

# 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 City continues to make significant strides in its housing, infrastructure and economic recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy. Beginning with Mayor de Blasio's overhaul of the City's Hurricane Sandy recovery programs in April 2014, the City has accelerated and improved rebuilding activities by taking over direct management of Build it Back centers, dramatically increasing its community presence, aggressively moving relief dollars to homeowners and connecting Sandy-impacted New Yorkers to jobs on recovery projects. The administration will continue to ensure full recovery of all our impacted communities, and to leverage our comprehensive over \$20 billion resiliency plan 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 dollars and overseen by the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations (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 Mayor de Blasio took office, zero homeowners had started construction and zero reimbursement checks had been issued. As of June 30, 2016, there have been 3,118 construction starts, including 2,075 construction completions, and over 95 percent of reimbursement checks have been sent out to eligible homeowners (5,837 reimbursement checks issued totaling \$120.1 million). In total, 79 percent of applicants had seen a check or construction as of June 30th, 2016, and over 5,500 homes had entered the design phase.

In order to get all remaining homeowners back into their homes as soon as possible, Build it Back has shifted focus to construction planning and execution, with an eye towards coordinating processes across multiple agencies in order to shorten the time it takes to clear regulatory prerequisites before and during construction.

- At the direction of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen, the City has enhanced the "Accelerate Build it Back" initiative. The program simultaneously ramped up its contractor capacity and coordinated several interagency initiatives to streamline the construction process.
- New policies and coordination measures were introduced to help homeowners find temporary housing, quickly disconnect utilities and mobilize contractors to start construction.
- In early 2016, we opened three new construction services centers and several neighborhood satellite offices in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, enabling applicants to access all services in the same location.

Build it Back is also working 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.

At the same time that construction moves forward, Build it Back continues to expand relief to homeowners. The "direct grant" option, which compensates homeowners for moderate

rehabilitation work completed by private contractors, was launched this year. During the reporting period, over 60 projects funded through direct grants were completed. Additionally, the City Acquisition program was launched in June 2016 to supplement the State’s Acquisition for Redevelopment program, which no longer accepts applications, so eligible homeowners still have the opportunity to relocate. The program’s goal is to relieve homeowners who want to relocate out of the floodplain and to ensure that the subsequent use of the property is safe and appropriate for the community. There were nine closings under the program in Fiscal 2016, which covers the first month of the program’s implementation.

## 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 2016 from the City’s comprehensive, citywide resiliency program 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. Construction of internal mitigation work has begun at Bellevue Hospital.
- The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) finished \$70 million of design work on Coney Island developments as part of a \$3 billion Recovery and Resiliency portfolio currently underway, and an additional \$18 million on other sites around the City. Additionally, NYCHA has started construction at Astoria Houses, Ocean Bay Apartments and Smith Houses.
- Through the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), 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 Rockaway Boardwalk completed construction on Phases 2, 3, 4A, 4B, and 5A, and for the first time since Hurricane Sandy, the full Rockaway Boardwalk reopened on July 2, 2016. Restoration work also began in both Starlight Park and Sunset Cove. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with DPR, completed the \$30 million installation of T-groins, which are T-shaped structures that prevent beach erosion, off the western end of Coney Island.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) completed over \$50 million of repair and resiliency work on traffic infrastructure, and an additional \$13 million in work started. DOT also completed an \$8 million project on the Carroll Street Bridge.
- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) initiated \$120 million worth of construction projects, including breaking ground on a \$22 million BlueBelt project in Staten Island to reduce local flooding, and completing over \$90 million in other sewer and drainage projects. Additionally, DEP embarked on a nearly \$700 million project to repair the leaking Delaware Aqueduct.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Cumulative as of 6/30/16	Cumulative percent complete as of 6/30/16
	FY14	FY15	FY16		
Benefit Options Selected by Homeowners	2,237	5,236	1,029	8,502	100%
Design Starts in Build it Back Households	534	2,382	2,796	5,712	98%
Total Construction Starts in Build it Back Households	93	1,304	1,721	3,118	54%
Construction Completions of Build it Back Households	15	757	1,303	2,075	37%
Reimbursement Checks Issued to Build it Back Households	316	3,611	1,966	5,893	96%
Homeowners Served	369	3,951	2,642	6,962	79%

