

Hurricane Sandy Funder Briefing Summaries

Highlights from twenty-five Funder Briefings held during the first year after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey and surrounding states on October 29, 2012.

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The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is the center for philanthropy in New Jersey, serving the leading independent, corporate, family and community foundations as well as public grantmakers of our state.

We support our members by strengthening their capacity to address New Jersey and society's most difficult problems.

We also access the resources of the philanthropic community – funding, expertise, and leverage – to provide leadership on statewide issues.

*The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers exists to strengthen
and promote effective philanthropy throughout New Jersey*

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Introduction: CNJG's Response to Hurricane Sandy

[Council of New Jersey Grantmakers Responds to Superstorm Sandy](#)

By Nina Stack, President, Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

October 2015

This month marks the three year anniversary of when Superstorm Sandy made landfall just outside of Atlantic City, NJ on October 29, 2012, and its aftermath continues to be felt in communities throughout our state.

The day after the storm struck, the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began planning a series of actions to help inform funders what to be prepared for, share information and discuss strategies. Standing weekly **Post-Sandy Funder Briefing Calls** began the first Monday after the storm and were held for 4 consecutive months--through March 2013, with a second series occurring weekly from September—November 2013.

The Council produced a total of 25 funder briefings with nearly 70 guest speakers: the audio files of each briefing can be found on the Council's website ([Series I](#) and [Series II](#)) and the summaries of each of these calls are documented throughout this compilation.

Grantmakers heard from policymakers, disaster relief and recovery experts, and colleagues from around the country who have been through similar catastrophes. The calls provided an opportunity to connect directly with local leaders and state officials addressing the many needs of our communities. Grantmakers learned about issues related to both disasters in general and Sandy recovery in particular. Topics included housing, social justice, universal design, FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework, and an array of environmental issues.

Christopher Ilstrup, Vermont Community Foundation, spoke about the need to be creative when working to address community needs after major disasters. Hans Dekker, Community Foundation of New Jersey, shared the major initiatives of the New Jersey Recovery Fund, and Cam Henderson spoke about the work of the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund and its commitment to supporting the Long Term Recovery Groups. Doug Schoenberger, Verizon Foundation, and Abby O'Neill, Union Foundation, spoke movingly about what they learned during CNJG's Ocean and Monmouth Counties Site Tour of Sandy impacted communities. Terrence Brody, Governor Christie's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, shared a number of state initiatives to address community needs. Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, HUD's Office of International and Philanthropic Innovations, outlined public private partnerships in response to Superstorm Sandy. Laurel Blatchford and Michael Passante, President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, spoke about the group's plans and HUD's Community Block Program. New Jersey's leaders from the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and Long-Term Recovery Groups shared information on the many challenges facing their communities.

Alongside producing the **Post-Sandy Funder Briefings**, CNJG also created additional programming to assist its members in responding to Superstorm Sandy.

Site Visit Tours of Impacted Communities

In the months after the storm, the Council organized two tours for grantmakers to see some of the hardest hit areas throughout the state. The first Coastal Communities Site Visit Tour in February 2013 offered the philanthropic community a rare opportunity to see firsthand several of the Jersey Shore disaster-affected communities in Monmouth and Ocean Counties (at the time of the tour, several of the communities were off-limits to pedestrian and vehicular traffic but a partnership with the State Police Office of Emergency Management enabled grantmakers to see the damage in order to fully grasp the communities' needs). The second site visit toured northern New Jersey communities in Bergen, Hudson, and Essex Counties, including a rare opportunity to tour a Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG) substation located in Newark which was flooded during the storm. Throughout both tours, the grantmakers heard from a number of guest speakers, including individuals from FEMA, local and state government officials, Long-Term Recovery Group leaders, city and state planners, environmental professionals, social services personnel, and faith-based leaders.

Funders' Briefing Post Sandy Recovery at 18 months

CNJG presented [a specific briefing on housing, hunger and mental health recovery efforts and needs 18 months after the storm](#), in partnership with the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation and OceanFirst Foundation. Special guests included families who offered personal stories of being displaced from their homes and their long struggle to rebuild and recoup. Several Long Term Recovery Group leaders described ongoing challenges but also recent positive outcomes.

Statewide Conference

Bringing together an impressive community of funders, providers and practitioners for a day of exploration, shared learning and discussion at the [Spring 2013 Conference for the Social Sector - Our Shared Road Ahead: Sandy and Beyond](#) on June 10. The Conference provided participants with an important opportunity to hear about the lessons learned by social sector colleagues and experts from around the country who have grappled with how to create effective long-term philanthropic responses to catastrophic events.

Superstorm Sandy Philanthropic Investments Scan

[Philanthropy & Hurricane Sandy: A Report on the Foundation & Corporate Response](#) is a report released in October 2014 by CNJG and partners that examines the response of foundations, corporations, and other institutional donors to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Numbering nearly 600, these funders have so far committed more than \$380 million for relief, recovery and building efforts. The hard data and reflective observations in the report contribute to the growing body of knowledge that helps foundations and corporations to be strategic and effective with their giving when disaster strikes.

