

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars - Weekly News Round-up: November 25-December 1

With such a high volume of media coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York wants to help keep the spotlight on how government money is spent in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. For more information on transparency in the rebuilding process, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney

Rebuilding Investments

- The Bloomberg administration announced a new \$26 million loan program, called NYC Nonprofit Recovery Loan Program. The loans will be interest free, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and available to non-profits that suffered loss due to damage or disruption or operation. [New York Business Journal](#)
- The New York Times reports on the numerous waste treatment facilities in the area that were massively flooded during the storm, causing raw sewage overflows into neighboring communities and triggering an environmental and public health disaster. [The New York Times](#)

Jobs

- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will be hiring 5,000 temporary employees to help with debris removal and clean-up in areas most affected by the storm. Preference will be given to youth and long-term unemployed adults, and will pay roughly \$15 an hour. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: The temporary job program will be funded by a \$27 million federal grant. [Times-Herald Record](#)

- Due to damage at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, over 400 people lost their jobs. The National Park Service, which oversees operations at both sites, has not indicated when the sites will reopen. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- Immigrant day laborers organized to for a volunteer clean-up group, Staten Island Day Laborer Hurricane Relief Brigade [AFL-CIO NOW](#)

Disaster Relief Funds

- Governor Cuomo compares damage from Hurricane Sandy to that from Hurricane Katrina in a news briefing on preliminary cost estimates of \$42 billion in damages after meeting with the

State's Congressional delegation. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Governor Cuomo met with New York's Congressional delegation in preparation for making a request for federal aid to pay for damages. [The Washington Post via Associated Press](#)

- Finance industry executives are pushing for "Sandy Bonds," tax-exempt bonds modeled on Gulf Opportunity Zone Bonds, or GO Zone bonds, that financed much of the rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. [Times-Union](#)
- Mayor Bloomberg is proposing two measures to either provide zero-interest extension on property tax payment for properties damaged, or reimburse property taxes paid to owners whose homes were destroyed or damaged. [Wall Street Journal](#)

Housing/Displacement

- Though the City has paid for hotel rooms for those displaced by the storm, many of the hotel rooms remain vacant. The cost of vacant rooms may be as much as \$1 million, which the city expects to be reimbursed by FEMA funding. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

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

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