

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 9 - 16

In This Issue

[This week's news](#)

[Regional Events](#)

[Advocacy Reports](#)

[Federal, State & Local
Resources](#)

New York City Council Passes Intro. 1102a- Amendment of Community Right- to-Know Law

The amendment expands the Right-to-Know law to include coastal storm surge and hurricane evacuation zones as part of the geography and requires that facilities report the presence of hazardous substances and develop a "risk management plan" to prevent the release of hazardous substances

Action Items

New York City opened a 30-day comment period for [proposed amendment 5](#) to its Action Plan for federal Sandy CDBG-DR funds. The deadline to submit comments is **January 25th**.

Last week's round-up listed information on upcoming hearings but they have been postponed. Written comments are still due by January 25.

Times and locations will be posted on the [NYC Recovery webpage](#). 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

A survey by the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program and the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce found that many Staten Island business owners are struggling to obtain loans to recoup losses from Sandy. The survey's results suggest that loan programs did not target small business needs. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: The next meeting of the Staten Island NY Rising Planning Committee will take place on January 29 at 7 pm at New Dorp High School.

ALSO: During a visit with business owners in Staten Island, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio listened to the challenges confronting the borough's small businesses, including recovery efforts. [Staten Island Advance](#)

during potential flooding and extreme weather events.

More information from the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance year-end [newsletter](#)

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.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Inspector General's office will audit Gov. Christie's use of federal Sandy relief aid for a tourism advertisement for the Jersey Shore, which prominently featured the Governor during his campaign for a second term in office. [Bloomberg](#)

ALSO: HUD will be auditing the contract for New Jersey's 'Stronger than the Storm' commercials. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Hoboken, NJ Mayor Dawn Zimmer requested \$100 million in state hazard mitigation grants after the city was flooded by Sandy. Hoboken received only \$300,000 and the mayor now wonders if it was political retribution for not endorsing Gov. Christie in his bid for re-election. [WNYC](#)

New Jersey State Senator Stephen Sweeney has pledged to introduce a Sandy victim's bill of rights to address problems of inequality in the distribution of Community Development Block Grants; critics of the bill observe that it does not ensure sustainable development of the waterfront/shore. [Newsworks/WHYY](#)

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY, 8th District) [announced](#) five Brooklyn communities - Canarsie, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Bergen Beach and Georgetown - will receive additional funding from the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program.

Thousands of applicants for New York City's Build it Back program have yet to receive help. [NY1](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

New Jersey residents hoping to qualify for New Jersey's Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation program must request a letter from their local government certifying 'substantial damage.' Many localities are ill-equipped to handle the demand. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: [A Star-Ledger editorial](#) decries the situation of many New Jersey residents who were required to submit a letter by January 15 certifying substantial property damage in order to qualify for Sandy rebuilding grants, despite lack of widespread notification.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced](#) the appointment of former New York City Council Member James Gennaro as Deputy Commissioner for New York City Sustainability and Resiliency at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Though plans for the redevelopment of the boardwalk in Rockaway

Beach, Queens were approved unanimously by the community board on Tuesday, the construction will be delayed in part due to a construction moratorium during the nesting season of the endangered Piping Plover. [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: Plans for the new boardwalk will include a marquee sign, reminiscent of the Hollywood sign. [New York Daily News](#)

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) announced plans to push for \$600 million in funds from the Environmental Protection Agency and HUD to repair the Bay Park sewage treatment plant in Nassau County.

A new venture, Risky Business, co-chaired by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, aims to provide an assessment of the effects of climate change on regional economies. [Think Progress](#)

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY, 9th District) issued a statement calling on DirecTV to reinstate Weather Channel access to subscribers, citing dependence on it as a source of information during emergencies and natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. Fee disputes have resulted in the Weather Channel being discontinued on DirecTV as of this week.

Housing

A coalition of New Jersey housing advocates claim the Christie Administration has been discriminatory in how CDBG funds were allocated. The coalition released a series of recommendations for greater transparency of the money. [The Star-Ledger](#)

New York City Council Member Mark Treyger (D-Brooklyn) is looking for a solution to find new locations for the temporary boilers installed at NYCHA houses in Coney Island after Sandy. Relocated outside, the temporary boilers malfunctioned during the recent snowstorm and left 600 residents without heat or hot water. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

ALSO: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer is calling for additional funding for measures to make NYCHA buildings storm-proof. Sandy severely damaged 21 NYCHA buildings citywide. [New York Daily News](#) and [NY1](#)

A mixed-income housing complex in the Rockaways, Queens was

rennovated after Sandy but residents question the new ownership's willingness to keep units affordable and whether the property will survive another large-scale storm. [The New York Times](#)

An entire colony of twenty-two bungalows in Sheepshead Bay are now for sale and the community fears new development and high rents will replace this historic waterfront community. [Sheepshead Bites](#)

Data of constituent complaints recorded at New York City Council offices reveal the ongoing concern in Southern Queens regarding Sandy recovery. [New York Daily News](#)

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

January 16 Public comments are due for the draft 2014 New York City Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) from New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in partnership with the Department of City Planning (DCP). [Comment form available online only](#)

[ALSO: Brooklyn Recovery Fund has prepared [a guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for the NYC Hazard Mitigation Plan.

January 21 Responses due for New York City Economic Development Corporation's [RFEI](#) for economic recovery of eight Staten Island locations.

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 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.]

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, New York.

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.

Tuesday, January 21, 6:00 pm: New York Rising Red Hook Planning Committee Meeting. PS 15, 71 Sullivan Street.

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

Manhattan

TONIGHT Thursday, January 16, 6:30 pm. Unfinished Work: Views of Superstorm Sandy from the Ground Up. A conversation with community leaders from areas damaged during Hurricane Sandy discuss the progress of the recovery. Museum of the City of New York. [\$16].

Queens

Wednesday, January 22, 2:00 - 4:00 pm: Innovations in Wetland Design and Restoration workshop and webinar. The event is geared toward professional planners, municipality representatives, natural resource agencies, and green infrastructure organizations involved in the recovery and resiliency process especially following Hurricane Sandy. RSVP: Bill Ypsilantis at FEMA: William.Ypsilantis@fema.dhs.gov. Forest Hills Tower, Room #1102, 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

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

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

NEW: 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: 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](#).

NEW: The Brooklyn Recovery Fund has compiled [this guide](#) to navigating the public comment process for city and state CDBG action plans.

NEW: [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.

Contact us

Good Jobs New York

11 Park Place, #701

New York, New York 10007

212-721-7996

www.goodjobsny.org