

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 dollars Weekly News Round-up: June 6-13

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Transparency Tip:

Check out the Hurricane Sandy website of FederalTransparency.gov for maps and information about companies that been awarded contracts as part of the Disaster Relief Act.

Like our weekly round-up?
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Mayoral Forums on Sandy Recovery

TONIGHT: Thursday, June 13, 7:30 pm: Mayoral Forum: [Reviving Our City: Mayoral Candidates Summit](#). Presented by Faith in New York, the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding, the Sandy Regional Assembly, and the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst 100-10 Astoria Blvd, East Elmhurst, NY 11369.

Thursday, June 27, 7:00 pm: Mayoral Forum: Five Boroughs, One Recovery - City Wide Sandy Mayoral Candidate Forum, [Sandy Recovery & The Future of New York City's Flood Zone](#). 3300 Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn, New York.

Action Item

Thursday, June 20, 1:00 pm: The New York City Council Committee on Public Safety will hold a [public hearing](#) on a package of 10 bills proposed in response to oversight hearings on the city's Hurricane Sandy after action report and recommendations.

This week's news

Disaster Relief

- Up to 18,000 New Jersey homeowners are eligible to receive \$10,000 checks starting in July with the first disbursement of federal CDBG funds to repair primary residences. The state has received over 10,000 applicants since the launch of the reNew Jersey stronger program two weeks ago. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- New York Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced that \$22 million in federal emergency funding will be directed to the New York City Department of Transportation for transportation projects, including over \$12 million in capital funds for the Staten Island ferry. [MarineLog](#)
- The New Jersey Economic Development Authority approved a new loan program of up to \$5 million to businesses and non-profits damaged by Sandy via

the "Stronger NJ Business Loan Program." [The Star-Ledger](#)

- 桑迪受灾户福利政策或改变 - Staten Island Rep. Michael Grimm and the Staten Island Alliance spoke out against the federal regulation that prohibits Sandy victims from receiving federal grants before they first accept a Small Business Administration loan. [The Epoch Times \[In Chinese\]](#) and [The Staten Island Advance \[In English\]](#)
- The Robin Hood Sandy Relief fund is making \$125,000 available to Milford, CT storm victims. Officials expect the state's application for federal CDBG funds will be approved later this month. [Milford Mirror](#)
- The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development provided a Recovery New Jersey Talent Network Grant to Ocean County College (OCC) to connect businesses with job seekers in communities displaced by Sandy. [Brick Patch](#)
- Owners of the Trump Soho hotel filed a lawsuit against their insurance company and ConEd for loss of business during a 4-day power outage after Sandy. While insurers typically do not cover business loss due to flooding, this suit claims the power outage was due to an explosion at ConEd. Many smaller companies are struggling with the same insurance claim denials. [The New York Times](#) and [The New York Post](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

Special round-up coverage of the Bloomberg Administration's long-awaited New York City Special Initiative on Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) report: [A Stronger, More Resilient New York](#).

- The \$20 billion plan proposes 250 projects to protect the city from rising sea levels and damaging future storms. [The New York Times](#)
- Many of the proposals outlined in the SIRR report face obstacles including notorious lack of city agency coordination and the plan has shortcomings in addressing the needs of low-income communities and acknowledging the role of community-based

organizations in responding to emergencies. [The New York Times](#)

- 彭博提出200億抗洪改造计划 – The comprehensive plan announced by Mayor Bloomberg deals with the threat of rising sea levels and storm surges by improving coastline protection. [The China Press](#), [NTDTV](#), [World Journal](#), [Sing Tao Daily](#) [In Chinese]
- WNYC provides an interactive map detailing the types of coastal protections included in the proposal. [WNYC](#)
- The SIRR report estimates half of the \$20 billion costs would be covered by existing city and federal funds, and \$5 billion from future federal installments. The city hopes to secure the remaining \$4.5 billion funding gap from the federal government. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- Bloomberg says investments are necessary to protect the city from increasingly damaging storms. [Climate Spectator](#)
- The mayoral candidates generally support Mayor Bloomberg's plan for storm preparedness, but some have reservations about certain aspects of the plan. [The Associated Press](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure news continued

