

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 6 - 13

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### [Have you heard?](#)

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

Interested in searching for RFPs and other bid solicitations? Check

### Action Item

**FINAL DAYS** for New York State's public comment period for proposed amendments to its Action Plan for Sandy CDBG-DR funds. The deadline to submit comments is **Wednesday, March 19**.

Details on the action plan can be found on the [New York Rising](#) website.

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan was critical of the Bloomberg Administration for its handling of the Build it Back program which he claims is responsible for delays rather than federal red tape. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) criticized New York City's slow pace of recovery and compared it to the recovery on Long Island which has already disbursed federal aid to residents. [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: In a recent interview, former Congressman and New York City mayoral candidate Anthony Weiner was supportive of Mayor Bill de Blasio's call for more time to become acclimated to his new role as mayor before he can adequately focus on Sandy recovery. [Gotham Gazette](#)

Last week's [story](#) by NJ Spotlight/WNYC on the inconsistencies in how New Jersey townships were awarded rebuilding funds may spur new legislative oversight. [Newsworks](#)

ALSO: According to a Rutgers University report, understaffed and underfunded agencies are to blame for the botched distribution of relief funds in New Jersey, rather than the contractor fired last month by the Christie Administration. [NJ Spotlight](#)

Long Island communities will receive \$240 million through the New York Rising program to implement infrastructure proposals identified through community planning sessions. [Newsday](#)

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security audit says New Jersey officials were within their rights to hire AshBritt, a politically connected contractor, in a no-bid contract for emergency debris removal. [The Associated Press via Crain's New York Business](#)

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A lobbyist and several non-state employees with ties to Department of Homeland Security Commissioner Jerome Hauer, were given special perks including access to Governor Cuomo's offices and other state agencies in the wake of Sandy. [Times-Union](#)

Due to unanticipated structural issues, new comfort stations and lifeguard structures for beaches in Brooklyn and Queens will cost the city an additional \$8.5 million, totalling \$113.5 million. The cost is expected to be reimbursed through FEMA. [DNAinfo](#)

Eight home buyouts in South River, New Jersey have been completed. The State plans to return the land to open space. [Asbury Park Press](#)

The Urban Land Institute [announced](#) recipients of the 2014 Resiliency Grants. ULI New York will receive \$20,000 to establish a link between the economic sustainability of the region and a storm resilient transportation system.

The Staten Island Hunger Task force is launching an anti-hunger program in response to increasing need for food pantries and soup kitchens since Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Staten Island high school students will hold a Hurricane Sandy relief concert to benefit the work of Habitat for Humanity. [Staten Island Advance](#)

A profile of a Highlands, New Jersey resident and small business owner who stopped waiting for government rebuilding programs and is raising the money to rebuild her business herself. [NJ.com](#)

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## Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Several proposals for the Rebuild by Design plans for "The Big U" - the Lower East Side waterfront - were presented to residents and feature resiliency measures including berms and flip-down walls. One controversial plan involved relocating NYCHA residents away from flood zone buildings. [Bedford + Bowery blog](#)

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services has proposed a wide range of new emergency preparedness requirements for health care facilities, from hospitals to small group homes. The proposed regulations, open for public comment, are opposed by many industry leaders as being cost prohibitive. [The New York Times](#)

New Jersey's power utility PSE&G has proposed spending \$10 billion over five years on infrastructure upgrades on the power grid, rather than building new power plants. An additional \$2.6 billion will be needed for its planned resiliency measures. [NJ Spotlight](#)

The National Resources Defense Council claims that FEMA's recently released flood maps of New York City may be obsolete in just a few years because they do not take into account future risk of

flooding associated with sea level rise, as required by the Briggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act. [Switchboard](#)

The United Nations headquarters was well-prepared to deal with Sandy due to its emergency financial management tools and disaster preparedness plan, two essentials for any business. [Forbes](#)

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and other elected officials are supportive of expanding ferry service throughout the borough. [Queens Chronicle](#)

The MTA announced Brooklyn's Montague subway tunnel, closed for over a year for repairs due to damage from Sandy, is on schedule to reopen in fall 2014. [Brooklyn Eagle](#)

An access tunnel to the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel and maintained by the New York City Department of Transportation has had no functioning lights since it was flooded by Sandy. [NY1](#)

Community organizing after Sandy continues to be vital even with progressive-leaning administrations. [Truth-out](#)

Researchers from the U.K. Department for International Development and the University College of London have documented potential climate hazards facing 129 cities around the world and have provided strategies for policy-makers to consider in "future-proofing" their cities. [American City & County](#)

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## Housing

A report by members of Community Voices Heard, the Urban Justice Center and other members of the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding exposes the many lingering problems in NYCHA buildings that were inundated by Sandy, including mold and malfunctioning temporary boilers. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: The report, based on surveys of 600 NYCHA tenants, reveals that many units already had problems with mold before Sandy, which were exacerbated after the storm. [New York Daily News](#) and [NY1](#)

NYCHA officials said new temporary boilers will be installed at the Red Hook houses in Brooklyn within the month. Permanent boilers will not be installed until 2016 and will cost \$1.8 billion. [DNAinfo](#)

Long Island residents rallied before a New York Rising public hearing. Many testified that the funds they received do not come close to meeting the need for housing repairs. [Long Island Herald](#)

April 11 is the deadline for residents of the Oakwood Beach and Ocean Breeze neighborhoods of Staten Island to opt into the New York State home buyout program. Other neighborhoods where the buyout program applies are still being considered. [Staten Island Advance](#)

This editorial praises Rep. Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island) for getting the House of Representatives to pass his legislation that lowers the cap on flood insurance premiums and keeps rates low for several more years. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: This blog provides a technique for how to estimate how much flood insurance to buy. [Dean & Draper Insurance Blog](#)

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### Jobs

New statistics suggest that Sandy had less of an impact on employment within the five boroughs than was originally reported. [Crain's New York Business](#)

## Events

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

### Upcoming deadlines

**TOMORROW** March 14: Deadline extended: [RISE: NYC competition](#) deadline for Stage 1 technology applications.

**March 19:** Comments are due for New York State's [proposed amendment 6](#) to its Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds.

**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.

### Regional Events

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

**Friday, March 14,** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm: [NJ Future Redevelopment Forum](#), at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. Session descriptions and registration online.

**Wednesday March 26,** 9:30 am - 11:30 am: Enterprise's Resilience Speakers Series | Operations and Maintenance for Disaster Preparedness. Enterprise Community Partners. One Whitehall Street 11 Floor New York, NY 10004 [Info and webex access](#).

**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.

**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.

### **Brooklyn**

**TONIGHT Thursday March 13**, 7:30 pm: Climate Change. Climate Denial: Brooklyn at the Center. Presented by the Bay Ridge Democrats. Bridgeview Diner, 9011 3rd Ave.

**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.

### **Queens**

**Wednesday, March 26**, 7:00-9:00: Rockaway Boardwalk Project Informational Session #3. Learn about the boardwalk's development and associated job opportunities. PS 43 160 Beach 29th Street

## **Advocacy Reports**

**NEW:** Alliance for a Just Rebuilding: Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient New York City Housing Authority Post-Sandy.

**NEW:** 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.

**NEW:** Field Guide Set & Trainings For Engaging Faith Communities from the National Disaster Interfaiths Network

**NEW:** 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.

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