

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: November 28 - December 5

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### **New from GJNY**

Did you miss us last week? Instead of a Weekly News Round-up (because of the short Thanksgiving week), we tweeted some news highlights. Check them out on our Twitter feed: [#EyeOnSandyMoney](#).

We are proud to announce our updated website [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#). Now it's easier than ever to find news, resources, upcoming events and other helpful materials. Check it out, tell us what you think, and keep an eye out for more expansions.

### Action Items

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the state's program for community redevelopment planning, has released [conceptual plans](#) for rebuilding in communities affected by Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. Community meetings are being held to refine community recovery plans. A list of dates and locations is posted at the [New York Rising website](#).

ALSO: New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program currently has [a survey](#) for Sandy-impacted Staten Island businesses.

### This Week's News

#### **Disaster Relief**

This week, the Bloomberg Administration launched [Sandy Funding Tracker](#), a website on how federal money is being spent in the recovery and rebuilding. [New York Daily News](#) and [The Real Deal](#)

ALSO: A summary of this week's City Council hearing where the Bloomberg Administration revealed the Sandy Funding Tracker and community advocates reiterated the need for passage of the proposed local law that would require additional information, include disaggregated data, and be available as a downloadable database. [TechPresident](#)

ALSO: [GJNY testified](#) at the City Council hearing and raised concerns that the New York City Economic Development Corporation was taking a step backward from its high standard of transparency on jobs data.

New York City was selected as one of 33 cities to receive a grant from a \$100 million Rockefeller Foundation fund to support disaster preparedness and long-term sustainability. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) visited Cumberland County which was hard hit by Sandy and where many residents feel the state's recovery effort has by-passed them. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Small businesses and non-profits in New Jersey that sustained at

### **Transparency Tip:**

Newsday has a [map tool](#) that displays how \$3.8 billion in FEMA and SBA aid has been allocated in the tri-state area as of September 2013.

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least \$5,000 in damages may be eligible for grants or forgivable loans via the "Stronger NJ Business Grant Program." [NJ.com](#)

Acknowledging the vital role of houses of worship in disaster response, FEMA and disaster experts from Johns Hopkins Medicine are preparing training manuals and other resources to help these institutions address the needs of disaster victims. [News-Medical.net](#)

\$185 million from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act will be used to build Amtrak's "Gateway" tunnels into Manhattan, a critical component for the future of high speed train service in the Northeast. [Philly.com](#)

The Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC, the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation announced \$14 Million in private funds for a program to assist single-family homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy but not eligible for the city's Build it Back program.

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger released a report, [Superstorm of Hunger: Lingering Shortfalls Expose a Tale of Two Food Cities'](#) detailing the extent of food shortages especially among vulnerable Sandy-impacted populations. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Soup kitchens and food pantries across New York City report high need among Sandy survivors. [Gothamist](#)

ALSO: The Bowery Mission in New York City served thousands of Thanksgiving meals to needy New Yorkers, including many homeless Sandy victims. [New York Daily News](#)

A new Gallup report shows clinically diagnosed depression rates are beginning to drop in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy. [Huffington Post](#)

A memorial to Hurricane Sandy victims is being planned for Staten Island. [New York Daily News](#)

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### **Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency**

New Jersey's practice of Home Rule may have streamlined the initial clean-up after Sandy, but for long-term resiliency planning, it could be a hindrance. [Emergency Management](#)

Residents of Coney Island and Brighton Beach, Brooklyn are advocating for an artificial dune like the one planned for Far Rockaway, Queens. [Brooklyn Daily](#)

ALSO: Brighton Beach residents turned out in force at a New York City Department of Parks and Recreation public hearing regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for comfort stations on the beach. [Sheepshead Bites](#) [Video segments

included]

So far, approximately 90 percent of trees immediately surrounding the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester, NY have been removed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection due to severe damage during Hurricane Sandy. [Mid-Hudson News Network](#)

A new school built near Long Island City's "Queens West" development was designed with rising sea levels in mind and its first floor is two feet above the base flood elevation. [City Biz List](#)