Playbook for Philanthropic Response When Disaster Hits

While there is no shortage of guides for philanthropies to reference when disaster strikes, there is no comprehensive online repository of the innovative strategies and critical work funders throughout the country have created, supported and/or implemented in response to disasters. A partnership with the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, in association with the Forum of Regional Association of Grantmakers, the Disaster Philanthropy Playbook is a new website that brings together a meaningful compilation of best practice strategies, lessons learned, and response guides developed and employed by funders. Designed as an online resource with links to further reading and a substantial library of guides and materials, the Disaster Philanthropy Playbook will be an “evergreen” resource built for continued updates and knowledge-building. The national launch of the Playbook is scheduled for January 2016.

Keeping Funders Informed on the Recovery

Grantmakers in New Jersey and around the country were invited to opt-in to CNJG’s Post-Sandy Funder Listserv. This listserv was robustly active in the first 18 months after Sandy struck New Jersey and neighboring states, it remains a vehicle for grantmakers wanting to share Sandy recovery information, news related to their own Sandy initiatives, and/or NJ’s recovery and rebuilding process, albeit with reduced activity in 2015. Grantmakers interested in joining this listserv should send their request to [CNJG’s Alisha Patman](#).

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers extends its sincerest gratitude to its valued philanthropic partners that have supported various aspects of the Council’s Sandy Response work beginning immediately after the hurricane struck through our ongoing work today. Specifically PSEG Foundation who underwrote the costs of this written compilation of Briefing Calls, as well as the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Citi, Fund for New Jersey, The Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, JCP&L, JPMorgan Chase, Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, The Merck Company Foundation/Merck & Company, Inc., Provident Bank Foundation, Rita Allen Foundation, Subaru, TD Bank, United Way of Essex and West Hudson, Verizon NJ, and the Victoria Foundation.



[Nina Stack, President](#)
[Council of New Jersey Grantmakers](#)

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: November 5, 2012

Funder Briefing #1: Update from NJ Philanthropic Leaders and FEMA's Long Term Recovery Office

Speakers: **Denise Gilliam**, Recovery Directorate - FEMA; National Disaster Recovery Planning Division, *Capacity Building and Long Term Community Recovery*;

Hans Dekker, President - Community Foundation of New Jersey;

Christopher Daggett, President and CEO - Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation;

HIGHLIGHTS

Update from Denise Gilliam on what FEMA sees as the intermediate & long term challenges funders will face.

FEMA provides two different kinds of support:

- **Support for selected communities with high impact from disaster but low capacity for recovery:** FEMA works directly with state agencies, funders and municipalities to assess damage and provide technical assistance to the most-heavily impacted areas of the state; FEMA coordinates federal agencies through the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (including HUD, Dept. of Commerce, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.).
- **Support for Individuals:** FEMA works with [NJ VOAD](#) and [Long Term Recovery Groups](#) that deal with assistance in unmet needs for individual families. **Individuals/families should be urged to apply for any and all federal funds that they are eligible for BEFORE turning to the assistance of nonprofits and funders.**
 - Individuals who are unable to work due to disasters are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Insurance
 - FEMA has a crisis counseling grant that the state is applying for

FEMA Vermont Recovery Learning from Hurricane Irene:

- [VT Community Foundation](#) (VTCF) and the [Stratton Foundation](#) helped individuals with a 25% cost-share program to assist with buyouts
- VTCF offered grant writing workshops, as there was a gap identified in trained grantwriters. Grant writing workshops covered Federal grants in morning sessions and all other grants in afternoon sessions.
- "Recovery" funding is more difficult to find than "Response" funding - New Orleans area foundations are a good example of long-term vision seven years after Hurricane Katrina
- Thoughtful planning for recovery is recommended
- VT - created a "pooled" fund at the state level that families could apply to once disaster/recovery funds run out at the local level, which helped to even out the disparity between communities with less local funding for individual families and those with more local funding.

- If we can't bring the tax-base back then communities may not recover, so recovery efforts should be focused with that goal in mind.

Update from Hans Dekker and Chris Daggett on the establishment of a Collaborative Fund

The development of a collaborative recovery fund drawing upon foundations, corporations and individuals is in process. This collaborative fund will focus on intermediate & long-term recovery needs, led by the [Community Foundation of New Jersey](#) (Hans Dekker) and [The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#) (Christopher Daggett), in collaboration with the [Community Foundation of South Jersey](#) (Sidney Hargro). [For more information, visit: <http://www.cfnj.org/new-jersey-recovery/>]

Full Group Discussion on Strategies the Funding Community is Exploring/Implementing

Sampling of Needs and Concerns:

- concern that children in shelters are missing school
- teachers have lost supplies and materials

Key Activities and Update from the Field:

- CNJG is in close contact with Philanthropy NY to help educate NY funders who want to support NJ recovery efforts.
- Immediate Relief Funding available from: Compassion Fund in Bergen and United Way/Newark

FOLLOW UP

- Hans Dekker asks that all on the call please send ideas for the focus of the new collaborative fund, which will be housed at the Community Foundation of NJ. hdekker@cfnj.org
- Cathy McCann, President of NJ VOAD will be asked to provide the list of NJVOAD partnering organizations

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Just launched: Brooklyn Recovery Fund: Brooklyn Chamber, Brooklyn Community Foundation & Office of Brooklyn Borough President created a collaborative fund for Sandy Recovery.
- Philanthropic Response Strategy from previous disasters:
 - After 9/11: Panasonic, J&J, and Prudential created a Disaster Fund for Children of NJ for short term housing, food, and daycare. The Newark Chamber became the distribution organization for that money. The Fund provided up to 6-weeks' worth of living expenses.

