

DISASTER RECOVERY BULLETIN



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Welcome to the *Disaster Recovery Bulletin*, an electronic dispatch for recovery workers produced weekly by the Hurricane Sandy federal disaster recovery coordination team. The bulletin includes information, resources, news and events to serve the recovery effort. Most of the content is organized by sector, allowing readers from a wide range of perspectives to easily find the items of greatest interest to them. If you have questions, comments or calendar items you'd like to submit, please email us at editorNYrecovery@fema.dhs.gov. To subscribe click [here](#). Please help us reach more recovery workers by emailing this to a friend.

Thanks for reading, and keep up the good work!

FOCUS: PROTECTION FOR DAY LABORERS

A recent report from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs highlights the risks faced by Hurricane Sandy's vast pool of day laborers. According to the report, day laborers have played a crucial role in the recovery yet they often go unnoticed. While the disaster increased the availability of jobs, the work can put laborers at increased risk of exposure to hazardous materials and unsafe working conditions. The report states that homeowners and contractors who employ workers are frequently unable to provide adequate training and protection, and it is not uncommon for workers to be underpaid. Hurricane Sandy has highlighted the importance of day labor centers, worker training and worker organization in achieving a safe, effective recovery, the report states. Read the full report here: [Day Labor, Worker Centers and Disaster Relief Work in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy](#).

Reporting on the experience of [immigrant laborers](#) in New Jersey, a related article points out that immigrant rights groups say the experience of Sandy emphasizes the need for day laborers and their organizations to be systematically incorporated into future disaster planning and recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, several members of the New York City Council and labor advocates are urging city government to include job-related information from contractors in the Sandy Recovery Tracker, an online system that the city is building to monitor the use of federal funds for Sandy relief. This would help address the problem of [wage theft from recovery workers](#).

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IN THE KNOW

Infrastructure

La Guardia Airport to get \$37.5 million in disaster funds

New York Business Journal, Nov. 19, 2013

LaGuardia Airport will receive \$37.5 million dollars in federal and state funds to protect against flooding. The funds will be used to improve drainage capacity, install flood-control measures, replace generators and upgrade the power distribution grid.

Amtrak announces fix for East River Tunnels

Times Ledger, Nov. 23, 2013

Amtrak will use some of the \$86 million in federal Hurricane Sandy recovery funds received to repair the East River tunnels used by Long Island Rail Road commuters. The tunnels were associated with at least five derailments and major delays in recent months. Amtrak's goal is to bring the tunnels into a state of good repair within three to five years.

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Housing

State to buy homes in Staten Island neighborhood

Newsday, Nov. 18, 2013

State officials have offered to buy 129 homes in the often flooded Ocean Breeze section of Staten Island. As in nearby Oak Beach, owners will be offered slightly more than the pre-storm value of their homes. The president of the local civic association said that 117 people intend to accept the state's offer.

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Community Planning and Capacity Building

Island Park: Sandy as mother of reinvention

NY Times, Nov. 19, 2013

Residents are still invested in their Island Park community even though both schools and 95 percent of the islet's 1,000 homes were damaged.

Five resilience recommendations for Bill deBlasio

Rockefeller Foundation, Nov. 19, 2013

Judith Roden, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, presented five recommendations for the incoming mayor to build a more resilient New York. Recommendations include: 1) Create the position of deputy mayor for Economic Development and Resilience, 2) Develop bus rapid transit in every borough, 3) Increase investments in innovative technologies, 4) Speed the release of federal funds for resilience projects, and 5) Create an infrastructure bank to encourage private financing of resilient infrastructure.

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Health and Social Services

Nonprofit legal aid helps sort the tangles of Hurricane Sandy

Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 8, 2013

As soon as Hurricane Sandy hit, the New York Legal Assistance Group reassigned lawyers from other projects to focus on storm assistance; hired 27 lawyers, paralegals and financial counselors for its Storm Response Unit; and trained 1,000 pro bono lawyers and other volunteers to provide disaster-related legal services. The group currently has 1,600 open cases and still hears from 300 new people each month about problems related to the storm.