Two University of Delaware professors will receive funding through a \$162 million program from the U.S. Department of Interior to assess habitat degradation in coastal wetlands as a result of Sandy. [UDaily](#)

Fresh Kills Park in Staten Island, considered a model for reclaiming landfill for public parkland, was critical in absorbing storm surge during Sandy. [Inhabitat.com](#)

The U.S. military's expertise in strategic disaster management planning may be a good model for developing effective climate adaptation plans in New York City. [Hampton Roads](#)

Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway gave a keynote speech at the the Environmental Contractors Association seminar. [New York Real Estate Journal](#)

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## **Housing**

FEMA has released [preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps](#) for New York City.

Six things everyone should know since the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 made significant changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. [MyCentralJersey.com](#)

Only five homeowners in New York State have received funds for home repairs through the state's New York Rising housing recovery program. [NBC 4 New York](#)

The Fair Share Housing Center in New Jersey obtained state documents through a lawsuit that reveal homeowners may have been improperly denied federal relief funds but were not given information about the appeals process. [New Jersey Public Radio](#)

New York City Housing Authority General Manager Cecil House testified that NYCHA is \$676 million short of the funds needed to make repairs from Sandy. [Capital New York](#)

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## **Jobs**

Community groups in New Jersey are assisting day laborers working on Sandy rebuilding projects to help minimize their

exposure to hazardous materials by supplying them with protective equipment. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's inspections of 140 Sandy-related work sites in New Jersey returned 110 violations of safety standards. [New Jersey Public Radio](#)

ALSO: A [study](#) by professors at Baruch University document the role day laborers and those that advocate for them play in rebuilding after a disaster.

A new narrative from Occupy Sandy on one of the individuals helping with emergency response and organizing aid. [Occupy Sandy](#)

## Events

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

### ***Upcoming application deadlines***

\$27 million in federal National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds are available from the New York State Department of Labor via the Jobs for Cleanup Work program. For an application, information, and a list of jobs visit <http://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/neg.shtm>

December 6 is the deadline to apply for the Mold Treatment Program, an initiative funded by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the Robin Hood Foundation and the American Red Cross and administered by Neighborhood Revitalization NYC. More information can be found [here](#).

The [Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program](#) funded by federal disaster relief appropriation will award \$100 million in grants to projects throughout the region affected by Sandy for wetland restoration and shoreline resilience.

### **Regional**

**TONIGHT:** Thursday, December 5, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm: "[Sandy Stories, Organized Labor Rebuilds New York](#)," an exhibit of photographs taken by working men and women during and after Hurricane Sandy, and "When the Lights Go Out," a multi-media theatrical performance about those who helped in the rebuilding, hosted by SUNY Empire State College's Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies. The event will be streamed live over the Internet on ESC-TV and can be accessed at <http://www.esc.edu/esc-tv/>.

### **Brooklyn**

Friday, December 6, 6:00 pm: [Gerritsen Beach/Sheepshead Bay New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). Amity School, 3867 Shore Pkwy.

### **Manhattan**

Thursday, December 12, 8:30 am: [Lower Manhattan New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). Community Board 3 Office, 59 East 4th Street.

Friday, December 13, 9:00 am - to 5:00 pm: [Business Continuity Planning for Affordable Housing Organizations](#). Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., 1 Whitehall Street, 11th Floor.

### **Queens**

Monday, December 9, 7:30 pm: [Rockaway West New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program Planning Committee Meeting](#). Location TBD

Staten Island

Tuesday, December 10, 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm: [One Year After Sandy, A Community Gathering](#). Keynote speaker John Berglund, Disaster Recovery Director, Salvation Army. New Dorp Moravian Church, 2205 Richmond Road.

## **New Jersey**

Tuesday, December 10, 8:00 pm: NJ Housing Emergency Conference Call. Occupy Sandy holds an urgent statewide conference call to share best practices, discuss innovative approaches, brainstorm possible new solutions, and ultimately bring together the stakeholders necessary to ensure that everyone who needs a warm bed this winter can find one. Dial 323-393-4046, then 483959#. (Everyone will be muted, but you can press the number 1 on your phone's keypad to be called on by the facilitator.)

