

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 18-25

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This week's news

Disaster Relief

- New York City officials submitted to HUD its final plan for use of the first round of Community Development Block Grant funds, worth \$1.8 billion. [NY1](#)

ALSO: In its plan, the Bloomberg Administration reversed its decision and now agrees to use HUD funds to reimburse homeowners for out of pocket expenses made for repairs. Of the 377 comments received, 40 were on the issue of these reimbursements. [The New York Times](#) and [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO: Read the city's [responses to public comments](#)

- The Cuomo Administration submitted its revised action plan to HUD, which includes a change in eligibility requirements for home buy-outs. The plan specifies only homes in the most vulnerable areas qualify at the pre-storm value. [WNYC](#)
- Governor Christie acknowledged that homeowners waiting for HUD funds will need both state and federal environmental approvals before money is disbursed. Small businesses will not be subject to the same reviews. [WNYC](#)

ALSO: In New Jersey, homeowners may have to wait until July for relief funds to be disbursed. Grants to 20,000 homeowners and 5,000 renters are expected to be approved. [The Star-Ledger](#)

ALSO: Marc Ferzan, who is overseeing New Jersey's rebuilding after Sandy, made a rare public appearance at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce to lay out his department's strategy for getting funds to businesses and homeowners as soon as possible. [WNYC](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- The Small Business Administration announced a \$19 million grant program for providing long-term business planning advice to firms seeking to rebuild after the storm. An existing business disaster loan program through SBA has approved

about \$280 million to over 2,700 Sandy-damaged businesses, yet only \$39 million has been disbursed. [Business Week](#)

- The Insurance Information Institute, a trade group, reports 90% of New York and New Jersey insurance claims have been settled. [Reuters](#)
- Three Congressmen from Texas who voted against federal Sandy relief are requesting federal resources for clean-up after a West, Texas fertilizer plant explosion. [Think Progress](#) and [PoliticusUSA](#)
- Michigan-based international relief organization, World Renew, will conduct assessments and provide volunteer relief work in Long Island during the next two weeks. [Newsday](#)
- A non-profit organization, Feeding Family, has planted a community vegetable garden in Midland Beach Staten Island to provide fresh produce for Sandy victims. [DNAinfo](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Despite the lack of A subway service to the Rockaways due to Sandy, the MTA plans to cut shuttle bus service there. Officials and residents are protesting. [The Queens Courier](#) and [Gothamist](#)
- The cost of debris sorting and removal performed by the Army Corps of Engineers in New York City is \$177 million so far. Private contractors may have been cheaper, but officials cite Army Corps practices such as shipping materials by barge rather than truck, and recycling sand and hardwood from the debris that made the expense worthwhile. [The New York Times](#)
- The Army Corps of Engineers is planning a \$20 million study to assess various approaches to protecting states in the Northeast from future hurricanes, including potentially relocating populations living near the ocean. [WNYC](#)
- The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is considering a plan to reduce the width of a lightly-used section of the Shore Front Parkway in the Rockaways to plant a dune system of pitch pine forest and sand grasses. [Capital New York](#)
- In a New York City mayoral forum organized by the League of Conservation Voters, candidates discussed sustainability challenges in rebuilding after Sandy. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- In order to be reimbursed for the cost of repairing dunes and a badly damaged stretch of Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, New York State contractors were required to have the majority of the work completed by April 24. Reimbursement will come from the Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief fund. [Newsday](#)

- The dismantling and removal of the iconic roller coaster in Seaside Heights, NJ may begin next month. [The Star-Ledger](#)

Housing

- FEMA [announced](#) that it extended its Temporary Shelter Assistance in New York City to May 29. [Gotham Gazette](#)

ALSO: Friday, April 26: The New York City Council General Welfare Committee will conduct an [emergency oversight hearing](#) to examine the Bloomberg Administration's plan for Sandy evacuees who are participating in the City Hotel Program which is still scheduled to end April 30. [Read the Media Advisory](#)

- Elected officials from hard-hit communities are proposing three bills to ensure NYCHA and other public housing agencies are better prepared for a disaster. [NY1](#)
- Tenants and Neighbors, a tenants rights organization, is examining a host of tenants issues that arose after Sandy. Many tenants were required to pay full rent while living for weeks without basic services such as heat or power. [NY1](#)
- Due to a decreased rental stock after Sandy, New York Senator Charles E. Schumer is calling on HUD to increase its fair-market rent rate for Long Island. [Newsday](#)

Jobs

- The Empire State Development Corporation issued a report estimating that over 13,000 businesses in Nassau and Suffolk counties were affected by the storm but only 196 have been approved by U.S. Small Business Administration for disaster loans. Collectively, companies in the two counties have about 68,000 employees. [Newsday](#)
- Governor Cuomo [announced](#) the expansion of a program that helps the unemployed start their own businesses will now include the long-term unemployed, as well as those who remain jobless because of Sandy or other emergency events. [Newsday](#)

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 Rockaway residents to establish worker-owned co-operative businesses. They are seeking childcare support during the

evening workshops; See interoccupy.net for details.

Manhattan

Friday, April 26, 1 PM: New York City Council General Welfare Committee [Emergency Oversight Hearing](#) on The End of the City Hotel Program and Permanent Housing Solutions for Sandy Evacuees. Note: a rally demanding the Mayor extend the city's temporary housing program for Hurricane Sandy victims will take place on the steps of City Hall at noon.

Saturday, May 11: Municipal Art Society annual Livable Neighborhoods Training will include a resilience-focused track with an opening panel on Defining Resilience and Building Back Green, and three training courses - Where's the Money? Funding the Resilience Process, Assessing Neighborhood Strengths and Addressing Vulnerabilities, and Strategies for Building Social Resilience and Cohesion. The training is free but [registration is required](#).

New Jersey

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

New York City [response to Public Comments](#) on the Partial Action Plan A. See also Good Jobs New York's information page on [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#)

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

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](#).

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development along with L+M Development Partners, The Bluestone Organization, and Triangle Equities, American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIA New York) and Enterprise Community Partners launched a two-phase design competition called "For a Resilient Rockaway" (FAR ROC) seeking storm resilient, sustainable best practices for development at the city-owned Arverne East site and other sites city-wide. Submissions are due June 14. Details in the [HPD press release](#) and [FARROC.com](#)

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.

FEES 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.

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