

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: February 14-21

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.



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We've updated our layout - scroll down for Advocacy News

Weekly news round-up

Disaster Relief

- New Jersey's Economic Development Authority plans to expand temporarily to administer the first round of Community Development Block Grants (also with Department of Community Affairs). [The Record](#)
- The Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, chaired by New Jersey's first lady Mary Pat Christie, will begin selecting applications for \$5 million in private relief funds. Some are concerned that the board is composed of politically-connected individuals. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- Of the 15 suspected looters of a Coney Island supermarket, six are suing the City after they were cleared by a grand jury. [New York Daily News](#)
- A recent poll by Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press shows that most New Jersey residents are satisfied with the progress of the recovery, but more express doubts about how the federal resources will be used. [Asbury Park Press via USA Today](#)
- The New Jersey State Assembly voted unanimously to track all government spending for Sandy recovery efforts on a website with integrity monitors as a precaution against fraud. [The Record](#)

ALSO: [The New Jersey State Assembly Press Release](#)
- Sandy damaged federal disaster response centers which slowed response time. [New York Post](#)
- The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the New York City Economic Development Corporation plan to allocate 9/11 cash grants to [retain and attract "high growth industries"](#) in Lower Manhattan. These grants, allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are from a similar disaster rebuilding program [recently announced for Sandy Aid](#). [Crain's New York Business](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- The Netherland's river spillways could be a model for New York City to allow controlled flooding in some areas. The story also highlights the Dutch precedent of giving affected residents the opportunity to make choices in flood mitigation strategies. [The New York Times](#)
- The House of Representatives passed legislation adding houses of worship that provide

services to the list of non-profits eligible for federal disaster aid. [The New York Times](#)

- The city of Long Beach, in partnership with Sustainable Long Island, is seeking community input on how they'd like to see the boardwalk rebuilt through focus group meetings and a survey. [WNYC](#)
- Governor Cuomo proposed new requirements for gas stations to have back-up power generators. [Democrat and Chronicle](#)
- New York Senators Schumer and Gillibrand issued a [press release](#) that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded expedited disaster relief of \$250 million, authorizing the Federal Highway Administration to repair damaged roads throughout the region, including Westchester and Rockland counties. [LoHud.com](#)
- New York Senator Schumer, speaking to the Association for a Better New York and the Downtown Alliance, promoted the \$20 million portion of federal relief reserved for an Army Corps of Engineers regional coastal storm protections feasibility study. [Crain's Insider](#) and [Newsday](#)
- Long Island wildlife may be irreversibly changed by the storm's impact on habitats and ecosystems. [Newsday](#)
- Residents of Red Hook, Brooklyn reflect on the shared sense that some neighbors have not moved back. [The New York Times](#)

Housing

- With many Canarsie, Brooklyn homeowners at high risk of foreclosure before Sandy, the neighborhood is expected to see a surge of mortgage defaults in coming months as the post-disaster forbearance periods end. [City Limits/Brooklyn Bureau](#)
- New York City Economic Development Corporation President Seth Pinsky, who is leading the mayor's rebuilding initiative, said some rebuilding strategies may include limited buyouts. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: Senator Schumer is advocating for rebuilding coastal residential areas to a higher standard, rather than retreating. [Crain's New York Business](#)

- John Rhea, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, discusses the biggest lessons he and his agency learned from their response to Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development will offer 25% of units in new projects to low- and middle-income families displaced by Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- New York City Council members plan to introduce legislation next week that would require the Department of Buildings to oversee the elevation of homes to meet new flood requirements. [NY1](#)

- The Irish government, along with Irish pop stars and athletes, has pledged financial support to rebuild Breezy Point, a community with deep Irish roots. [The New York Times](#)

Jobs

- The Army Corps of Engineers is deciding whether to include a project labor agreement for beach clean-up contracts, which requires winning contracts to use union labor. The New Jersey Assembly recently passed legislation requiring PLAs for certain government-paid construction projects. [The Wall Street Journal](#) [editorial]
- The Bay Parkway Community Job Center serves as a connection point for immigrant day laborers working on rebuilding projects by giving them access to English language classes, information on worker rights, and employer contacts. [The New York Times](#)
- The New York City Industrial Development Agency has approved a package of incentives to rebuild a Key Food supermarket in Rockaway Park, Queens that was damaged in the storm. Details, including the [project application](#), can be found on GJNY's website. [NY1](#)

Advocacy News

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

Tuesday, February 26: New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Annual Meeting, "Planning for Resiliency: Adapting the Transportation System to Emerging Vulnerabilities." <http://bit.ly/YJiWiT>

Thursday, February 28: City & State annual forum State of Our City will feature a panel "Land Use, Post Sandy." [Register online](#)

Friday, March 1: New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum with breakfast keynote speaker Shaun Donovan, Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Brunswick, NJ. [Register online](#)

Friday, March 1: Deadline to submit application for EPA's [Smart Growth Implementation Assistance](#) (SGIA) program. Applications are requested from tribal, local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations that have partnered with a governmental entity in four categories including: "Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change." Find additional information, including the Request for Letters of Interest, at <http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>

The Museum of the City of New York is requesting submissions of photographs by amateur and professional photographers of Sandy damage and recovery for an upcoming exhibit. The deadline to submit photographs is March 3. For details, see www.mcny.org

Thursday, April 4: Crain's [Rebuilding NY Conference](#). Sheraton New York Times Square, 811 Seventh Avenue, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration required
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. *FEMA has extended deadlines for programs in New York. Applicants for federal disaster assistance have until February 27 to apply.*

The [New York City Council](#) and [New York State Assembly](#) will hold hearings over the next several weeks to evaluate emergency response and disaster planning efforts.

This week's upcoming hearings include:

2/25 1:00 pm: City Council Hearing, Oversight - Recovery: Restoring and Growing the City's Small Businesses.

2/26 1:00 pm: City Council Hearing, Oversight - Recovery: Storm-related impact on Schools and Students.

2/26 11:00 am: City Council Hearing, Oversight - Recovery: Managing the City's Housing Needs in the Wake of Hurricane Sandy.

2/27 11:00 am: New York State Assembly Hearing, The Future of LIPA - To examine the best course of action to ensure the residents of Long Island receive the electrical and customer service that they deserve at affordable prices. Oral testimony by invitation only.

2/28 10:00 am: City Council Hearing, Oversight - Recovery Efforts of the City's Libraries and Cultural Establishments.

2/28: 1:00 pm City Council Hearing, Oversight - Recovery: Post-Storm Cleanup and the Effects on the City's Health and Infrastructure.

These hearings are subject to change, check the online calendars for details.

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.

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.

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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