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Natural and Cultural Resources

Elevated comfort stations need environmental study

Sheepshead Bites, Nov. 20, 2013

Approximately 130 residents packed a community center in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, for a hearing called by the New York City Parks and Recreation Department as a result of a court order that requires an environmental impact study on the elevated comfort station at the Oceana condominium complex. Some residents urged that additional studies be required for all structures installed to replace bathrooms destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Sandy survivors say city leaving them low and wet by not protecting beachfront

Brooklyn Daily, Nov. 25, 2013

Some residents of Brighton Beach and Coney Island argue that dunes offer the best protection against a repeat of the Hurricane Sandy storm surge that flooded their communities. The Army Corps of Engineers pointed out that it has already added thousands of tons of sand on Brooklyn beaches to create a larger protective buffer.

When Martha met Sandy

Crain's New York Business, Nov. 24, 2013

When the Hudson River inundated the Bethune Street storage site of the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance during Hurricane Sandy, more than \$4.2 million dollars in costumes, sets and equipment were damaged. LaRue Allen, executive director, is working to ensure that the flood doesn't put the company in debt by mounting an aggressive fund-raising campaign and developing a larger board.

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CALENDAR

Event: Dec. 4

Soaring Flood Insurance Rates: Should Congress Step In?

Columbia University

Shortly before Hurricane Sandy, Congress amended the federal flood insurance law to require rates to reflect true flood risk. Post-Sandy, homeowners are facing significant rate hikes and tough decisions, and Congress is considering a rollback. Proponents say the rollback is needed to keep homes affordable; opponents say it would increase vulnerability to rising seas and require massive federal subsidies. Both sides will make their case at a public forum.

Event: Dec 6

12th Annual Land Use and Sustainable Development Conference

Pace Law School

Sessions at this year's annual conference will address the challenges communities in the New York metropolitan area face because of natural disasters, climate changes, changing demographics, technology and inequitable living conditions. There is a cost associated with this event.

Event: Dec. 9

Older Adults: Focus on New Approaches to Working with Depression

New York University Silver School of Social Work

This half-day conference will concentrate on current research regarding depression among the elderly, with discussion of how to best understand, reach out to and engage community members who experience mental health issues.

Training: Dec. 13

Business Community Planning for Affordable Housing Organizations

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

This all day training hosted by Enterprise Community Partners and NeighborWorks will help those involved in community-based housing organizations develop a viable business continuity plan.

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GRANTS DEADLINE

Deadline: Dec. 6, 2013

Mold Treatment Program

The Neighborhood Revitalization NYC mold treatment program, which has successfully treated mold in more than 1,800 homes, is ending soon. Slots in the program remain for approximately 200 homes.

Deadline: Jan. 27, 2014

Neighborhood Grants

Citizens Committee for New York City awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. They prioritize groups in low-income neighborhoods and Title I public schools.

New Program for Single-Family Home Owners Impacted by Hurricane Sandy

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation announced a new program to assist single-family homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The program, which assists New Yorkers who may not be eligible for the city's Build it Back program due to federal rules and restrictions, will provide income-eligible residents with a range of structural and non-structural repairs for damaged homes through \$14 million in privately raised funds.

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SANDY RECOVERY GRANTS AWARDED

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards \$600,000 to Catholic Relief Services

American Red Cross awards \$500,000 to the Food Bank for New York City

Carnegie Corporation of New York awards \$250,000 to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation awards grants to the Community Foundation of NJ (\$150,000), Wildlife Conservation Society (\$50,000) and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (\$50,000)

The Kresge Foundation awards \$100,000 to W G B H Educational Foundation

Corning Incorporated Foundation awards \$100,000 to American Red Cross

For other recent grants, [click on this link](#).

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JOB OPENINGS

Federal Policy Manager, MTA

Program Coordinator, Red Hook Responders, Community Justice Center

Principal Financial Analyst (Grant Management), Port Authority of NY

Project Manager, NYS Office of Storm Recovery

Director of Community & Recovery Initiatives, Project Hospitality

Counselor (English and Spanish), Family Resource Center

Outreach and Resource Development Coordinator, Disaster Distress Helpline

Don't forget to check the USAJobs.gov website for Hurricane Sandy recovery employment. Enter "FEMA" and "New York" for our latest offerings.

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