rockland County Times](#)

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was appointed [United Nations Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change](#) and is expected to mobilize cities on climate change in advance of a summit on the topic planned for September 2014. [BBC](#) and [The Hill](#)

Fort Tilden beach in the Rockaways, managed by the National Park Service, may not re-open this summer due to debris in the sand and beach erosion. Contracting for the clean-up is reportedly just beginning. [Gothamist](#)

The National Weather Service plans to have new "potential storm surge flooding" maps to help predict impacts from storms during the 2014 hurricane season. [Climate Central](#)

Cervalis, an IT company, announced it is opening a data center in Norwalk, CT and highlights its aim to help prevent business interruption during natural disasters and power loss. [Norwalk Patch](#)

U.S. Department of the Interior's Strategic Sciences Group

released a [study](#) of Sandy's impacts on the region which will be used to determine which Department of Interior resilience projects will be funded by Disaster Relief Act funds.

The American Meteorological Society held its annual conference this week with sessions devoted to analyzing response to Hurricane Sandy. Information and slides from the sessions are posted on the [AMS website](#).

Housing

A public meeting this evening in the Rockaways, Queens is expected to provide answers to community concerns about the Build it Back program's slow progress. As of February 3 only 12 homes are ready to begin reconstruction. [The Epoch Times](#)

Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity continued building new homes for Sandy victims during Super Bowl week. [NY1](#)

Jobs

Day labor groups are helping workers by negotiating temporary work contracts, and providing them with safety skills and equipment. Hurricane Sandy exposed the dire working conditions of many day laborers. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

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](#).

Friday 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.

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.

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.

TONIGHT: Thursday, February 6, 6:00 - 8:00pm: [Creative Tools for Compassion Fatigue, Transformation and Resilience](#). Food and refreshments will be served. RSVP to mscigliano@chfund.org. 2648 Gerritsen Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11229

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

Monday, February 10, 6:00 - 9:00 pm: [Rebuild by Design](#) public workshop for the BIG TEAM/L.E.S. We will be discussing the Lower East Side waterfront from the Brooklyn Bridge to 14th Street. Hamilton Madison House, 50 Madison St.

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.

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

TONIGHT Thursday, February 6: Community meeting on Build it Back with New York City Council Member Donovan Richards and Build it Back director Kathryn Mallon. P.S. 42 Q - 488 Beach 66th in Arverne, Queens in the Rockaways.

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.

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