

# Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars

## Weekly News Round-up: January 17 - January 24

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.

**GOOD  
JOBS  
NEW YORK**

### Advocacy News

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

Sandy Regional Environmental Justice Assembly [pdf] this Saturday, January 26th 12:30-6:00. A gathering intended for the most impacted communities hit by Sandy is being organized by environmental justice organizations and allies to discuss the impacts and aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

The Coalition for the Homeless writes about the organization's recent efforts to reach thousands of evacuees who are living without permanent homes and unable to afford market rate rents.

The Moreland Commission for Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties holds public hearing January 24, 6 p.m., SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase.

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 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:

1/28 1:00 pm, New York City Council, (Committee on Waterfronts and Committee on Environmental Conservation) oversight hearing: NYC Waterfront, Zones of Opportunity for Diverse Economic Development

1/30: 11 am, State Assembly Public Hearing on the Environmental Causes and Effects of Extreme Weather, Babylon Town Hall Board Room, 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst  
NY RSVP required

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

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](mailto:bettina@goodjobsfirst.org) for more information.

### Weekly news round-up

#### Disaster Relief

- FEMA has extended the deadline to March 1 for New Jersey residents to file claims. The original deadline was January 28. The Hill
- The Senate vote on the House-approved \$50.7 billion Sandy aid bill was delayed due to its debate over Senate rules. New York Daily News

ALSO: Though Senate Majority leader Harry Reid said the Senate will take up the Sandy bill on an "expedited

basis", the bill has not yet been scheduled for a vote. [WNYC](#)

- Highlights of the federal relief package include \$13 billion in mitigation funds for agencies including the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, \$16 billion in Community Development Block Grants, and \$11.5 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. [Crain's New York Business](#) [subscription required]
- Officials with Governor Andrew Cuomo's office stated that this year's proposed state budget is larger partially due to anticipation of federal aid for Sandy recovery. [Buffalo News](#)
- Of more than \$400 million given to Sandy-related charities, less than 40% has been spent so far. [WNYC](#)
- A survey of hardest hit neighborhoods three months after the storm suggests that recovery is slow for residents and businesses. [The New York Times](#)
- \$103 million in FEMA aid will be available to New York City hospital facilities to help with repairs and recovery. [AP via CBS New York](#)
- The deadline for New Yorkers to apply for Sandy FEMA assistance is January 28. [WNYC](#)

## Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Some estimate the cost of privatizing the Long Island Power Authority would be close to \$4 billion for taxpayers. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The Rockefeller Foundation is investing in a financing plan to incentivize more public-private partnerships to complete infrastructure projects in low-lying, storm-vulnerable cities. [The Washington Post](#)
- Some experts who study coastlines are urging caution in using tax dollars - including the \$50 billion relief bill recently passed by the House - to rebuild vulnerable waterfront areas. [WNYC](#)

## Housing

- During his budget address, Governor Cuomo said the State will offer "market value" to buy out homes of coastal-dwelling residents who wish to relocate rather than rebuild in a vulnerable area. [New York Daily News](#)

*ALSO: Though many residents of storm-damaged coastal towns remain homeless, few are willing to permanently abandon vulnerable neighborhoods. Other neighborhoods are weighing the benefits of a government buy-out. [AP via Wall Street Journal](#)*

- Many homes that were damaged by the hurricane are still without heat, awaiting repairs to boilers or electrical systems. The recent frigid weather has become an additional worry and danger. The city's Rapid Repairs program is continuing work on nearly 2,000 buildings, many without heat. [The New York Times](#)

*ALSO: 8,200 are still without power as a result of Sandy, and many residents in the Rockaways are suffering in the recent extreme cold weather. [WNYC](#)*

ALSO: *New York City's Rapid Repairs program has completed repairs on 10,000 homes.* [Times-Union](#)

- Residents of a luxury building in Battery Park City are filing a class action lawsuit against the building's owners for failing to adequately prepare for Hurricane Sandy, and for the unsafe conditions that continue to exist. [New York Post](#)
- New York State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried gave [joint testimony](#) before the New York City Council oversight hearing on Emergency Planning and Management During and After the Storm: NYCHA Emergency Planning and Response. Their testimony asks why NYCHA's database of vulnerable residents was not used to provide assistance or direct relief efforts in the days after the storm. They also raise the concern about NYCHA's lack of "standby contracts" to expedite the purchase of boilers, pumps and generators in the event of an emergency.

## Jobs

- David R. Jones, president and CEO of the Community Service Society of New York, applauds Gov. Cuomo for using \$27 million in emergency funds to hire 5,000 unemployed New Yorkers for short-term recovery work. He also urges the Governor to go a step further and use resources to put New Yorkers to work building stronger infrastructure and long-term public works projects. [Crain's New York Business](#) [op-ed]

---

---

### 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 Information

Good Jobs New York  
11 Park Place, #701  
New York, New York 10007  
212-721-7996