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: November 12, 2012

Funder Briefing #2: Essential strategies for the Funding Community in times of disaster

Speakers: **Jera Stribling**, Executive Director - Joseph Bruno Charitable Foundation; Co-author: *Creating Order Out of Chaos*;

Denise Gilliam, Recovery Directorate - FEMA; National Disaster Recovery Planning Division, *Capacity Building and Long Term Community Recovery*;

Josh Barnes, National Coordinator, Recovery Support Function - Federal Economic Administration;

Kristy Ray, Voluntary Agency Liaison – FEMA

HIGHLIGHTS

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is coordinating a meeting of relief/recovery funds that are currently in operation - participants on this call are encouraged to share information and help connect funds with CNJG.

Funder Role - Jera Stribling (Executive Director for the [Joseph Bruno Charitable Foundation, and Director of the state's regional association Alabama Giving](#)), helped coordinate the funder response to the Alabama tornado disaster, during which 62 tornadoes touched down in the state in a single day. She also assisted with the development of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund's exemplary disaster relief guide for funders [Creating Order Out of Chaos](#).

What Funders Can Do Post-Disaster:

- Serve as essential Communicators and Conveners for your communities and state.
- Run phone calls, such as this one as a way to share updates/and to bring in expert advice from other states.
- Identify and partner with your local [VOADs](#) - essential local level group of volunteers who are tied to the national network. They should be an early partner in efforts.
- Provide funding to hire & train other case managers when there aren't enough on the ground.
- Supply computers at centralized locations (i.e. libraries) for people to apply for FEMA relief online.
- Help prepare spaces for long-term housing needs: Jera's foundation helped to modify a church recreation center by upgrading the showers and installing a new commercial kitchen system
- Secure warehouses for building materials & supplies, which need to be stored
- Help to get the word out about deadlines for applications, documents necessary to apply, and to clarify any confusion - FEMA uses the same application form for individuals needing assistance AND small business loans, which confused applicants, causing lost time in which to file for assistance.
- Funders can call nationally-based groups to address unmet needs (like computers for filing applications)

- Leadership Development Program - provide small municipal governments with training so that the communities have strong leadership in government moving forward. [Long Term Recovery Groups](#) will need to be set up to help with flow of funding.
- Look into setting up a no-interest loan pool.
- Funders can be effective “conveners” to bring people together, as they are neutral players
- It is imperative that all funding organizations that wish to do disaster work fully understand the step by step process and requirements of federal disaster relief programs. Some things must happen in a certain order and it's very important to work with the FEMA framework.

Long-term Strategies / Opportunities

- In Alabama there was a \$25,000 cap per claim, which will never be enough - someone needs to fill that gap. FEMA also only works with designated communities (in Alabama only 5-6 were chosen).
- Don't expend your funds on the front end - wait until you know long term needs. This will be easily a 5-7 year recovery process, must be strategic in planning how to rebuild, homes, public facilities, etc. An unforeseen long-term need in Alabama was mental health needs.
- Nonprofit burnout is on the horizon - help the first responders
- Make sure that EVERYONE is at the table, be inclusive during planning processes.
- Need to find long term housing for a lot of people for a long time.
- Long Term medical costs will be far more than immediate need money that is available.
- Funders can help by nominating people for Long Term Recovery groups (look at grantees, faith-based and retirees), as VOAD will not help you carry this work out in the community in the long term. Community colleges are another good source.

Economic Development Support - Josh Barnes - [Federal Economic Administration](#);

joshua.j.barnes@eda.gov

Josh coordinates efforts to look at the consequences of disasters on economic development, workforce development, small businesses and business' access to capital needs, as well as addressing specific issues related to relevant industries in a community (manufacturing, tourism, etc.); works with agencies including the Dept. of Commerce, FEMA, SPA, Dept. of Labor, Dept. of the Treasury, HHS, HUD, and others.

Volunteer Support - Kristy Ray - [Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA](#); kristy.ray@fema.dhs.gov

- Staff at the FEMA Recovery Center: currently 25, request for 11 more
- NEED: Volunteer housing - expecting thousands of volunteers from out of state
- Immediate Clean Up phase currently underway is a pilot program to make fully-fledged repairs to buildings instead of installing short-term patches and returning at a later date to finish major repairs.
- FEMA currently works with the National VOAD, which has 55 national member agencies (Red Cross, Salvation Army, religious etc.) who can also be called upon to assist

FOLLOW UP

- Denise Gilliam will share info on the Community Recovery Assistance Program when it's available.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- CNJG is launching a Post-Sandy Funder Listserv – funders interested in joining must opt-in by contacting Theresa Jacks at tjacks@cnjg.org
- [NJ VOAD](#) - daily noon phone call to coordinate voluntary organizations.
- [NJ211.org](#) send them info on volunteers and resources for inclusion in a master list

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: November 19, 2012

Funder Briefing #3: NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Speakers: **Cathy McCann**, President - NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters; Executive Director - Community FoodBank of NJ

HIGHLIGHTS

[NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters \(VOAD\)](#)

The goal of NJ VOAD is to coordinate efforts so that NJ VOAD members, nonprofits and other agencies are not duplicating services. State partners include the Dept. of Human Services, the Office of Emergency Management (for assistance like providing escorts for volunteer organizations to deliver services into restricted areas), and FEMA [Volunteer Agency Liaisons](#) (VALs) like Kristy Ray, who joined the November 12th call. NJ VOAD Contact list is the best way to get in contact with the coordinating organizations by county. Some groups are also referred to as COADs - Community Organizations Active in Disasters.

