

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: May 22-29

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Transparency Tip

The U.S. Government Accountability Office released its [status report](#) on the progress of federal Department of Transportation allocation, obligation and disbursement of \$13 billion of funds through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act .

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

The federal government will allocate \$2.5 billion to New York and New Jersey in a third and final tranche of Hurricane Sandy recovery funds. Of the nearly \$1 billion to go to New York City, two thirds will be for the Build it Back housing repair program. [The New York Times](#)

- New York City will receive \$994 million in the final tranche of CDBG-DR funds. [The Real Deal](#) and [Associated Press via CNBC](#)
- New York State will receive about \$600 million in the final round of CDBG-DR funds. The funds are expected to be used for New York Rising infrastructure projects on Long Island. [Staten Island Advance](#) and Governor's [press release](#)
- New Jersey will receive \$882 million in the third tranche of CDBG-DR funds; New Jersey officials say nearly \$18 billion in unmet housing infrastructure and economic development needs will remain after the second tranche is spent in the state. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: Rep. Michael Grimm of Staten Island reacted positively to news that New York City would receive another round of nearly \$1 billion in Sandy aid, enough to fund unmet housing needs and a small business grant program. [Staten Island Advance](#)

A helpful breakdown of total CDBG fund allocations by state, including the recently announced third tranche. [New Jersey Newsroom](#)

As [announced](#) today, Gov. Cuomo signed legislation proposed by Mayor de Blasio that will prevent an increase in property taxes as a result of significant repairs made to homes that were damaged by Sandy.

The New York Attorney General initially pressed the American Red Cross to disclose their Hurricane Sandy expenditures, but later came to an agreement that excluded detailed reporting. [ProPublica](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

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!

Environmentalists and community planners debate the ability of the Seaport City plan to equitably provide protection to New York City's waterfront without infringing on the Clean Water Act. [Vice](#)

ALSO: The de Blasio administration says it will work closely with the community in determining next steps for 'Seaport City,' a Bloomberg-era proposal for a multi-purpose levee built on landfill along the coastline of lower Manhattan. [Capital New York](#)

The New York City Office of Emergency Management announced the Hurricane season forecast, which does not anticipate hurricanes impacting the city this year. [Scientific American](#)

New York City launched a hurricane-preparedness campaign including a [website](#) to help residents determine their flood evacuation zone. [AP via Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: This Staten Island Advance editorial urges communities to be prepared for Hurricane Season, which begins June 1, by understanding the evacuation zones of Staten Island. Portal to help. [Staten Island Advance](#)

As the summer season begins, many of the beaches in the Rockaways remain under construction due to Army Corps of Engineer dredging and beach widening projects. [NY1](#) and [WNYC](#)

New research published in *Nature* suggests that hurricanes are migrating further north with the "expansion" of the tropics due to climate change. [TruthDig](#)

In this opinion piece, Marcia Bystryn, the president of the New York League of Conservation Voters calls on Mayor de Blasio to define clear goals and priorities for adapting New York City to climate change. [amNew York](#)

Housing

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, whose office is conducting an audit of the Build it Back housing program, heard from numerous Staten Island residents' troubles with the program. [Staten Island Advance](#)

A dune restoration project led by the Army Corps of Engineers, will require demolishing some homes along the beach in Fire Island, New York, and many groups, including the [Newsday editorial board](#), have raised concerns about the usefulness of the project. [The New York Times](#)

As the new Secretary of HUD, Julián Castro has the opportunity to improve the agency to better address resilient communities, urban-led housing, and adapt federal policies to environmental challenges. [Brookings](#)

ALSO: [Transcript](#) of the President Obama's remarks at the nomination of Shaun Donovan as OMB Director and Mayor

Julián Castro as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Jobs

President Obama announced \$6.7 million in grants to help expand employment opportunities for youth in conservation work around the country, including beach restoration in New York following Sandy.

Events

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

Deadline extended

A six month extension has been approved to file a Standard Flood Insurance Policy Proof of Loss claim for the National Flood Insurance Program due to Sandy. With the extension, claims may now be filed up to 24 months after the date of loss. See the memo from FEMA.

Upcoming Deadlines

Tuesday, June 3: CDBG-DR Affordability Study on Multifamily Flood Insurance Request for Proposals is due to NYCEDC.

Mondy, June 9: The New York City Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency issued an RFP seeking a team to study the vulnerabilities of the New York City food supply and distribution network. See the Press Release and Request for Proposals

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.

TONIGHT Thursday, May 29, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm: 2014 Disaster Volunteer Conference: Breaking the Technology Barrier. NYC Citizen Corps brings together local leaders from community organizations, government, the private sector, and volunteer programs to promote emergency preparedness at the most local level. Registration 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.

Tuesday, June 10, 6:30-9 pm: New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer Sandy Oversight Hearing, Red Hook. PS 15 Auditorium 71 Sullivan Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

Saturday, June 14: Canarsie Day. Community leaders, community organizations, and neighbors can come for Sandy resources, and info. 8802 Seaview Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11236

Staten Island

Saturday, June 7, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm: Community BBQ and Sandy Resource Fair hosted by the Staten Island Long-Term Recovery Group, Community Environmental Center, and Alliance for a Just Rebuilding. Midland Beach Veterans Memorial Park.

Advocacy Reports

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

NEW: 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/nycrcr/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.

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