- FEMA released new advisory flood maps showing 400,000 New York City residents currently live in flood plains and 270,000 work in areas that are at high risk for dangerous flooding. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- In addition to the New York City SIRR report, the Mayor's Office also released a new report from the [New York City Panel on Climate Change](#). New predictions estimate nearly 800,000 could be living in a flood zone by mid-century, and average temperatures could rise by as much as 7 degrees. [AP via The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: The New York City Panel on Climate Change

predicts catastrophic heat waves and rising levels of rainfall by 2050. The report includes expected implications for businesses, housing, and jobs. [The New York Times](#) and [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Gotham Gazette's new project, [AdaptNY](#), will seek to foster a citywide conversation on climate change. [Gotham Gazette](#)

ALSO: 研究：25%紐約市將「陷」淹水區 - The New York City Panel on Climate Change report suggests that 25% of land will become a floodplain before 2050, due to sea level rising and other climate changes. [In Chinese] [World Journal](#)

- A storm surge barrier built in Saint Petersburg, Russia provides a model for a possible surge barrier for New York. [Scientific American](#)
- 市议会提防风灾建议交通灯设后备发电机 - The New York City Council will consider several proposed bills to address citywide emergency preparedness. One proposes back-up power for street lights and traffic signals to address power outage issues. [In Chinese] [Sing Tao Daily](#) [See hearing info in above Action Item]
- Reclaimed sand and wood from the beaches and boardwalk along the Rockaway Peninsula have been used extensively in its repair. [The New Yorker](#)
- The New York City MTA has not announced plans to accommodate 65,000 displaced commuters when the R train Montague street tunnel is shut down for 14 months starting in August. [New York Daily News](#)
- After \$120 million in flood damage to its train cars, the New Jersey Transit has secured facilities outside the floodzone to store its cars in the event of another hurricane or major storm. [Transportation Nation](#)

Housing

- The release of FEMA advisory flood maps now puts 500 Queens residents in the most dangerous flood zone, requiring homes to be elevated up to 10 feet or paying insurance premiums that could be as much as \$31,000 a year. [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: 珊迪災民新威脅：房險費暴漲 - Residents in Toms River, NJ and Broad Channel, Queens must now pay higher insurance premiums since advisory flood maps have put these properties in the "V Zone." [World Journal](#) [In Chinese]

- A new report by the Center for Urban Real Estate at Columbia University estimates the city will add a million residents by 2040, and recommends building new housing along waterfront neighborhoods. The Wall Street Journal
- Airbnb, a website providing short-term vacation rentals, and that listed many free or discounted rentals for those displaced by Sandy has a new service devoted to helping disaster victims find temporary housing. Gigacom

Jobs

- Choose New Jersey, Inc. launched RFP Watch, a daily email service providing information about public and private opportunities. NJ Biz
- 桑迪風災夜被屈盜竊高盛工人索賠千萬 - A former janitor at Goldman Sachs is suing his former employer for \$10 million, claiming he was unfairly fired on the night of Sandy and forced to walk home to Staten Island during the hurricane. Sing Tao Daily [In Chinese] and Staten Island Advance [English]
- An interview with a graduate of the Building Works pre-apprenticeship carpentry job training program that culminated in rebuilding a Brooklyn church damaged by Sandy. Robin Hood Foundation Tumblr feed

Advocacy News

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

Hurricane Sandy relief volunteer opportunities in New York City are listed at New York Cares

Brooklyn

Thursday, June 13, 6:30-8:30 pm. Sandylore Symposium: Cultural Knowledge as a resource for disaster response. The Actors Fund Arts Center 160 Schermerhorn Street (Downtown Brooklyn)

Friday, June 14, 5:30 pm. Occupy Sandy debrief. RSVP encouraged, but not required.

The Brooklyn Public Library is compiling oral histories of Brooklyn individuals, organizations, and workers who were impacted by the storm. Interviews will be scheduled by appointment. See website for details.

Queens

Asian Americans for Equality offers several programs to help small businesses and emergency home repairs. Deadline for home repairs application is June 30, 2013.

New Jersey

Volunteers are needed for rebuilding construction teams. Details and sign-up information [here](#).

The Christie Administration [released](#) best practices for treating mold in flooded homes. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Health will offer training sessions in mold removal and assessment.

Advocacy Reports

The Center for Urban Real Estate: [NYC 2040: Housing the Next One Million New Yorkers](#)

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 identifying priority projects for the Sandy recovery process, the Recovery Agenda includes priorities of low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.