- NJ VOAD also coordinates the independent volunteers who come to ensure help is distributed where it is most needed.
- NJ VOAD members usually meet once per quarter in person or via phone - in this instance they have been coordinating efforts since the Wednesday prior to Hurricane Sandy.
- NJ VOAD works with, or works to help set up Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) in counties, each of which has subcommittees that focus on areas such as unmet needs, fundraising, volunteer organizing, building, etc.
- **Funders can be instrumental in serving on or identifying candidates for LTRGs**
- Monies left after FEMA claims have been filed are directed to NJ VOAD and the LTRGs to help with any other unmet needs
- Not all NJ counties have LTRGs - Ocean County just formed one, there is a tri-county LTRG for Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland counties that is challenged because of the geographic spread. Some county LTRGs were formed after Hurricane Irene.
- NJ VOAD is taking part in housing issues for those displaced still 200-300 people from IRENE that haven't moved back into home, so this storm will require years of work.

Strategies

- [Ocean County LTRG](#) just had its first meeting. 200 people came out - a mixture of nonprofits, local government, FEMA, faith-based leaders and residents. LTRG members will invite State Office of Emergency Management representatives to next meeting.
- The OceanFirst Foundation underwrote the cost of putting the meeting together, which was run by the Ocean County Dept. Human Services (OC DHS). The OC DHS canceled their regular advisory

meeting and opened up the invitation list to get more people in the room and assess the county's needs and assets. The partnership between OC DHS and Ocean First Foundation enabled the meeting to happen quickly in a highly organized way.

NJ Recovery Fund Update

The NJ Recovery Fund has been formally launched by the, Community Foundation of New Jersey, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and other partner organizations Other funding partners are joining the NJ Community Fund, and participants on this call are encouraged to join the NJ Recovery Fund if they are exploring creating their own fund in order to pool resources for collective impact.

FOLLOW UP

The NJ VOAD Contact list will be redistributed to the group via CNJG's recently established Post-Sandy Funder Listserv. All funders interested in opting-in to this listserv should contact Theresa Jacks at tjacks@cnjg.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- November 20, 2012 - CNJG meeting of organizations that are creating funds where money will be collected and regranted
- December 11, 2012 - CNJG Corporate grantmakers conference call (employee needs, employee volunteering, employee matching gifts, etc.)
- Through a small grant from the Victoria Foundation Elizabeth Murphy is joining CNJG to help with the coordination and dissemination of information of CNJG's efforts, elizabethmurphy@cnjg.org

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: November 26, 2012

Funder Briefing #4: Strategies to support long-term Planning Efforts - Baton Rouge Foundation

Speakers: John Davies, President - Baton Rouge Area Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements

- NJ funders will receive an assessment of impact survey that CNJG is helping disseminate in partnership with FEMA and the Administration. Information garnered from members' grantees would be most helpful.
- Upcoming Webinar: CNJG, working in partnership with [Philanthropy NY](#) and the [Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers](#) has developed a webinar for funders through the regional association of grantmakers network. Wednesday, November 29, 2012, 3pm-4pm.
- CNJG Sandy Listserv announcement: Home Depot is offering discounts & rebates for Nonprofits

Lessons from the Rebuilding Phase - John Davies - [Baton Rouge Area Foundation](#) (BRAAF)

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation, a community foundation with \$548 million in assets, has been at the forefront of coordinating funding efforts, capacity building, civic improvement, and redevelopment after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, the Gulf of Mexico Oil Leak, among other initiatives. John Davies has served as president and CEO since June 1988. During his tenure, the Foundation has grown from \$3 million to \$608 million in assets.

- We didn't want to rebuild New Orleans the way it was before from an equity standard; Hurricane Katrina provided an opportunity to rectify a legacy of social challenges. FEMA will only repair back to previous status and sometimes that isn't sufficient. Funders had to be advocates for creating a more equitable, functional community especially in urban areas.
 - The negative images and press about Katrina, and the fact that the people waiting on rooftops to be rescued were virtually all black, and all poor, enabled leverage to advocate for rebuilding in more socially equitable ways.
 - Trying to encourage to consider long term viability of place is tough - but if you wait then communities forget some of the dangers.
 - BRAAF conducted two surveys (20K responses) asking, "What takes precedent - the community or individual rights?" Pre-Katrina - majority of respondents said individual rights. Post-Katrina 55% said the welfare of the community trumps individual rights. Capitalizing on the latter sentiment quickly can be very beneficial.
- FEMA has tight restrictions for funding planning efforts, with rigid guidelines that do not always allow for new planning strategies. BRAAF and partner funders created a fund to help rethink planning for long term sustainability and hired the planners to work with the communities.

Discrete plans for neighborhoods and communities were developed along with a regional plan titled [Louisiana Speaks](#).

