

# HURRICANE SANDY RECOVERY

## PARTNER AGENCIES & OFFICES

-  DCAS
-  DCP
-  DDC
-  DEP
-  DOB
-  DOITT
-  DOT
-  DPR
-  DSNY
-  NYC H + H
-  NYCEDC
-  NYCEM
-  NYCHA

Mayor's Office  
of Housing  
Recovery  
Operations

Mayor's Office  
of Recovery and  
Resiliency

The start of the fiscal year has seen continued progress on the City's housing, infrastructure and economic recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy, marked by Mayor de Blasio's announcement that the Build it Back single-family program will be complete by the end of 2016. The administration will continue to accelerate rebuilding activities to ensure full recovery of all our impacted communities, and to leverage the \$20 billion of investments to make communities stronger and more resilient as we rebuild.

## HOUSING RECOVERY

Build it Back is funded by \$2.2 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) dollars and overseen by the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery (HRO) in coordination with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). The program assists homeowners, renters and landlords through property rehabilitation or reconstruction, home elevation, reimbursement for permanent repairs already completed or acquisition of homes.

When the de Blasio administration took office, zero homeowners had started construction and zero reimbursement checks had been issued. Through October 2015, Build it Back has started construction on 2,071 homes and completed 1,220 of them. It has distributed 100 percent of reimbursement checks to eligible applicants. It has also accelerated relief to multifamily households, benefiting more than 12,000 households in 80 developments through repair, resiliency, and reimbursement services, as well as 258 low-income households through rental assistance. Build it Back is now in position to meet the recovery needs of all applicants. On the third anniversary of the storm, Mayor de Blasio committed to completing the Build it Back single-family program by the end of 2016.

To meet this ambitious target, Build it Back has shifted focus to construction planning and execution. This summer, the program completed its case management and eligibility determination process, and set deadlines for applicants to choose their program pathway. It simultaneously ramped up its construction and design capacity and coordinated several inter-agency initiatives to streamline the construction process. With the new construction capacity – provided by three construction managers overseen by DDC – the program is positioned to move entire blocks and neighborhoods into construction.

Build it Back has also worked to improve the construction process, so that homeowners are not held up due to regulatory issues. In July 2015, the City Council passed a Zoning Text Amendment proposed jointly by HRO, HPD and DCP, and originating in the Queens Borough Sandy Task Force, which simplifies documentation requirements for applicants with zoning non-compliances and creates a new zoning envelope for rebuilt homes that is consistent with the visual character of New York's coastal neighborhoods. The City also launched the "Accelerate Build it Back Initiative" this summer at the direction of the Mayor and the First Deputy Mayor. By coordinating processes over multiple agencies, the new initiative has shortened the time it takes for Build it Back applicants to secure permits and approvals.

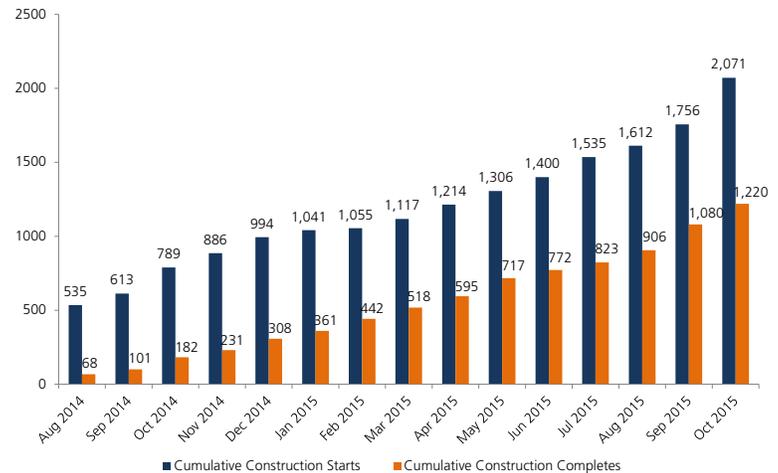
In addition to improving the regulatory environment, Build it Back has worked across agencies to address construction and engineering challenges, including the elevation of attached homes and construction of resilient homes in neighborhoods with pre-existing infrastructural and environmental challenges. Along with DDC and HPD, Build it Back has conducted special

outreach to homeowners subject to these challenges and has launched studies of entire communities to determine how each will become more resilient through the rebuilding process.

Build it Back continues to expand relief to homeowners, and before setting its option selection deadline, the program offered several new pathways for homeowners to choose:

- A “direct grant” option offered homeowners undertaking moderate rehabilitation to be paid directly for work they perform independently with their own contractor.
- A new City Acquisition for Redevelopment program offered homeowners seeking acquisition another chance to pursue this option.
- A “discretionary elevation” option allowed homeowners interested in elevating their homes, but who did not meet the substantial damage threshold, to make this investment in resilient building.

**Build it Back Monthly Progress:  
Cumulative Construction Starts & Completes**



As part of its Multifamily Program, the City is providing comprehensive resiliency retrofit measures to protect vulnerable populations in targeted multifamily buildings. More than 40 multifamily developments representing over 8,000 households are currently moving forward in the program, and eight developments have closed and are under construction. Retrofit measures funded by the program include, but are not limited to, elevation of electrical and mechanical equipment where feasible, flood-proofing of below-grade building systems, and installation of backup power connections. Taken together, these measures will serve to reduce damages and limit the displacement of residents from future flooding events.

The continued progress in the beginning of Fiscal 2016 has put Build it Back in position to meet the Mayor’s goal of completion by December 31, 2016. With over 60 percent of homeowners already receiving some form of construction or reimbursement, the program is now moving aggressively forward to make sure all remaining homeowners receive assistance.