The [2013 CoreLogic Storm Surge Report](#) ranks storm surge risk for U.S. metropolitan areas; New York metro region is ranked number 1. New Orleans is number 5.

Climate Central, [Hurricane Sandy's Untold Filthy Legacy: Sewage](#)

The Pratt Center for Community Development has [published](#) a series of maps documenting the storm's impacts on low-income residential communities and Industrial Business Zones.

Enterprise Community Partners, ['Measuring the Response to Hurricane Sandy'](#)

Food Bank For New York City, [Hurricane Sandy Response: 100 Days of Meeting the Needs](#)

Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy, [Sandy's Effects on Housing in New York City](#).

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding released [Sandy's Mold Legacy: The Unmet Need Six Months After the Storm](#); Other reports include: [After Sandy, Prioritizing the Vulnerable and Displaced: Fixing Major Flaws in City Hall's Disaster Recovery Planning](#)

Several non-profit organizations have endorsed [Post-Sandy Rebuilding Principles: Building a sustainable region and economy, creating jobs for all](#). We encourage you to sign on, too. Contact bettina@goodjobsfirst.org for more information.

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW: New York City Panel on Climate Change report: [Climate Risk Information 2013](#)

NEW: New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency report: [A Stronger More Resilient New York](#)

[Build It Back](#) - New York City's Housing recovery program.

[Repair the Rockaways](#) is a crowd-source funding site for Respond and Rebuild.

[Community Resource Exchange](#) lists many nonprofit disaster relief resources for individuals, communities and small businesses.

The [NYC Home Repair Consortium](#) seeks to repair 600 homes that have non-structural damage with unmet needs.

The (华埠服务社) [Greater Chinatown Community Association](#) provides translation assistance in Mandarin and Cantonese for business owners wanting to apply for FEMA and SBA funding. Phone: 212-374-0032.

A new report from the Democrats of the House Committee on Small Business Committee, [Despite Reforms, SBA's Sandy Response Lags](#), finds that SBA has approved fewer than 25 percent of applications and that New York's businesses are facing significant challenges obtaining disaster relief through the SBA.

The [NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#) will be managing the disaster relief funds and will announce application information and registration in June, 2013.

The [New York Recovery Resource Center](#) provides links for applying for Housing and Business Recovery Assistance through New York State.

The Recovery Accountability & Transparency Board has created [FederalTransparency.gov](#) which will post spending data for Sandy recovery. All [contracts](#) awarded since Sandy are currently posted.

NYC Housing and Preservation Department has issued a [Request for Qualifications](#) to identify and select developers to rebuild damaged 1-4 unit buildings through the city's NYC Houses Reconstruction Program. Submission deadline is June 12.

New York City [Hurricane Sandy After Action Report and Recommendations](#) to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg details the city's evaluation of its response during and immediately after Sandy, and includes 59 recommendations for strengthening performance in future storms.

New York City [response to Public Comments](#) on the Partial Action Plan A. See also Good Jobs New York's information page on [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#)

Updated statistics from FEMA on ongoing recovery efforts and costs for New York State: [Disaster assistance to New York survivors of Hurricane Sandy](#).

[Smart Response](#) collects and shares data on relief organizations coordinating donations and volunteer support for Sandy victims.

New York State health and safety inspectors from the Department of Labor will provide inspections and assessments to businesses effected by Sandy to help firms reopen as soon as possible. Call 1-888-4-NYSDOL (1-888-469-7365) or visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is conducting a [Small Business Credit Survey](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is posting upcoming application deadlines, recovery resources, events, and key agency contacts on their [Sandy Information Center](#) page.

The New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency [website](#).

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development along with L+M Development Partners, The Bluestone Organization, and Triangle Equities, American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIA New York) and Enterprise Community Partners launched a two-phase design competition called "For a Resilient Rockaway" (FAR ROC) seeking storm resilient, sustainable best practices for development at the city-owned Arverne East site and other sites city-wide. Submissions are due June 14. Details in the [HPD press release](#) and [FARROC.com](#)

FEGS Project Hope Crisis Counseling Program offers free crisis outreach services to residents of New York City and Long Island affected by Hurricane Sandy. [Project Hope](#)

National Grid customers can visit www.nationalgridus.com to get information about the National Grid Emergency Economic and Community Development program for business customers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

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