

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 29 - June 5

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

### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) [announced](#) \$235 million in grants from the federal Department of Transportation will go to NJ Transit and PATH systems to repair damage sustained during Hurricane Sandy. [Asbury Park Press](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency [announced](#) New York City will receive \$600,000 through its Brownfields Program for assessment of contaminated properties, including Sandy-inundated areas, and a jobs training program.

New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney told reporters that Gov. Christie is in denial about the state of Sandy recovery in New Jersey. [Courier-Post](#)

Staten Island teenagers advocate for increased funding for the New Dorp public library, which was a central community location for relief work during and after Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

#### Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Winning projects in the Housing and Urban Development's Rebuild by Design competition were [announced](#) this week; \$920 million will be distributed to six projects in the region, the largest share of the funds - \$335 million - will be used to install a flood barrier around lower Manhattan in a project known as "The BIG U." [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Rebuild by Design funding will provide \$415 million for New York City resiliency projects including a constructing a park-like 'berm' along the East River, a study of the resiliency of the food system in Hunts Point, Bronx, and development of [oyster beds](#) off the coast of Staten Island. Another \$125 million will be used to build flooding infrastructure projects in Nassau County. [Capital New York](#) and [DNAinfo](#) and [New York Magazine](#)

ALSO: The winning project for Long Island will fund the first phase of protecting the Mill River watershed. [Newsday](#)

ALSO: In New Jersey, two of the winning Rebuild by Design projects will receive \$380 million to add green space and

**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!

constructed wetlands in the Meadowlands and around Hoboken. [The Star-Ledger](#) and [New Jersey Herald](#)

The projects chosen in the Rebuild by Design competition were selected because they can be replicated in other parts of the country vulnerable to severe storms. Oyster beds, for example, will be monitored for possible use in Florida. [The Verge](#)

Designers of "the BIG U" project liken it to the High Line park in Manhattan in the way it uses infrastructure as a public space. [Inhabitat](#)

Gov. Christie maintained distance from Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer in a ceremony announcing the Rebuild by Design winning proposal that would focus resiliency funds for a flood prevention system in Hoboken." [The New York Times](#)

An interactive map displays the many large scale development projects including an outlet mall and ferris wheel, being planned for Staten Island, many along the waterfront. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: With all the projected changes for Staten Island, including major developments in transportation infrastructure and open space, many feel optimistic about the future of Staten Island. [Staten Island Advance](#)

The government of the Netherlands is helping many power companies and grid operators in the U.S., including Con Edison, understand the relationship between power and water infrastructure. [Breaking Energy](#)

ALSO: Con Edison is investing over \$1 billion to upgrade its electricity delivery capacity for New York City and Westchester in advance of the summer's projected heat wave; the upgrade is in addition to a 4-year, \$1 billion program to implement storm-hardening projects to protect the electrical grid. [Marketwatch](#)

Senator Schumer is calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to quicken its pace of reviewing the flood control project for Mamaroneck, New York. [Westfair Online](#)

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## **Housing**

Homeowners enrolled in the Build it Back program report troubles with the process of filing complaints about the quality of work done through the program. Workers hired through subcontractors may not be receiving prevailing wages for their work. [WNYC](#)

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## **Jobs**

In most cases, MTA employees who made more than \$100,000 in 2013 were receiving overtime compensation related to Sandy rebuilding projects. [New York Post](#)

A new independent film, 3rd Street Blackout, set during the

immediate aftermath of Sandy when much of Manhattan was without electricity, begins production this month. [IndieWire](#)

## Events

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

### Upcoming Deadlines

**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](#)

**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](#).

**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.

**Tuesday June 10,** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation will host an [informational open house](#) regarding an upcoming \$35 million project at the Sea Gate area of Coney Island.

**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

### 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).

### 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

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.