- BRAF had developed their capacity at the foundation for planning with their program, “Plan Baton Rouge.” That program was then ramped up and became a separate entity called the [Center for Planning Excellence](#), for which BRAF raised \$12M-\$14M for planning efforts.
- Building of mixed income housing - planning processes started 6 months after Katrina
- Regional plan took 9 months; local planning efforts were based off of community charettes
- BRAF hired outside planning firms for their credibility and expertise when tackling the issue of relocating whole communities to safer geographies, as funders can’t really say that to community members. The planning firms also worked closely with local planners.
- Need to have a voice about strategic, sustainable planning very early in order to gain traction
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - BRAF hired the psychologist who worked on the 9/11 mental health plan, April Naturale. She developed “[InCourage](#)” - a PTSD plan for New Orleans. Symptoms showed up in a more delayed way than anticipated, however.
 - PTSD programs were started too quickly (started 3-4 months after storm). Most issues started manifesting 12-18 months after the storm, which meant we burned up our resources too early.
 - Major hospitals were underwater. The majority of patients - be they suffering from mental health issues or general health issues - then came to Baton Rouge or were sent to Houston.

NGO Relationships and Networks

- Funds for faith-based organizations: Faith-based organizations were phenomenal - many were depleted financially and needed help from foundations to operate.
- There weren’t strong relationships with NGOs in south Louisiana - NJ doesn’t have that issue, but it caused problems for Louisiana. National foundations were calling other national foundations to find out what the needs were, rather than NGOs on the ground.
- Some NGOs weren’t responsive and had to be pulled into the process. That gave some large funding organizations pause because they didn’t know who to trust with funds.
- NGOs have longer view than government (who work on election cycles), so their participation is essential.

FOLLOW UP

- Elizabeth Murphy will send out the Long Term Recovery Group contact lists and the [NIVOAD](#) list as soon as she receives them from Cathy McCann. Currently NJ’s LTRGs are county-based.
- Denise Gilliam - **FEMA: [Community Planning and Capacity Building program](#)**. A Recovery Support Strategy is developed by FEMA for select communities, which are then approved and appointed by State. FEMA assessment isn’t ready yet, but FEMA will work with American Planning Association, Urban Land Institute, etc., once it is to provide support in planning processes. **Cost-share requirements may prevent some communities from executing some of the plans, which is an opportunity for funders to step in to help fill the gap.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Ocean County LTRG](#): second meeting is scheduled - contact Kathy Durante for more info
- Members are encouraged to use the Listserv to share requests, projects, ideas that members are hearing

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: December 3, 2012

Funder Briefing #5: Federal Health & Social Services Recovery Support Function

Speaker: **Byron Mason**, Health & Social Services Recovery Support Function Field Coordinator - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements

- FEMA deadline for individuals to apply for assistance has been extended to December 30th. 230,000 New Jerseyans have registered for support (after Hurricane Irene there were only 90,000 cases registered)
- Individuals are going to experience a major shortfall in available funds to rebuild their homes or businesses and there is concern that we could see hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans slip into a cycle of poverty.

Federal [Health & Social Services Recovery Support Function](#)

Byron Mason has been deployed on disaster recovery operations in the Gulf Coast region, during the Oklahoma tornadoes, Iowa floods, in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav, in Texas after Hurricane Ike, and ran the incident management assistance teams in NY & Maine after Hurricane Irene.

The work of the Federal Health & Social Services Recovery Support Function (HSS Support Function) is to identify the disaster's impacts and the State's needs in order to start matching those needs with the agencies/partners involved in the recovery support function that can address those needs.

Partners include: Corporation of National & Community Services, Dept. of Education, FEMA, Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of the Interior, Dept. Justice, Dept. of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of the Treasury, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, VOAD, Red Cross, Dept. of Agriculture, and the Small Business Administration. There is also coordination with the Office of Emergency Management. Some local partners and nonprofits are also being folded into the process.

Scope and Priorities:

The HSS Support Function has a broad scope that includes mental health, public health, environmental health, impacts to schools and the services that children receive in an educational environment (child care, nutritional support, mental & behavioral health services, etc.), among other areas.

Access to service is of greatest concern. Certain social service agencies will see an influx of clients that they have not budgeted for as people are temporarily housed in different places. Alternately, the service providers in the hardest hit communities (and providers that might be offline for a while with their own

recovery efforts) will need to ensure that displaced individuals will be able to return to their communities so that providers will have enough of a client base to reopen in the affected communities.

Public Health update:

NJ Dept. of Health is currently trying to get health providers to document costs, lost revenue, etc. as a result of Sandy. Some of those providers can apply for assistance in two ways.

- FEMA [Public Assistance program](#)
- [Small Business Administration](#) - loans for physical damage & economic injury loans

After filing insurance claims the first stop is FEMA Public Assistance. Under [The Stafford Act](#) - non-public entities and claims for lost revenue are not eligible for public assistance grants. In NJ, many providers are not public entities, and so are not eligible - this is a gap that FEMA is aware of and working to address.

Social Services update:

NJ has a robust disaster response [Crisis Counseling Program](#) (CCP), under federal disaster/terrorism grants, that has roughly 500 trained people psychological first aid, and help with referrals for mental health & substance abuse issues, but CCP is not funded to provide services itself.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [NJ Council for the Humanities](#) is offering small grants to humanities organizations for lost program revenue, canceled or rescheduled fundraisers, keeping doors open for community members, etc. This will also be shared on the Listserv.

