

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: June 5 - 12

### In This Issue

[Regional Events](#)  
[Advocacy Reports](#)  
[Federal, State & Local Resources](#)

### Transparency Tip

A map on the [New York City Sandy Tracker](#) website displaces by borough the total number of Build it Back registrations, awards pending and progress towards completing construction.

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Have you heard?

Good Jobs New York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy](#)

### Action Item

**Tuesday, June 17, 7:00-9:00 pm:** New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer's [Sandy Oversight Hearing](#) (Lower East Side). Share your concerns and questions regarding recovery and relief. Goldie Chu Community Room, Two Bridges Tower, 82 Rutgers Slip, 2nd Floor. For information or to RSVP contact: 212-669-4466 [oreventsrsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:oreventsrsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov).

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

At the June 10th Sandy Oversight Hearing in Red Hook held by the New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, many neighborhood residents and Sandy victims testified about the slow pace of recovery and the need for greater leadership in the rebuilding effort. [The Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

The de Blasio Administration provided updated statistics on the progress of Sandy recovery: 61 homes are under construction, \$4 million has been distributed for home repair through Build it Back [City and State](#)

New York State Senate [approved](#) legislation that would direct the Division of the Budget to track New York State's use of Hurricane Sandy rebuilding funds and maintain information on a website and in quarterly reports.

Mayor Bill de Blasio signed a law that will provide a tax abatement to homeowners whose Sandy-related repairs increased the assessed value of their homes. [Staten Island Advance](#)

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency approved new guidelines for determining need in distributing the second round of federal disaster recovery funds. The guidelines will go into effect unless Gov. Christie vetoes them in the next week. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: The Sandy recovery, once a defining strength for Gov. Christie, is increasingly seen as his greatest weakness as 6,300 people remain on waiting lists for grants for house-raising. [Bloomberg](#)

New Jersey State Senator Jennifer Beck (R-Monmouth) writes in this guest op-ed that the Hurricane Sandy "Bill of Rights," currently

**Money database** to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

before the state legislature, conflicts with federal law and HUD regulations and needs to be reworked before it can be passed. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Janice Halloran, administrator of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, was awarded the Sloan Public Service Award for disaster response efforts during Sandy and other emergencies. [New York Daily News](#)

Community Board 14 voted unanimously to approve renaming a street in Belle Harbor, Queens after Dylan Smith who rescued 13 neighbors during Sandy. [DNAinfo](#)

---

### **Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency**

While there has much excitement surrounding the Rebuild by Design competition winners, design competitions do not necessarily produce the best results. [The Guardian](#)

A new coalition in New York City will advocate for complete Bus Rapid Transit in 20 corridors around the city, which will strengthen the resiliency of the city's transit infrastructure. [PRNewswire](#)

This [Staten Island Advance](#) editorial calls attention to the state of berms installed by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, which appear to be disintegrating and residents claim are not properly maintained.

According to a report by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, MTA's planned post-9/11 security program to equip subways bridges and tunnels with security cameras will be further delayed due to corroded fiber optic cable in saltwater inundated tunnels. [New York Post](#)

NJ Transit, criticized for its flimsy emergency preparedness plans after Sandy flooding caused over \$100 million in damage to rail cars stored in Hoboken, has released a 16-page report outlining how the agency would respond to a major catastrophic event. [The Associated Press](#)

Residents from the Rockaways, Queens rallied at City Hall to secure funding in the city's budget to continue Rockaway Ferry service to Manhattan. [NY1](#)

Senator Charles E. Schumer called on the Army Corps of Engineers to quicken its review of a project to deepen the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake rivers in Westchester to prevent flooding. [WestfairOnline.com](#)

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) advised Coast Guard officials to limit operations of a dilapidated drawbridge, which is scheduled to be replaced with \$349 million in Department of Transportation disaster relief funds. [GreenwichTime.com](#)

Verizon is unable to bring FIOS throughout the city as it has

promised, and cites damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. [ArtsTechnica](#)

A Request for Proposals for a feasibility study seeks engineers to design flood barriers along Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek. [The Real Deal](#)

Seven architects discuss techniques they have learned in resilient design since Hurricane Sandy. [Fast Company](#)

A new book looks at the way Hurricane Sandy transformed conversations about resiliency within electrical utility companies, regulatory bodies, and government agencies. [Green Tech Media](#)

