

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: March 20 - 27

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Good Jobs New York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy 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!

Transparency Tip from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

[How to Track Government Projects Like a](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Only five New Jersey Sandy recovery projects have been assigned a monitor to guard against waste, despite a law requiring greater oversight. [WNYC/NJPR](#)

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli issued the first of several [audits](#) of the State's storm response and found that the Division of Homeland Security needs to improve systems for buying and tracking equipment during emergencies. [AP via Staten Island Advance](#)

The New York City Department of Investigations is speaking with homeowners enrolled in the Build it Back program as part of "integrity monitoring" and oversight of the program. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin writes that the faith community in New York wants to work with the mayor on prioritizing Sandy recovery but is dismayed that he has not announced plans for using the recovery to create good jobs or affordable housing and that no one has yet received rebuilding assistance through Build it Back. [The Huffington Post](#)

[In a letter](#) to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) outlined concerns that the Christie Administration did not fairly distribute Sandy aid to those in greatest need as well as concerns over transparency and efficiency.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer repeated his [call](#) on FEMA to fund a dune system to protect the shore of Breezy point, Queens.

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Amy Peterson, of Nontraditional Employment for Women and a veteran in the Bloomberg and Giuliani administrations and former Vice President at the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation who oversaw post-9/11 disaster recovery, is rumored to be Mayor de Blasio's appointee to lead Sandy recovery efforts. [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: Though her appointment has not been formally announced, Ms. Peterson is expected to quicken the pace of Sandy recovery in the city. The first repairs through the Build it Back program began in

Defense Contractor

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Mill Basin, Brooklyn this week and de Blasio Administration officials say checks to enrollees will be sent out beginning this week. [The New York Times](#) and [AP](#) via [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will begin issuing special permits to streamline demolition of homes in the state buyout program within 100-feet of DEC designated wetlands. [DNAinfo](#)

One "Rebuild by Design" finalist team will unveil a stormwater management design plan for Hoboken, NJ. Winning projects will be selected in April. [NJ.com](#) [with images]

ALSO: The "Rebuild by Design" plan for New Jersey's Meadowlands features a large wildlife preserve and an embankment to protect surrounding commercial areas. See [asideshow of images](#) from the plan. [NJ.com](#)

The Citi Bike program faced a series of early setbacks including Hurricane Sandy, which may now be endangering the survival of the bike share program. [NY Biz Journal](#)

The role of open data is emerging in the growing discussion of building climate resilience. [World Resources Institute](#)

Newsday's environmental reporter Emily Dooley who covered the aftermath of Sandy and community response, received a prestigious fellowship to study and write about community resilience. [NORC](#)

The Earth Institute at Columbia University announced field research plans for 2014 that include a sub-seafloor imaging expedition to map the sediment structure of the southern New Jersey seafloor and document the historical impacts of climate change on the region. [State of the Planet blog](#)

Despite the closure of Wall Street after Hurricane Sandy, Congress is still unable to respond to the evolving disaster of climate change. [Huffington Post Green blog](#)

Subway ridership is at a 65-year high even with conditions like overcrowding and Sandy-related construction delays. [Second Avenue Sagas](#)

This financial investment blog points to global climate change and increasing severe weather as an indicator of the strong long-term demand for clean water and advises investing in Exchange Traded Funds dedicated to water resources. [The Motley Fool](#)

Housing

Hugh Hogan of the North Star Fund and Nathalie Alegre of the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding write in [City & State](#) that Mayor de Blasio should refocus his attention on Sandy rebuilding for low-income New Yorkers.

