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**BUILD IT BACK ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO HELP  
HOMEOWNERS RELOCATE DURING CONSTRUCTION**

*New resources will help program reach Mayor de Blasio's goal of completion by end of 2016*

*Build it Back, with the Mayor's Fund, NYDIS, and private partners, extends services for vulnerable and under-resourced homeowners*

NEW YORK -- The Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery, in partnership with Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, today announced the procurement for new Temporary Housing Service providers for Build it Back applicants needing to relocate during construction. The new providers, which will be fully funded by the City through existing HUD CDBG-DR funding, will allow the program to continue to accelerate construction as it moves aggressively towards Mayor Bill de Blasio's [goal of completion by the end of 2016](#).

In addition, HRO is calling on landlords throughout Sandy-impacted communities to offer available apartments for Build it Back applicants to temporarily rent. All landlords will be reimbursed up to the rental amounts specified in the chart below. Landlords interested in helping can call Build it Back at 212-615-8329.

"As we move forward towards the Mayor's goal of completing Build it Back by the end of the year, we are taking unprecedented steps to assist homeowners needing to relocate due to construction," said **Amy Peterson, Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery**. "Building on the pilot program we launched with the Mayor's Fund and NYDIS this past year, we will be vastly expanding our resources to help homeowners find temporary apartments and to help them with all aspects of the move-out process. Additionally, we are looking to partner with landlords in the community who can offer temporary leases. As we reflect on our New Year's resolutions, we are calling on New Yorkers to make a renewed commitment to helping their Sandy-impacted neighbors."

"So much work has gone into the efforts to elevate and reconstruct homes affected by Sandy, and unfortunately the final obstacle in getting many people back home is finding them temporary housing while the work on their homes takes place," said **Staten Island Borough President James Oddo**. "Candidly, from a landlord's point of view, short term leases are not ideal, but we are asking Staten Islanders who have the space to offer a little cup of kindness and make their vacant apartments available so those affected by Sandy can temporarily move in while their homes are reconstructed or elevated."

These new initiatives, supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, build off programs put in place in the past year as part of Mayor de Blasio's broader Sandy recovery overhaul, including:

### Build it Back Temporary Relocation Assistance Program

In April of 2014, the City dedicated funding for a Temporary Relocation Assistance program which covers rental expenses for homeowners displaced during construction. To date, over 200 claims have been made.

Monthly Relocation Benefit Cap				
1 person household	2 person household	3 person household	4 person household	5 person household
\$1,495	\$1,561.25	\$1,851.25	\$2,380	\$2,667

### Sandy Temporary Rental Program

In June, Build it Back, the Mayor’s Fund to Advance NYC and the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) launched the one-year, privately-funded Sandy Temporary Rental Program to provide housing assistance for vulnerable and under-resourced homeowners for the duration of construction. Administered by NYDIS and funded by the American Red Cross, Robin Hood Foundation, the Building Trade Employers’ Association, the Salvation Army and the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the Sandy Temporary Rental Program operates in conjunction with Build it Back’s Temporary Relocation Assistance program, which already provides rental reimbursement for homeowners relocated for at least a month due to construction.

To date, the program has placed 23 homeowners. These services will continue uninterrupted until the citywide services provider is selected.

The Sandy Temporary Rental Program serves as a model for the new housing provider procurement. The Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery will provide access to:

- a stock of available apartments ready for immediate occupancy
- subsidies for rent and moving expenses
- apartments conducive to homeowner needs, including accommodations for pets
- emergency hotel placements for homeowners who must immediately vacate their homes

The new Temporary Housing Service providers will add capacity for the City to ensure that households are assisted in locating temporary housing in a tight market, and receive services to help them transition out of their homes and back in when construction is completed.

“New York has one of the lowest housing vacancy rates in the country, so finding an apartment to rent – especially on a temporary basis – is an incredible challenge,” said **Holly Leicht, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey**. “Using HUD’s Sandy recovery funding, the City’s new program will make every effort to ensure that Sandy-affected households can find quality temporary housing, with the ultimate goal of expediting their return to their own homes.”

“During the storm, we heard many stories about residents going above and beyond to help their neighbors. Now, we are asking our fellow New Yorkers to come through again. This time, however, they will get reimbursed for their good will. We are cognizant of the challenges that we face, but we must make sure that we connect storm victims who need to relocate with housing opportunities,” said **Council Member Mark Treyger, 47<sup>th</sup> District**. “There should not be an added burden for families dealing with the aftermath of the storm. I would like to commend Director Peterson for listening to the concerns of storm victims who do not have the means to relocate during home repairs or elevations, and for partnering with local officials and stakeholders to conduct outreach on an important recovery matter.”

“One of the most inspiring aspects of the Mayor’s Fund mission is our ability to work with city agencies to identify urgent challenges and a means by which private resources can help address them. We are proud to have done exactly that with the Sandy Temporary Rental Program, collaborating with our generous private partners to place Build it Back applicants in short-term housing and ensure construction can move forward on their homes,” said **Darren Bloch, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City**. “We look forward to seeing our Temporary Rental Program’s model expanded with this new procurement.”

“Long-term recovery often takes many years, particularly when intensive rebuild is required,” said **Peter Gudaitis, Chief Response Officer, New York Disaster Interfaith Services**. “Although each household’s needs are unique, for those who are disabled, elderly, have large families or are otherwise vulnerable, the process and timeline is even more daunting. Over the past fifteen years, NYDIS has administered the NYC Unmet Needs Roundtable to provide under-resourced disaster survivors with case-by-case funding to address these unique challenges on their path to sustainable recovery. In keeping with our mission, in 2015, we partnered with HRO to administer the Sandy Temporary Rental Program – to facilitate and fund initial expenses related to securing short-term rental for under-resourced and vulnerable homeowners displaced for Build-it-Back elevations or rebuild. We are grateful to the Mayor’s Fund and our many other donors and partners in helping to house dozens of families to date. Along with the dedicated staff at HRO, NYDIS will continue to provide the STRP program as long as resources allow.”

“Robin Hood has been honored to partner with the Mayor's Fund, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, United Methodist Committee on Relief and the New York Disaster Interfaith Services to find ways to accelerate the Sandy rebuilding process through efforts like the Sandy Temporary Rental Program, which is assisting families in need with temporary housing as their own homes are being rebuilt,” said **David Saltzman, executive director of the Robin Hood Foundation**. “This is an often overlooked issue: where is a family to go during the six-12 months while their home is being repaired? Having the Mayor’s Fund as the fulcrum of this work ensures that city agencies that are crucial to the rebuilding efforts and the case management and disaster assistance service providers are able to partner effectively.”

“The Building Trades Employers’ Association is proud to partner with the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City and the Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery in its efforts to provide temporary housing for Sandy survivors as we rebuild their homes, neighborhoods and their lives,” said **Louis J. Coletti, President and CEO of the Building Trades Employers’ Association**.

“The American Red Cross is proud of the assistance provided to so many New Yorkers as a result of joint initiatives and strong partnerships with government and community organizations including NYDIS, the Robin Hood Foundation, and the Mayor’s Fund,” said **Josh Lockwood, CEO, American Red Cross Greater New York Region**. “Families and individuals who have lost their homes and loved ones in storms as devastating as Sandy often face recovery related needs that stretch out for years. For these and countless others, the Red Cross is there, continuing to work with the organizations that address these survivors’ fundamental needs for assistance and support as they rebuild their lives and neighborhoods.”