Performance Indicators	Actual		4-Month Actual (July - October)		Cumulative as of 10/31/2015	Cumulative percent complete as of 10/31/15
	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16		
Benefit Options Selected by Homeowners	2,237	5,236	2,006	1,355	8,828	93%
Design Starts in Build it Back Households	534	2,382	1,525	2,216	5,132	83%
Total Construction Starts in Build it Back Households	93	1,304	426	674	2,071	34%
Construction Completions of Build it Back Households	15	757	167	448	1,220	20%
Reimbursement Checks Issued to Build it Back Households	316	3,611	872	1,407	5,334	100%
Homeowners Served (i.e., received reimbursement and/or construction benefits from Build It Back)	369	3,951	1,298	1,663	5,983	63%

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL SERVICES RECOVERY

Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance program, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) is coordinating approximately \$10 billion in recovery work on infrastructure and critical services across the City, while investing in these assets to make them more resilient. Notable milestones on recovery projects achieved to-date in Fiscal Year 2016 from the City's comprehensive, citywide resiliency program to rebuild and improve public hospitals, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) campuses, schools and agency infrastructure across the five boroughs include:

- The recovery of NYC Health + Hospitals achieved important milestones with design work starting on Coney Island Hospital, and the release of a request for proposals for program management services on the agency's \$1.7 billion recovery and resiliency construction program, as well as for design work on the interiors of its Coler facility.
- NYCHA finished \$70 million of design work on Coney Island developments as part of a \$3 billion Recovery and Resiliency portfolio currently under way. Additionally, NYCHA released requests for proposals for construction services at Astoria Houses, Ocean Bay Apartments, and Smith Houses.
- Through the Department of Parks and Recreation, over \$10 million of projects completed their design phase, over \$7 million of projects began the design process, and another \$5 million of projects started construction around the City. The Rockaways Boardwalk completed construction on Phase 2 and began construction on Phase 5A during this period.
- The Department of Transportation completed over \$50 million of repair and resiliency work on traffic infrastructure, and an additional \$12 million in work started.
- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) initiated \$77 million worth of construction projects, including breaking ground on a \$22 million BlueBelt project in Staten Island to reduce local flooding, and completing over \$12 million in other sewer and drainage projects. Additionally, DEP embarked on a nearly \$700 million project to repair the leaking Delaware Aqueduct.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The administration has also strengthened its commitment to economic recovery and has continued to make progress. In all of its work, Build it Back is committed to providing high-quality employment for New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Sandy. In October 2015 the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), ORR, and Build it Back hosted the Sandy Recovery Opportunity and Resource Fair in Coney Island to connect local residents with jobs and skills training. This was part of an ongoing inter-agency collaboration through the Sandy Recovery Workforce1 Program, which matches qualified Sandy-impacted residents to jobs with City agencies and vendors working on recovery efforts, in addition to jobs in the Workforce1 portfolio. Build it Back and SBS have a dedicated Sandy Recovery Workforce1 Center in Coney Island with additional staff at Workforce1 Centers in the Rockaways and Staten Island. In total, the Workforce1 Centers have served 2,900 New Yorkers and made 2,200 job referrals.

To further incentivize employers to hire local residents, Sandy Recovery Workforce1 offers employment skills training vouchers to Sandy-affected individuals, including an initial 100 vouchers for pre-apprenticeship programs to prepare low and moderate income residents for careers in the unionized construction industry and provide direct entry to construction union apprenticeships. In partnership with the building and construction trades unions, contractors and subcontractors work with community groups to link community residents to pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. So far, 50 vouchers have been distributed and 33 people have graduated from the programs using these vouchers, preparing them for union work as roofers, metal lathers, painters, laborers, and carpenters. Contractors and subcontractors are encouraged to hire 20 percent local residents on the recovery projects. As of January 2016, Build it Back has placed nearly 500 Sandy-impacted New Yorkers in jobs through direct employment, Sandy Recovery Workforce1 referrals and pre-apprenticeship programs.

ORR is playing a critical role by working closely with agencies to assist small business recovery, while also supporting workforce development aimed at local workers and the long-term resiliency of small businesses.

From July 1st through October 31st, SBS approved 80 businesses for \$8.21 million in grants and \$2.86 million in loans through the Hurricane Sandy Business Loan and Grant Program. As of October 31st, the City has closed out the

program, having awarded a total of \$55 million – \$47 million in grants and \$8 million in loans – to 348 businesses. SBS will continue to work with businesses for disbursement of the funds through Calendar 2016.

In addition to the Build it Back workforce initiatives, the City is working to ensure all recovery and resiliency investments create job opportunities for residents and low-income applicants. From July through October 2015, recovery and resiliency projects have created 1,035 jobs. These employment opportunities are among the 1,982 jobs the City has created since 2012 through its recovery and resiliency program.

To fully leverage this opportunity going forward, the City will build on the model designed for the Build it Back program that established the Sandy Recovery Workforce1 program.

In addition, the City is working through local partners to strengthen small- and medium-sized construction enterprises (particularly minority and woman-owned business enterprises) to improve the quality of their services and ability to compete for OneNYC resiliency-related professional services and construction contracts.

## NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- All Fiscal 2014 and 2015 data for Build it Back indicators have been corrected and updated.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information on items referenced in the narrative, go to:

- OneNYC: The Plan for a Strong and Just City:  
<http://www1.nyc.gov/html/onenyc/index.html>
- One City, Rebuilding Together  
[http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/reports/2014/sandy\\_041714.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/reports/2014/sandy_041714.pdf)