Members of the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding are calling on Mayor de Blasio to keep his campaign promises to help expedite the rebuilding process and create jobs and affordable housing in hard-hit neighborhoods. [The New York Times](#)

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and U.S. Senator Schumer announced that FEMA would pay the full cost of replacing damaged boilers in NYCHA facilities and will reimburse the city for part of what it has spent. [WNYC](#) and [NBC New York](#)

ALSO: The 110 public housing buildings that have relied on temporary boilers since Sandy will receive new boilers paid for by FEMA and will begin to install them within six months. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Bronx City Council Member Ritchie Torres who chairs the Committee on Public Housing will hold a hearing on the recently announced plans to use FEMA funds to replace boilers at Sandy-damaged NYCHA sites. He suspects the recently announced \$100 million FEMA allotment will be insufficient. [New York Daily News](#)

Several survivors of the fire at a Point Pleasant Beach, NJ motel that killed three people were Hurricane Sandy victims living in the motel while waiting for funds for their homes to be repaired. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo explained that certain communities in the borough - specifically seniors and Sandy victims - would benefit from the Mayor's push for affordable housing citywide, but urges sensitivity to communities and infrastructure that cannot support greater density. He outlined his plans for acquisition for redevelopment . [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: This [Staten Island Advance editorial](#) urges the de Blasio Administration to consider Borough President Oddo's "acquisition for redevelopment" recommendations to rebuild damaged shoreline areas with affordable housing in mixed use developments.

Events

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

Upcoming deadlines

Monday, March 31: Final community plans are due for the State's New York Rising community Reconstruction Program. [Online interactive maps for six New York City communities](#) are available for public feedback.

Friday, April 11: Final deadline for applicants to the NY Rising program. Online Applications can be found at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov>

Monday, April 28: Proof of Loss must be RECEIVED by your flood insurer. Refer to this [Touro Law Center Disaster Relief Clinic flyer](#) on Flood Insurance claims for more details.

Wednesday, May 7: Responses due for the Request for Proposals for the [Enterprise Community](#)

Partners Capacity Building Grants Program. The RFP application materials are posted online. Organizations may apply for up to \$150,000 across a maximum of three grant program areas. Awards will be announced beginning July 7, 2014.

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics.

Friday, March 28, 7:30 am - 11:00 am: Fix & Fortify Sandy Recovery Work Contract Opportunities at the MTA. Club 101, 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178.

Monday, March 31, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: Regional Recovery Working Group Workshop for Coastal Communities. New York Institute of Technology Old Westbury Campus, Northern Boulevard & Valentines Lane, Glen Head, NY 11545

Thursday, April 3, 5:00 - 8:00 pm: Rebuild by Design Public Presentations (New York) - the Unveiling of the Final Work. 250 Vesey St, 29th Floor, New York, NY 10281

Thursday, April 3, 8:30 - 11:00 am: Rebuild by Design Public Presentations (New Jersey) - the Unveiling of the Final Work. Liberty Science Center, 222 Jersey City Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305.

Through Sunday, April 6: Rising Waters: Photographs of Sandy at the Museum of the City of New York. 1220 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029.

Thursday, April 10 and Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Superstorm Sandy Free Legal Clinic from the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. Recovery Information Center, Moonachie Presbyterian Church, 221 Moonachie road, Moonachie, NJ 07074

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, NY 10022.

Tuesday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Multifamily Resiliency Measures. Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Friday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Flood Resilient Code. Part of the Enterprise Community Partners 2014 Resiliency Speakers Series of panel presentations exploring long-term recovery challenges and opportunities for the multifamily affordable housing infrastructure in New York City and the surrounding region in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Brooklyn

Friday March 28, 9:30 am: Canarsie Coalition Disaster Resources monthly meeting. Bayview Community Center, 5955 Shore Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Monday, April 7, 6:30 pm at Canarsie Coalition Disaster Recovery Resources evening meeting. Canarsie residents can check status on Build it Back applications, get information on National Flood Insurance Policy changes, meet with disaster case managers. Canarsie's elected officials will be present to address the concerns. Beraca Baptist Church, 9602 Flatlands Avenue. info: CanarsieRecoveryCoalition@gmail.com.

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.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: [2014 Rebuild Environment: NYC Voluntary Rebuild Capacity Assessment report](#)

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 Interfaiths 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, 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

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.

Contact us

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