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: December 10, 2012

Funder Briefing #6: Update on “Rebuilding a Resilient New Jersey” conference

Speakers: **Peter Kasabach**, Executive Director - New Jersey Future;
Margaret Waldock, Program Director - Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements

- Nina Stack participated in a conference call hosted by the [Dept. of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD), led by Secretary Donovan, who is coordinating the Administration’s [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force](#) with a focus on streamlining government processes based on what was learned from implementing the economic stimulus. HUD’s oversight and coordination will be operating for six months.
- CNJG is signed up for FEMA updates which will be shared with members via the Listserv twice a week.
- NJ Council members are urged to fill out the survey CNJG sent, which was co-authored by FEMA and the State to gain more information about our grantee needs and assess where there is significant damage and low capacity for recovery.
- CNJG Conference call for Corporate grantmakers is Dec. 11th with a focus on relief efforts

NJ Future Re-Cap on Conference

Peter Kasabach ([NJ Future](#)) reports on the “[Rebuilding a Resilient New Jersey Shore](#)” conference held December 7, 2012, focusing on rebuilding and land use, held at Monmouth University and co-sponsored by the [Kislak Real Estate Institute](#) and its [Urban Coast Institute](#). 400 people attended, including university professors, planners, engineers, attorneys, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employees, architects and many others.

Conference sessions included (all presentations can be viewed [here](#)):

- The “New Normal” - Tony Broccoli (Rutgers) made a compelling argument that past weather patterns will not be predictors of future;
- Megan Linkin (Swiss Reinsurance America Holding Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.) emphasized that amount of damage being caused by natural disasters is going up and we need to pay attention to both the community and economic impacts of that;
- Ed Blakely (former ED, New Orleans Office of Recovery and Development Administration) shared insights on rebuilding efforts post-Katrina, the practical planning issues and politically charged issues that arose, the challenges of keeping people focused on the future and how to rebuild communities - not just the buildings;
- A panel discussion about Federal Agency roles with HUD , FEMA, Army corps

- Presentation by Mark Mauriello (former DEP Commissioner) - what is the state's role and where can it be a leader, particularly since current construction standards do not take into consideration sea-level rise.
- Monmouth University poll results on attitudes toward rebuilding favored smarter, if slower or slightly more expensive rebuilding, rather than returning to the status quo.

Select challenges identified during post-conference roundtable discussions:

- Things are moving fast for rebuilding - how do we create a "time out" to give space for planning?
- There is no consensus about the scope of problem and what that means for rebuilding, codes and flood line mapping; need to coordinate advocacy offices to get information out
- Addressing social equity is important
- We're not good at looking at the cost/benefit analysis of rebuilding efforts
- Regional approaches to solutions are needed, therefore building local capacity is essential

What funders can do

Margaret Waldock ([The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#)) also attended the conference. Her take-aways included:

- This recovery is a 10 year process - as funders we need to think about the community and economic recovery in the long term and where we can provide assistance. Disasters follow disasters (such as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico a few years after Katrina) and that compounds recovery challenges. How can funders help to address vulnerabilities?
- Foundations can play a role in keeping people focused on the future and rebuilding out of harm's way.
- What role can funders play in making public infrastructure investments - schools, roads, bridges, environmental restoration? First we need to build/rebuild the safety net and THEN neighborhood redevelopment follows.
- Make regional conversations a priority. Funders will have to be talking to each other.
- Targeting some recovery efforts to benefit the 20-34 year old demographic is key to long term economic sustainability
- Environmental restoration will be key
- Providing capacity building for the organizations doing reconnaissance, research, advocacy work in the first 2-3 months after the event

Ideas raised by funders on this call:

- CNJG Members can be plugged into any of the CNJG affinity groups
- Community/grassroots organizing: Do the processes used by [Creative New Jersey](#) and [Sustainable Jersey](#), help with community discussions and planning?
- Meetings can be arranged with media sources to help inform reporters about issues
- Adopt the model of the [Pinelands Commission](#) for the Shore
- Provide an online platform (like [mySidewalk](#)) for crowd-sourced ideas, expertise, research, partnerships
- Several members are participating in [NJ Recovery Fund](#)

- Organize group “meet the funder” events to provide opportunity for direct information exchange and relationship building between multiple funders at a time and organizations on the ground

FOLLOW UP

- NJ Future’s [press release](#) about the conference.
- The PowerPoint from the HUD conference call will be shared with the members once it becomes available.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: December 17, 2012

Funder Briefing #7: Mental Health Issues Resulting from Disasters

Speakers: **Dr. April Naturale**, Psychologist - Author of Sept. 11th Project Liberty, and led PTSD response efforts after Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Gustav

HIGHLIGHTS

[Dr. April Naturale](#) has 25 years of experience as a health/mental health care administrator, specializing in response to traumatic events, including developing mental health programs for 9/11 (Project Liberty) and Hurricane Katrina ([InCourage](#)). She has also worked with the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA), the [National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder](#) (NCPTSD), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC),

Facts about PTSD, mental illness and traumatic events:

