

## Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: March 7-14

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.



### Action Item

#### Governors Cuomo and Christie announce Action Plans for CDBG funds

And so it begins. This week both New York and New Jersey submitted Action Plans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for proposed uses of the first round of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). In both cases, this triggers a seven-day public comment period (the minimum required), which will close at the end-of-business day Tuesday, March 19th.

**New York** State Action Plan may be viewed on and downloaded from the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) website. In addition, copies can be requested by e-mail ([HCRConPln@nyshcr.org](mailto:HCRConPln@nyshcr.org)) or by calling 1-866-ASKDHCR (275-3427).

Comments on the New York State Action Plan may be submitted via email to [HCRConPln@nyshcr.org](mailto:HCRConPln@nyshcr.org) or mailed to:

New York State Homes and Community Renewal  
Attention: Alison Russell  
The Hampton Plaza, 2nd Floor  
38-40 State Street  
Albany, New York 12207-2804

**New Jersey** Action Plan may be viewed and downloaded from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs website.

Comments on the New Jersey Action Plan may be submitted via email to [Sandy.Recovery@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:Sandy.Recovery@dca.state.nj.us).

### Disaster Relief

- New Jersey submitted its Action Plan to use \$1.8 billion in Community Development Block Grants. Proposals include new state programs to provide grants to homeowners and businesses and to launch a tourism marketing campaign. Critics point out that there are disproportionately fewer resources targeting renters and low-income residents. The plans are subject to approval by HUD. The Record, The Star-Ledger and AP via NorthJersey.com

ALSO: A breakdown of New Jersey's Action Plan.  
The Record

ALSO: New Jersey launched a website dedicated to track rebuilding funds.

- Governor Cuomo also released an Action Plan for New York State's intended use of the

first \$1.7 billion in Community Development Block Grants. [Newsday](#)

ALSO: *The New York State Action Plan and announcement of the comment period for the plan are here: <http://www.nyshcr.org/Publications/>*

- New York State Assembly Democrats increased aid to Sandy recovery programs by \$200 million in its proposed budget. [Times-Union](#)

ALSO: *New York State Assembly Democrats propose to extend a tax credit programs created after 9/11 to benefit businesses still suffering from Sandy damage. [The New York Post](#)*

- The New York City Council passed two bills this week to streamline the rebuilding process for homeowners and businesses. One eliminates fees for permits and applications and one seeks to help homeowners elevate homes out of the flood zone. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- A Daily News opinion piece lays responsibility on FEMA director Craig Fugate to force insurance companies to meet their obligations. [New York Daily News](#)

## Rebuilding Infrastructure

- The Bloomberg Administration, in consultation with former Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff and other high-level former administration staff in the real estate industry, is expected to put forward a set of initiatives for rebuilding in five geographic areas impacted by Sandy and vulnerable to future storms. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- Senator Charles E. Schumer is seeking approval from HUD officials for New York to set up a loan fund using Community Development Block Grants. Senator Schumer claims the fund would attract private investment for long-term infrastructure projects. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Projects authorized for completion by the Army Corps of Engineers but never fully financed received an appropriation in the Disaster Relief Act. The projects include dune protection in Nassau and Suffolk counties, Fire Island and beaches in Brooklyn and Queens. [The New York Times](#) and [Newsday](#)
- A panel of disaster recovery experts praised New York City's strong enforcement of building codes, which may have prevented greater damage during the storm, and New York State's approach to future storm mitigation. [Times-Union](#)
- Former Congressman Anthony Weiner has been volunteering in the Rockaways and advocates for the unique environmental and economic difficulties facing the area in the aftermath of the storm. [City & State](#)
- Damage to MTA wiring and infrastructure from saltwater corrosion cause a slow and costly recovery process. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Without any provision for coastal farm rebuilding in the Disaster Relief Act, the future is uncertain for some Long Island farms that were flooded when dikes were compromised by

Sandy. [Newsday](#)

- Sandy turned attention to the increased need for hospital emergency planning. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The New York City Council approved tighter city-wide standards for elevating homes after conferring with New Orleans officials. [Associated Press via The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Federal officials from the Gateway National Recreation Area issued a stop-work order on reconstruction at the Silver Gull Beach Club in the Rockaways, citing its vulnerability to future storm damage. [The New York Times](#)

## Housing

- Part of the plans announced by New York and New Jersey include a combined \$200 million for home buy-outs, with New York making \$171 million available, and New Jersey making \$12 million available. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

*ALSO: Five communities in Staten Island have organized efforts to encourage more homeowners to consider the government buy-out option. [WNYC](#)*

- New York City does not have a comprehensive disaster plan that considers the needs of disabled residents according to a lawsuit by disabled rights activists Joyce Delarosa. [WNYC](#)
- City Limits reports that a recent study by the Furman Center of the impacts of Sandy highlights that the storm surge covered a sixth of the city, and that the number of storm damaged NYCHA buildings is greater than any other city's entire public housing stock combined. [City Limits](#)

## Jobs

- Long Island's unemployment rate continues to rise, with Sandy-damaged businesses a key factor in some beach communities. [Newsday](#)
- Analysis by Crain's shows most sectors that lost jobs in the aftermath of Sandy have rebounded. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- Businesses in Coney Island expect that refurbishments in the amusement park after Sandy will draw crowds this summer. [Crain's New York Business](#)

## Advocacy News

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

The New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) is holding "facilitated conversations" on post-Sandy rebuilding projects for neighborhoods throughout the city. This [one-page document](#) lists upcoming dates and locations and is the only source GJNY has found that lists these community meetings.

Upcoming NYC SIRR meetings include:

- **Tonight**, Thursday March 14: South Queens at Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd. Howard Beach, NY. RSVP to [RSVPQNSMarch14@nycsirr.org](mailto:RSVPQNSMarch14@nycsirr.org) or call (212) 618-5745.
- **Tonight**, Thursday March 14: Brooklyn/Queens Waterfront at P.S. 132, 320 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. RSVP to [RSVPWaterfrontMarch14@nycsirr.org](mailto:RSVPWaterfrontMarch14@nycsirr.org) or call (212) 618-5745.
- Monday, March 18: South Queens at Q. 043 160 Beach 29th Street, Far Rockaway, NY. RSVP to [RSVPMarch18@nycsirr.org](mailto:RSVPMarch18@nycsirr.org) or call (212) 618-5745.
- Tuesday, March 19: Location TBD. email [RSVPBKMarch19@nycsirr.org](mailto:RSVPBKMarch19@nycsirr.org) or call (212)618-5745
- Tuesday, March 19: NYU Kimmel Center, Grand Hall, 60 Washington Sq. South, Manhattan. email [RSVPBKMarch19@nycsirr.org](mailto:RSVPBKMarch19@nycsirr.org) or call (212)618-5745

Saturday, March 16: New York City Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations will hold open forums on mold removal, flood maps, and FEMA assistance. Remaining upcoming forum is at NewDorp High School at 465 New Dorp Lane., Staten Island, 12 to 6 pm.

Thursday, April 4: Crain's Rebuilding NY Conference. Sheraton New York Times Square, 811Seventh Avenue, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. 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.

New Jersey transparency website: <http://nj.gov/comptroller/sandytransparency/>

New York State Partial Action Plan for first round of federal funds: <http://www.nyshcr.org/Publications/>

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

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### **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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### **Contact Information**

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