---

## Housing

Residents of Oakwood Beach, Staten Island watch their neighborhood disappear as more families participate in the state's voluntary home buyout program. Forty homes have been demolished, 205 parcels have been purchased and 114 more are expected to be purchased this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be converting the neighborhood into a "belt retention pool." [Staten Island Advance](#)

New Jersey has begun demolition of homes purchased through the state home buyout program. The state plans to purchase 1,300 homes in flood-prone areas. [The Star-Ledger](#)

The New York City Office of Emergency Management unveiled a prototype of emergency housing that could be used for families displaced due to natural disasters. [The New York Times](#) and [Inhabitat](#)

Indicators of the recovery from Sandy include distribution of aid money, infrastructure repairs, housing, and post-storm litigation among others. [NJ Spotlight](#)

## Events

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

## Upcoming Deadlines

**Tuesday July 15**, 4:00 pm: Deadline to submit NYCEDC [Request for Proposal](#) to study the feasibility of storm surge barriers along the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek.

**Friday, June 27**: New York City Economic Development Corporation issued a [Request for Proposals](#) for a study examining flood protection and mitigation surrounding Coney Island Creek.

## Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

**Wednesday, June 18**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Free Superstorm Sandy Legal Clinic - Northeast New Jersey Legal Services, 574 Summit Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

**Thursday, June 19, 9:30-11:30 am:** Will You Help Your Multifamily Property Weather the Next Super Storm? Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11 Floor, New York, NY 10004. [Registration is required.](#)

## 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, June 14:** Canarsie Day: *Unity in Numbers*. [Canarsie Day](#) is an event to bring Canarsie residents together to help strengthen community support and provide access to Hurricane Sandy recovery resources and address unmet needs through health, wellness, home maintenance training, youth affairs and emergency preparedness. Join us for a parade at 12:30 pm at 9502 Seaview Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11236. Community leaders, community organizations, and neighbors can come for Sandy resources, and information at 8802 Seaview Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11236.

## Manhattan

**Tuesday, June 17, 7:00-9:00 pm:** New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer Sandy Oversight Hearing. Share your concerns and questions regarding recovery and relief. Goldie Chu Community Room, Two Bridges Tower, 82 Rutgers Slip, 2nd Floor. For information or to RSVP contact: 212-669-4466 or [eventsrsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:eventsrsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov).

## Advocacy Reports

Fifth Avenue Committee, [Guidelines to Building Resiliency](#)

North Star Fund, [From The Edge Of Disaster: How Activists and Insiders Can Use the Lessons of Hurricane Sandy to Make the City Safer](#)

New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: The [2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report](#); a comprehensive assessment of the NYC voluntary sector's rebuild capacity in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Center for an Urban Future: [Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York's Aging Infrastructure](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy](#).

[Future-Proofing Cities](#): A report from the U.K. Department for International Development and University College London looking at the risks and opportunities for inclusive urban growth in developing countries. 129 cities, 5 urban types and over 100 practical solutions, statistics and analysis.

[Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities](#) from the National Disaster Interfaith Network

The International Economic Development Council released [Case Studies in Small Business Finance Following a Disaster](#), a report of six case studies of effective long-term economic recovery efforts of disaster-affected communities.

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, Inc.: [Real Affordability: An Evaluation of the Bloomberg Housing Program and Recommendations to Strengthen Affordable Housing Policy](#)

Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: [How Sandy Rebuilding Can Reduce Inequality in New York City](#)

Rutgers University: [Overlooking Oversight: A Lack of Oversight in the Garden State is Placing New Jersey Residents and Assets at Risk](#).

Ceres report: [Cool Response: The SEC & Corporate Climate Change Reporting](#): SEC Climate Guidance & S&P 500 Reporting - 2010 to 2013.

[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, offers recommendations on how to address the inequalities entwined with Sandy's aftermath.

[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

New York City Office of Emergency Management [Know Your Zone Hurricane Preparedness website](#).

The Government Accountability Office report, [Emergency Transportation Relief: Agencies Could Improve Collaboration Begun during Hurricane Sandy Response](#).

The Government Accountability Office report, [Disaster Resilience: Actions Are Underway, but Federal Fiscal Exposure Highlights the Need for Continued Attention to Longstanding Challenges](#), examines the challenges to resilience building.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Final Plans are now available: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/hyrcr/final-plans>

The New York Times provides a [video archive](#) of Hurricane Sandy survivors' stories and rebuilding progress.

[The National Climate Assessment Report](#)

[One City, Rebuilding Together: A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward](#).

The [Program Management Office](#) of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its [monthly report \[pdf\]](#) on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A [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.