

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 dollars Weekly News Round-up: September 12 - 19

In This Issue

[This week's news](#)

[Regional Events](#)

[Advocacy Reports](#)

[Federal, State & Local](#)

[Resources](#)

New from GJNY

Dazed and confused about the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013? We can help. Check out Good Jobs New York's new tool to help New Yorker's understand the Federal Disaster Relief Act and New York City's plan for the first round of CDBG funds.

[At-a-Glance: Federal Disaster Relief After Hurricane Sandy](#)

联邦政策一瞥：飓风桑迪救援资金分配 - (中文) ([In Chinese](#))

Action Items

Application Deadline: [Build it Back](#) applications due September 30.

This week, New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) posted the Final Notice and Public Explanation of Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain [\[pdf\]](#). NOTE: There is no public comment period associated with this notice.

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

Two hearings related to Hurricane Sandy were held in Washington, DC this week:

The U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs -[Recovering from Superstorm Sandy: Assessing the Progress, Continuing Needs and Rebuilding Strategy](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management: [FEMA Reauthorization: Recovering Quicker and Smarter](#).

Find more information, including links to testimony and meeting materials, on GJNY's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#) section of our website.

ALSO: In the Senate hearing, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan told the panel HUD is delayed in distributing payments because of insurance policies. [Fierce Government](#)

ALSO: New York Sen. Charles E. Schumer raised the issue of the difficulty individuals are having receiving FEMA funds. [YNN Rochester](#)

FEMA ended the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program this week. [Staten Island Advance](#)

Many Red Hook, Brooklyn businesses continue to struggle with securing disaster relief aid and insurance payouts and are now faced with deep debt. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Transparency Tip:

The Star Ledger created an interactive tool to help track the use of Sandy funds in New Jersey municipalities. [Sandy Recovery Scorecard](#)

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A New York Times editorial calls on New Jersey Gov. Christie to release data on who has been granted federal housing aid. Despite requests, the Administration has denied the Fair Share Housing Center the information so it can determine if low-income and minority residents have benefited. [The New York Times](#)

The fire that destroyed part of New Jersey's Seaside Heights and Seaside Park boardwalk was caused by wiring damaged by Sandy. [The Washington Post](#)

ALSO: HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced that businesses damaged in the fire may apply for funds set aside for Sandy rebuilding. [Courier-Post](#)

ALSO: Groups on the left and right oppose New Jersey Gov. Christie's plan to redirect \$15 million Sandy relief aid to businesses damaged in the Seaside boardwalk fire. [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Coastal Environment Group, Inc., a New York-based firm, won a \$4 million federal contract to clean up debris in New Jersey's Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. [Brick Patch](#)

The American Red Cross announced \$6 million for organizations assisting with Hurricane Sandy relief, including The Salvation Army, Save the Children, and HOPE Worldwide. [Philanthropy News Digest](#)

The mother of a woman electrocuted by a downed power line during Hurricane Sandy is suing ConEd. [New York Daily News](#)

An art exhibit and a film series will commemorate the aftermath and response to Hurricane Sandy. [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Climate research scientist Klaus Jacobs makes the case that coastal retreat needs to be considered as a proactive disaster preparedness strategy in certain areas, rather than a last-resort option. [The Atlantic Cities](#)

A profile of three U.S. cities devastated by recent disasters, that were able to rebuild as more equitable and environmentally sustainable. [Governing](#)

Northern New Jersey communities are struggling to rebuild after Sandy and face problems unique to urban areas such as elevating attached housing stock and other challenges to mitigating flood risk in dense urban areas. [Newsworks New Jersey](#)

New York Gov. Cuomo addressed a meeting of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program in Staten Island on Wednesday. Ten communities in New York City are included in the \$25 million community planning program. [The Staten Island Advance](#)

An op-ed cautions that the MTA must fully assess damage in the transit system and secure federal funds for repairs before a mid-December application deadline. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: The MTA chairman announced that more shutdowns of subway tunnels between Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan are necessary to repair damage from Sandy's floodwater. [Transportation Nation](#)

The MTA provides before and after photos of the work completed on the Rockaway Flats section of the A and S subway line that was damaged by Sandy. [MTA.info](#)

PSE&G held its first public hearing on its nearly \$4 billion infrastructure upgrade plans. Many community members and two unions testified for and against the plans. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Many government officials now see independent power generation of microgrids as being crucial components to effective disaster planning. [Scientific American](#)

Housing

An FDNY Lieutenant who received an award for his rescue efforts during Sandy still awaits rebuilding of his house in Far Rockaway, Queens. [Labor Press](#)

Jobs

New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman [announced](#) Signal Restoration Services, accused of underpaying its subcontractors for clean-up and reconstruction work on three hospitals, will pay over \$500,000 in back wages to workers plus additional fines to the Attorney General's office.

Advocacy News

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

Regional

Application Deadline: September 30 applications are due, for [Build it Back](#), New York City's program to assist homeowners and renters.

Grant Deadline: September 30. Grants are available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. [The Coastal Resilience Networks \(Crest\) grant program](#) for communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Grants range from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Grant Deadline: November 1. The New York City Small Business Services [Small Business Storefront Improvement Program](#) provides funding for facade improvements to eligible small businesses and property owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Selected participants will be awarded up to \$20,000.

A schedule for events along the Staten Island waterfront commemorating the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy includes a candlelight vigil along the shoreline. [Staten Island Advance](#)

New York State

\$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>

Wednesday, September 25, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, [Government Procurement and Business Resource Roundtable](#), Stony Brook Small Business Development Center. To register contact: 631-632-9837, sbdc@stonybrook.edu.

Brooklyn

Saturday, September 21, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. [PlanningCamp NYC](#), an "unconference" about technology and the future of urban planning. Higgins Hall, Pratt Institute 61 St James Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11238.

Governor's Island

The International Center of Photography [exhibition of photographs](#) about Hurricane Sandy and the storm's devastation and the region's recovery over the past ten months. "Rising Waters: Photographs of Hurricane Sandy," on view at Building 19, Nolan Park, Governor's Island through September 29.

Manhattan

Friday, September 27, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. [All Together Now: Strategies for Effective Resident Engagement for Emergency/Disaster Preparation](#). Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11 Floor; Registration is required.

Thursday, October 10, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm: [TEDx NYIT on META Resiliency](#). New York Institute of Technology Auditorium on Broadway, 1871 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. Tickets are required.

Queens

Tuesday, September 24, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. [Beyond Engagement Forum: Building and Sustaining Community Networks](#). 42-09 28th St, Room 3-32, Queens, NY 11101

Staten Island

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm. HUD's [Rebuild by Design Public Conversation](#), Staten Island, NY. Charles School Auditorium 200 Penn Ave, Oak Wood, Staten Island, NY. For a schedule of other meeting times and locations, visit <http://rebuildbydesign.org/>

New Jersey

Tuesday, October 29. [Superstorm Sandy: One Year Later, Looking to the Future](#). Monmouth University, West Long Branch, N.J. Presented by Monmouth University, New Jersey Future, New Jersey Recovery Fund. Free, registration is required.

Advocacy Reports

[A Disaster in the Making: Addressing the Vulnerability of Low-Income Communities to Extreme Weather](#). This report from 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](#)

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

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](#).

[Disaster Recovery Bulletin](#), August 2013. A weekly electronic newsletter from the Hurricane Sandy federal disaster recovery coordination team.

ProPublica's [list](#) of the best journalism on the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

[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.

Contact us

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