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The administration has bolstered its programs aimed at business recovery and job creation for those who live in Sandy-affected communities. In all of its work, Build it Back is committed to hiring locally and training low-and-moderate-income residents for careers as carpenters, painters, laborers and electricians. HRO, working in partnership with the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), administers 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. In Fiscal 2016, the City opened a new Workforce1 center in Coney Island and allocated additional resources and personnel to Rockaway and Staten Island, creating employment opportunities with firms working on Build it Back. These employers post job opportunities with Workforce1 and interview qualified candidates referred by Workforce1 teams. To date, 17 percent of workers hired by Build it Back employers have been from Sandy-impacted neighborhoods. Since launching in March 2015, the Sandy Recovery Workforce1 program has served 6,583 New Yorkers and connected 389 to employment.

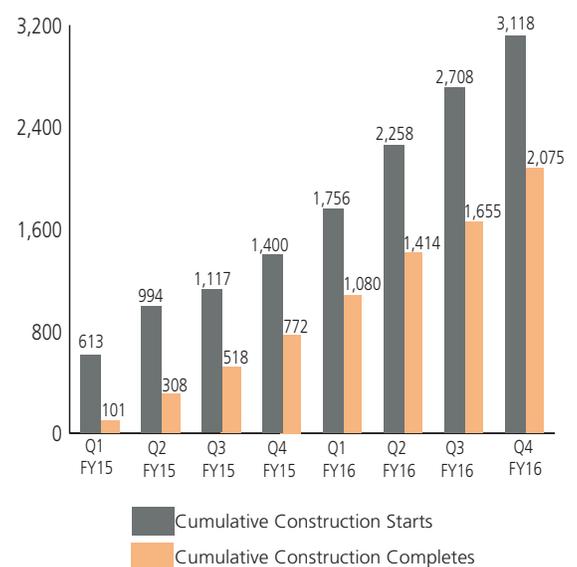
The new workforce development model funds vouchers for residents of Sandy-impacted communities to enroll in free construction pre-apprenticeship trainings that provide the opportunity for direct entry into the city’s participating construction unions. Training providers have joined the City’s Workforce1 teams by recruiting directly in communities, including at job fairs, community meetings, and at NYCHA community centers. To date, 128 residents of Sandy impacted areas have completed this training and 76 have been accepted into construction union apprenticeship programs and are currently employed.

ORR is working to scale up this model of workforce development to cover the City’s broader resiliency program, which has itself generated thousands of work opportunities in the construction industry for local residents and Sandy-impacted New Yorkers. To date, 5,570 jobs have been created and 3,053 individual workers have been hired by our construction industry partners at an average hourly wage of \$40.50. Over 62 percent of these workers are from Sandy-impacted communities and nearly half are minorities.

ORR is playing a critical role by working closely with agencies to assist small business recovery. The City closed out the Hurricane Sandy Business Loan and Grant Program in October 2015 after awarding more than \$54 million – \$47 million in grants and \$7 million in loans – to 349 businesses. Through Fiscal 2016, the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has disbursed more than \$49 million in loans and grants to 337 businesses, with 188 businesses receiving fund disbursement over the past fiscal year. SBS will continue to work with businesses for remaining disbursement of the funds through Calendar 2016.

In November 2015, the City launched Business PREP, a technical assistance program to prepare businesses for future emergencies and enhance the resiliency of their operations, assets, and physical spaces. The program has conducted 11 workshops and two webinars, reaching more 200 businesses across the five boroughs. In the fall of 2016, Business PREP will begin providing on-site resiliency assessments and complementary micro-grants for eligible businesses in Sandy-impacted areas.

**Build it Back Quarterly Progress:  
Cumulative Construction Starts & Completions**



## 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)