

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: April 11-18

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This week's news

Disaster Relief

- The Recovery Accountability and Transparency (RAT) Board, established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is posting federal contracts, grants and loans disbursed to 19 federal agencies as part the Sandy aid bill. [Recovery.gov](#)

ALSO: The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board stands as a pioneer of government accountability and transparency. [Federal News Radio](#)

ALSO: Our Good Jobs First colleagues tout the RAT Board's efforts in this 2011 blog, "Leaving a Lasting Legacy, Devaney Can Depart Recovery Board with Head Held High." [Clawback.org](#)

- New Jersey advocacy groups are demanding more details and a public comment period before the state allocates \$400 million from FEMA to a so-called hazard-mitigation grant program. [NJ Spotlight](#)
- A chart by the Bloomberg Administration illustrates the city's proposed use of the first round of \$1.7 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant funds. (Links to the CDBG-DR Action Plan A also included) [NYC Recovery](#)

ALSO: The New York World lays out the New York City and State plans for the first round of federal funds, and analyzes who is most likely to receive aid. [The New York World](#)

- Citing fear of fraud, Mayor Bloomberg stated that the city is not planning to reimburse property owners for repairs they have already made to storm-damaged buildings. [New York Daily News](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)
- Transportation Development Credits worth \$111 million from the New York State Department of Transportation will help the MTA cover expenses related to Sandy and

leverage federal disaster relief aid. [Newsday](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Wealthy homeowners in the Hamptons have begun installing barricades to protect their waterfront properties from future storms. Community members are concerned the barricades will hasten erosion. [The New York Times](#)
- Hoboken, NJ Mayor Dawn Zimmer rejects the feasibility of large-scale regional solutions for storm protection and offers locally-focused ideas for hardening Hoboken's infrastructure. [Governing](#)
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing funding to repair coastal levees that protect Long Island's Peconic Bay. Because the federal funding specified watershed protection for freshwater, a waiver was required to protect the saltwater bay. [East Hampton Patch](#)
- Small and mid-size architecture firms that specialize in sustainable design have not seen an increase in clients. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The city is extending its lease to Coney Island amusement park operators that made investments to repair property and equipment damaged in the storm. [The New York Post](#)
- The Bloomberg Administration announced a design competition in Far Rockaway, Queens on the city-owned Arverne east section to generate ideas for building a sustainable waterfront community. [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The Democratic mayoral candidates attended a forum in Staten Island addressing Sandy recovery, the proposed ferris wheel, and other topics. [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: Borough President Marty Markowitz will endorse Christine Quinn for mayor, citing her efforts after Hurricane Sandy as well as interest rehabilitating the Brooklyn Navy Yard. [New York Daily News](#)

- The Army Corps of Engineers will use some of the federal relief funds for dredging Lake Ontario harbors in upstate New York's Wilson, Olcott, and Oak Orchard. [Union Sun & Journal](#)
- Two New Jersey gas stations have agreed to pay \$46,000 to settle price-gauging claims. The state sued 24 businesses after receiving over 2,000 price-gauging complaints in the weeks after Sandy. [Asbury Park Press](#)

blog

- A profile of the displaced congregation of the West End Temple in the Rockaways, which was damaged during Sandy. [The Jewish Daily Forward](#)

Housing

- In a report released by the [Alliance for a Just Rebuilding](#), New York City housing advocates warn that nearly 600 Sandy victims in temporary housing will be left homeless if the city does not alter its April 30 eviction deadline. [New York Daily News](#)
- Enterprise Community Partners, an affordable housing provider, will offer \$100,000 to 12 nonprofits in the metro region for recovery planning, improvements, or a support network. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- Habitat for Humanity in New Jersey received \$94,000 in grants to complete repair projects in Hudson County. [The Jersey Journal](#)
- AmeriCares will fund the installation of access ramps to help disabled New Jersey residents return to their Sandy-damaged homes. [AmeriCares](#)

Jobs

- Governor Christie vetoed a bill that would have ensured major reconstruction projects would be subject to Project Labor Agreements. The Governor noted in his veto that the bill would slow rebuilding at a crucial time. [The Record](#)
- Verizon plans to permanently relocate over 1,000 employees from its Lower Manhattan headquarters to Brooklyn because it is located in a flood zone. [Crain's New York Business](#)

Advocacy News

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

Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Public Library is compiling oral histories of Brooklyn individuals, organizations, and workers who were impacted by the storm. Interviews will be scheduled by appointment. See [website](#) for details.

Rockaways

Occupy Sandy and the Working World are holding workshops with low-income Rockaways residents to establish worker-owned co-operative businesses. They are seeking childcare support during the evening workshops; See interoccupy.net for details.

Manhattan

April 18 - April 22: [Sandy Storyline](#) at the Tribeca Film Festival Storyscapes, an interactive installation designed to share and collect stories and contribute to the post-Sandy reconstruction process. Bombay Sapphire House of Imagination, 121 Varick Street, 7th Floor. See [website](#) for showtimes.

Regional Plan Association's Annual Assembly "A Resilient Region" is April 19th. There is a fee to [register](#).

New Jersey

Thursday, April 18: The [26th Annual NJDEP GIS Mapping Contest!](#) 401 E State St, NJDEP Building, Trenton, NJ, First Floor - Public Hearing Room

The Christie Administration [released](#) best practices for treating mold in flooded homes. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Health will offer training sessions in mold removal and assessment.

Advocacy Reports

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding launched its new [website](#) and published [After Sandy, Prioritizing the Vulnerable and Displaced: Fixing Major Flaws in City Hall's Disaster Recovery Planning](#)

The Pratt Center for Community Development has [published](#) a series of maps documenting the storm's impacts on low-income residential communities and Industrial Business Zones.

Enterprise Community Partners, ['Measuring the Response to Hurricane Sandy'](#)

Food Bank For New York City, [Hurricane Sandy Response: 100 Days of Meeting the Needs](#)

Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy, [Sandy's Effects on Housing in New York City](#).

Several non-profit organizations have endorsed [Post-Sandy Rebuilding Principles: Building a sustainable region and economy, creating jobs for all](#). We encourage you to sign on, too. Contact bettina@goodjobsfirst.org for more information.

Federal, State & Local Resources

Updated statistics from FEMA on ongoing recovery efforts and costs for New York State: [Disaster assistance to New York survivors of Hurricane Sandy](#).

FEMA is [accepting applications](#) for its Youth Preparedness Council until April 19th.

New York State health and safety inspectors from the Department of Labor will provide inspections and assessments to businesses effected by Sandy to help firms reopen as soon as possible. Call 1-888-4-NYSDOL (1-888-469-7365) or visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is conducting a [Small Business Credit Survey](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is posting upcoming application deadlines, recovery resources, events, and key agency contacts on their [Sandy Information Center](#) page.

The New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency [website](#).

The Neighborhood Achievement Awards are [accepting nominations](#) for nine different categories including a new category this year honoring a business or individual who helped a neighborhood after Sandy. Deadline for [application](#) is April 26.

FEGS Project Hope Crisis Counseling Program offers free crisis outreach services to residents of New York City and Long Island affected by Hurricane Sandy. [Project Hope](#)

National Grid customers can visit www.nationalgridus.com to get information about the National Grid Emergency Economic and Community Development program for business customers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

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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