



FOCUS

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COORDINATE • COMMUNICATE • COLLABORATE

The New York Recovery Network Bulletin is an electronic dispatch produced weekly by the Sandy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination team. The bulletin includes information, resources, news and events to serve your recovery efforts.

Please let us know how we can best serve you. To send comments or submit items of interest, please email us at editorNYrecovery@fema.dhs.gov. If this email was forwarded to you and you'd like to make sure you get the weekly dispatch, click [here](#).

Thanks for reading and keep up the good work!

FOCUS: \$50 BILLION SPENT FOR HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

The Program Management Office (PMO) within the Hurricane Sandy Task Force has released its monthly report, dated Jan. 23, 2014. The report details how more than \$50 billion has been allocated or used by 19 federal agencies to help communities rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. The funding was appropriated through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, or Sandy supplemental bill.

Since the law's passage, the PMO has tracked the [progress of the funds](#) and how they are assisting families and small businesses. Click here to download the Sandy Monthly Financial Report.

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IN THE NEWS

MITIGATION

Flood insurance premium increases delayed by budget bill

Insurance Journal, February 10, 2014

Some flood insurance premium increases required under Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 will be delayed until at least 2015. According to this report, FEMA says the \$1 trillion funding bill passed by Congress last month contains a provision that prevents the agency from using any funds to implement premium increases due to re-mapping, at least through the end of September, when the fiscal year ends.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Wastewater plants remain vulnerable to future storms

The Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2014

Officials at wastewater plants in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy are taking different steps to prevent storm surges from causing untreated wastewater to spill into waterways and homes. According to this report, the remedies are piecemeal and it is unclear if the proposed solutions will work because most plants are located in low-lying areas to harness the gravity required to move sewage. Experts are concerned that future storm surges will likely be larger than the facilities were designed to withstand.

Improved cell service planned for the Rockaways

NY1, February 6, 2014

A local state assemblyman has contacted major cellphone providers to build stronger cell towers and infrastructure in the Rockaways. Many Rockaway residents were unable to communicate during and immediately after Hurricane Sandy made landfall. NY1 reported that the carriers said they were committed to improving emergency and other services in the area.

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COMMUNITY PLANNING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy takes planning and stakeholder engagement

WNYC, February 10, 2014

This report details how community leaders in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn have been engaging 200 homeowners to present a united front to support plans developed by the Pratt Center that would solve drainage problems and elevate their houses. The coastal bungalow community was devastated during Hurricane Sandy but the feasibility of the plan is yet to be determined and possible sources of funding assistance must be identified.

Red Cross donations help achieve mold remediation milestones

American Red Cross, February 5, 2014

With help from American Red Cross donors, more than 1,900 homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy completed mold remediation. The \$15 million remediation program is administered by Neighborhood Revitalization NYC (NRNYC), an affiliate of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. NRNYC is coordinating the mold treatment program by private contractors and nonprofit organizations at no cost to the homeowner.

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ECONOMY

Hurricane Sandy-damaged Madelaine Chocolate in Rockaways is up for sale

New York Daily News, February 11, 2014

Fifty million dollars in property damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and lost revenue has led the Rockaway-based chocolatier to put its property up for sale. Madelaine Chocolate was the largest local employer on the peninsula with 450 workers before the storm. Only 125 employees are currently working there. A \$250,000 grant received from National Grid along with loans and tax credits may not have been enough to continue operations. The loss of Madelaine will be a serious blow to the Rockaway economy.

Funding still available for small businesses impacted by Hurricane Sandy

U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Treasury Department's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) program can be used for Hurricane Sandy disaster recovery initiatives. One SSBCI-funded program is the New York State Surety Bond Assistance Program administered by the [Empire State Development Corporation](#) (ESDC). Approximately \$10 million was allocated to the program by the state, partly to support Hurricane Sandy initiatives. The ESDC website also houses a "[Directory of Alternative Small Business Lending Programs](#)" that may be of use to impacted businesses.

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NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

New design approaches address Hurricane Sandy regions

The Rockefeller Foundation, January 30, 2014

[Rebuild by Design](#), an initiative of the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, is an innovative process aimed at addressing structural and environmental vulnerabilities exposed by Hurricane Sandy and developing fundable solutions to build resilience. Ten [design teams](#) identified specific design opportunities in the region that may help with building resilience against future storms. Rebuild by Design released the [Research Report: A Regional Analysis](#) that includes earlier reports.

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Disaster Distress Helpline

The national Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) offers specialized crisis counseling and support for anyone in New York state struggling with emotional distress and other mental health issues related to Hurricane Sandy. DDH is staffed by trained counselors and offers 24/7/365, confidential and multi-lingual support. The toll-free helpline is 800-985-5990.

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RECOVERY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 20: *Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development*

Sandy loan options for home repair and elevation

This training presents loan options available to help homeowners repair and elevate their homes if they do not receive that assistance through government programs.

FEBRUARY 20: *The Mohawk Group*

Storm Water Strategies: Improving On-Site Retention in NYC

Panelists will explain new stormwater rules and describe innovative methods they have used to manage on-site stormwater numerous New York City developments. Speakers from the city's Department of Environmental Protection will be present.

FEBRUARY 22: *CUNY Graduate School of Journalism*

Better digital storytelling through couch design thinking for the post-Sandy era

At this all-day workshop, experts and coaches will guide participants to help improve how they tell stories and share information about climate resilience.

FEBRUARY 24: *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

FDNY Dispatch During Hurricane Sandy

The event will cover the challenges faced by the department during Hurricane Sandy and will address the recent changes at FDNY communications.

FEBRUARY 26: *NYC Citizen Corps*

Special needs symposium partnerships in emergency planning and response

Learn how to leverage community partnerships in emergency planning and response for special needs communities. A panel discussion will showcase creative strategies and best practices for serving clients before, during and after an emergency through the use of community networks and partnerships.

FEBRUARY 27: *Salvation Army*

Rebuild and Repair in New York City: Sandy Recovery Symposium II

This free symposium is designed to familiarize recovery staff and advocates with best practices for disaster recovery, including updates from government programs as well as the practical application of those programs.

FEBRUARY 27: *National Disaster Preparedness Training*

Coastal flood risk reduction

This course trains participants to apply coastal risk reduction and opportunity enhancement measures to coastal floodplain management.

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JOB OPENINGS

Architect, Perez APC

Architects/Engineers Interns, NYC Transit

Asbestos Project Monitors, The Liro Group

Counseling Manager, Build It Back, Center for NYC Neighborhoods

Data Analyst, Housing Recovery Office

Disaster Relief Attorney, Make the Road New York

Financial Counselor, New York Legal Assistance Group

Program Associate, Build It Back, Center for NYC Neighborhoods

Project Controls Specialist, David Evans and Associates

Project Manager, Neighborhood Restore Housing Development Fund Corporation

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