## **Advocacy Reports**

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.

[A Tale of Two Recoveries](#). A report by Street Easy reviews how quickly the real estate market recovered after Hurricane Sandy, and by how much by analyzing sales and rentals by boroughs and neighborhoods.

The New York Building Congress released its [annual forecast](#) and anticipates an increase in construction spending for 2013-2015, in part due to post-Sandy infrastructure projects.

After Sandy: [Advancing Strategies for Long-Term Resilience and Adaptability](#). A report from the Urban Land Institute offers 23 recommendations on land use, infrastructure, finance, and governance for local and federal post-Sandy community rebuilding plans.

The Urban Green Council maintains a [proposal tracker](#) to follow the status of the Building Resiliency Task Force report proposals geared at making New York buildings safer and more resilient to extreme weather.

[A Disaster in the Making: Addressing the Vulnerability of Low-Income Communities to Extreme Weather](#). A report by the Center for American Progress examines current disaster recovery policies and offers recommendations for how government can increase communities' resiliency after storms.

[2013 New Jersey Hurricane Sandy Long-Term Relief and Recovery Assistance Guide](#) from the United Way.

[The Superstorm Research Lab](#), a mutual aid research collective, is working to understand the changes in how New York City policy actors, NGO leaders, activists, volunteers, and residents are thinking about social, economic and environmental issues following Hurricane Sandy.

The Sandy Regional Assembly released its community-based [analysis](#) of the Bloomberg Administration's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) report.

New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio documents the efforts of community-based organizations providing disaster relief services for low-income families after Sandy: [Supporting Community-Based Disaster Response: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy](#)

The Center for Urban Real Estate: [NYC 2040: Housing the Next One Million New Yorkers](#) urban green council maintains a proposal tracker to follow the status of the Building Resiliency Task Force report proposals geared at making New York buildings safer and more resilient to extreme weather.

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, the Recovery Agenda includes priorities relating to low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding released [Sandy's Mold Legacy: The Unmet Need Six Months 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:** Office of Inspector General Audit Report: Initial Assessment of FTA's Oversight of Emergency Relief Program and Hurricane Sandy Relief Funds

**NEW:** 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.

**NEW:** [NYC Service Initiatives Hurricane Sandy Recovery](#); links to ongoing volunteer opportunities for Sandy relief and recovery work.

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.

[Presentations](#) are available from the "Sandy: One Year Later" conference hosted by NJ Future.

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.

Rand Corporation report, [Flood Insurance in New York City Following Hurricane Sandy](#)

FEMA's [Hurricane Sandy: One Year Later](#) provides updates on recovery efforts, a timeline and

other resources.

[National Emergency Grant Awards](#) categorized by year.

[NYC Service](#), a citywide service opportunity portal, with links to various ongoing recovery and response projects.

New York City's Action Plan A for use of \$1.7 billion in Community Development Block Grants, including four amendments to the plan can be found at the [NYC Recovery: Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery](#) website. Also, read Good Jobs New York's comments on the recent amendment to the action plan and more on our page for [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#)

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 [athree-part blog series](#).

[Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program](#). This program, through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior, aims to fund ways to rebuild wetlands, beaches and other ecosystems.

顯利街社服中心「希望之星」撫慰珊迪災民受創心靈 - Henry Street Settlement in Lower Manhattan provides free mental health counseling to people and families affected by Sandy. Hot line: (800) 543-3638; In Chinese: (877) 990-8585.

The New York [Community Reconstruction Program](#), formerly known as Community Reconstruction Zones; the program's website includes an interactive map of the "NY Rising Communities" and a prominent link for making public comment.

The New York State [Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Sandy Recovery Resource Guide](#), updated July 9, 2013.

Report by the U.S. Department of Energy: [U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather](#). Part of the Obama Administration's national climate change adaptation planning, this report examines current and potential impacts of climate trends on the nation's energy sector. It includes an interactive map showing the location of current climate vulnerabilities in the energy sector.

[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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