- In reality, the number of people who will suffer from PTSD are predominantly seen in high-risk populations such as veterans. When we discuss PTSD as relates to traumatic events, we're talking about the general public.
- If we see PTSD in the community as a result of Hurricane Sandy, we'll see it immediately and the challenge is to identify people within 30 days of this. Beyond that they start to move into a chronic state that is harder to treat. 3-6+ months out you'll still see people to exhibit symptoms for the first time because basic needs have taken the focus right from the start. Once those have stabilized emotional collapse sets in.
- Most people compare themselves to others and will not seek help due to stigmatization, and only seek assistance when they can no longer function, therefore we often don't see an uptick in cases until 12-18 months after the traumatic event.
 - We saw more new cases for mental health assistance at the 5th anniversary of 9/11 than we did in the first five years *combined*.
 - Even 10-session program (on average clients completed only 6 sessions) in Louisiana "[InCourage](#)" program provided a 2-point standard deviation decrease in their symptoms as a result of the program, which is an enormous decrease in very short period of time
- Depressive-like symptoms/Depression is the most common experience.
 - Sleep problems - most common symptoms reported - so use that language to reach people because that feels safer for those affected.
 - Domestic violence, substance abuse often hand in hand
- We are still having difficulty in addressing substance abuse in responder-, male-, and male youth-communities; also prescription medications are increasingly used.
- High risk groups:
 - School-aged Children (physical, functional, access disorder);

- Elderly (50% - isolated/medical issues; 50% are healthy, able, and great resources for reaching the elderly) - Visiting nurses, assisted living facilities are ambassadors and allies;
- Mothers - suppress own needs to care for families - stressed at work and home;
- Seriously & persistently mentally ill - some do well if they have support systems already in place or are already receiving services; those who don't do well often don't have support systems or have previous trauma that triggers current symptoms;
- Immigrant populations; undocumented immigrants - language barriers and fear of legal repercussions prevent them from knowing about and seeking assistance;
- First responders, emergency services, fire and police departments
- **Media Messaging hugely important** - advertising treatment, low-impact entry (cite trouble sleeping instead of asking if people are depressed), target audience, delivery method and frequency - the more people who know, the more people will seek help.
 - 15-, 30- and 60-second commercial was created for 9/11 five-year anniversary - they were picked up by every major network across the country in addition to local cable.
 - Use Public radio & local cable shows for messaging

What funders can do:

Funders can really help in the long run: Philanthropy is the only funding support after federal programs close. Currently, there is no public mental health structure that can provide funding.

- FEMA [Crisis Counseling Program](#) is a short-term program. Phase I - 60 days, Phase II - 9 months, so really only about one year of services.
- Funders can help organize community gatherings for a variety of occasions:
 - Research shows that social supports are #1 thing that helps individual mental recovery: gatherings for memorial services, birthdays, holidays, when an essential service comes back on line - that kind of acknowledgement can be very helpful to bring communities together and reduce isolation.
 - Can't help those that self-isolate, so having crisis counselors out at gas stations & stores to do observations and assessments can be useful.

Recommendations for rolling out mental health programs:

- Therapists must be highly trained:
 - Don't let people pick their own providers. Get unqualified providers that way.
 - Insured populations that see only private therapists means they aren't actually seeing the right people for their needs. Many therapists and social workers don't know disaster interventions and trauma therapy solutions - traditional psychotherapy methods don't have a great effect.
- When funding a mental health program: Make sure you get a package that includes training in specific intensive therapies such as:
 - CBT Intervention
 - Eye Movement Rapid Desensitization (EMRD)

- Exposure Therapy (there is 50% dropout rate for this type of therapy, which is fairly intense, so may not be recommended for the first type of therapy offered)
- Ensure that there is long-term supervision of providers so that there is assurance the therapists follow the methodology.
- Collaborate with FEMA's Crisis Counseling Program so they can refer clients into the more specialized programs that you are making available.
- Work closely with Primary Care Physicians so they can help identify patients who might need more services: often you see people coming in for medical issues that are really masked PTSD symptoms
- Establish central point of access - advertising that single point of access is absolutely critical
- Partner with local agencies - crisis, mental health, suicide access - train the hotline operators to do assessments over the phone - assessments in the form of questionnaires can work to great effect
- Tie payment of therapists to the paperwork - once it's properly filled out and submitted, payment is sent
- Tie training to program, maybe supervision so that method is being used correctly (webinars or listservs -

Models

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [Disaster Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- [Psychological First Aid](#) for disaster responders, firefighters, etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) - information on resources, publications, best practices, etc. <http://www.samhsa.gov/>
- 60,000 disaster victims speak: Part II: Summary and implications of the disaster mental health research. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12405080>
- George Bonanno, professor of Clinical Psychology at Columbia University. He is known as a pioneering researcher in the field of bereavement and trauma. <http://www.tc.edu/LTElab/>
- The US Department of Veterans Affairs sponsors "Published International Literature on Traumatic Stress" <http://search.proquest.com/pilots/?accountid=28179>
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida Communities <http://www.floridadisaster.org/recovery/documents/Post%20Disaster%20Redevelopment%20Planning%20Guidebook%20Lo.pdf>
- National Center for Disaster Mental Health Research—Fran Norris, PhD, Director <http://www.ncdmhr.org/about/index.html>
- *InCourage*, a pilot program to provide mental health services to adults in Baton Rouge La., in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, created and implemented by Baton Rouge Area Foundation. http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/program_results_reports/2009/rwjf44183

Also:

- Handbook for Victims of Superstorm Sandy; Prepared by McCarter & English
https://bl2prd0610.outlook.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=tZ-mYu80RUGwQsEXPd-6bBfGAt7bsM8IR_CsEDcqChe6JWlSS0RMmRj1f9xeeauw24Qq_TkuF4U.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.cnjg.org%2fs_cnjg%2fbin.asp%3fCID%3d20609%26DID%3d59873%26DOC%3dFILE.PDF

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: January 7, 2013

Funder Briefing #8: Federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and HUD's role in recovery

Speakers: **Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy**, Director - Office of International & Philanthropic Innovation, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements

- Nina will be meeting with [Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding](#) staff soon
- On February 26, 2013, CNJG is organizing a one-day bus tour site visit for funders through Ocean and Monmouth Counties visiting at least 3 sites and hearing from 10-12 organizations. Snow date: March 7, 2013. Major thanks to Kathy Durante/[Ocean First Foundation](#) for covering refreshments. CNJG welcomes any support to help cover bus expenses.
- Denise Gilliam (FEMA) clarified that constituencies eligible for public assistance (i.e. fire departments) should apply for FEMA funds first, before any private sector/philanthropic dollars are offered.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and Office of International & Philanthropic Innovation (IPI) roles:

As the Task Force is not fully formed at this time, many details are not finalized and may change.

Role of IPI – Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy

IPI was created in 2010 - designed to look at how we talk to private sector and funders about effective partnerships. The goals of IPI are to:

- Conduct research and analysis, which helps to inform policy, partnerships, etc.;
 - IPI currently working on a database of relief funds and individual briefing notes on funding and investment activities
- Coordinate resource alignment, which requires silo busting on the government side and building better relationships with external groups so that all funds coming in from federal agencies, funders, small NGOs, and other investments come into a single place;
- Coordinate innovation transfer by providing evidence and lessons from the first two goals and utilizing them to inform policy development and dissemination, and mentoring for local level implementation.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

The official launch of the Task Force has been somewhat delayed, but the official transition for the Task Force happened this morning. Staff is now being put in place, led by Laurel Blatchford. The Task Force will

be in operation for 180 days once launched. Recovery will take 3-7 years and Task Force's scope of work will depend on how much money comes from congress, what amount of private sector dollars gets added to that, and what kinds of rebuilding strategies can be implemented based on total dollars. IPI will help inform and coordinate with the private sector and funding community about gaps after federal dollars. The Task Force's mandates are to:

- Coordinate closely with FEMA and stakeholders in the affected region to develop and deliver an executable rebuilding strategy;
- Coordinate the flow of federal recovery funds and coordinate the reduction of regulatory burden;
- Monitor progress and bolster accountability for federal funds;
- Work to remove obstacles to best support and enable long-term and resilient rebuilding and address future risks and vulnerabilities

Out of this process there will be:

- A long term rebuilding strategy;
- Prioritization of recovery needs;
- A summary of local, state & federal actions that could support the region's recovery

Other IPI Activities related to Sandy recovery

- Deep green retrofits pilot - NY Housing Authority will take into consideration the effects of Sandy
- How to use pay for success or social impact bonds can be used in long term recovery in financing
- International lessons - sustainability, disaster issues with international partners can inform our progress
- Small contractors initiative - important to think about small business recovery

What funders can do:

- Help get the most accurate info to FEMA for their surveys - CNJG will resend the FEMA/State survey to members to collect information from grantees
- Help higher-capacity grantees take up the slack from organizations that are affected by the storm
- Support the organizations and agencies in communities with ability to help small businesses and homeowners to make decisions with accurate information (new flood maps, insurance costs, etc.).
- Create boot camps for residents, contractors, mayors, etc. to educated

FOLLOW UP

- PowerPoint from a "Philanthropic Lessons Learned" event that IPI hosted that will be distributed with an accompanying white paper.
- The Funders Network for Smart Growth is planning a day-long event to discuss NJ's older industrial cities. CNJG will find out from Ann Fowler if the meeting with task force can open to include other funders.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Creation of a resiliency and/or recovery fund that people can access will be discussed at an event in Neptune, NJ on Thursday. Denise will send out info on listserv
- Emily Meyer from FEMA's Community and Capacity Building support function assists communities and local government to identify the land use policies they want to adjust
- The NJ Joint Field Operation has a robust mitigation task force - appropriate IPI staffer will be included

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: January 14, 2013

Funder Briefing #9: Update on Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) Activities

Speakers: **Margaret Waldo**ck, Program Director – The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation;
Cathy McCann, President - NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, VP of Operations, Community Food Bank of NJ;
Janet Sharma, Executive Director - Volunteer Center of Bergen County, Bergen County LTRG;
Toni Moen, Voluntary Agency Liaison for Essex County - FEMA;
Dan Altilio, Executive Director - United Way of Hudson County, Hudson County LTRG;
Maria Hunter, Program Director - Catholic Charities of Metuchen, Middlesex County LTRG;
Tim Hearne, Executive Director - United Way of Monmouth County, Monmouth LTRG;
Ted Gooding, President and CEO - O.C.E.A.N., Inc., Ocean County LTRG

HIGHLIGHTS

Update from the Environmental Leaders meeting - *Margaret Waldo*ck – *The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

- Environmental Leaders Meeting (January 3rd) was hosted by [The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#) and included approximately 40 people from the environmental and nonprofit community, leaders on recovery efforts and funders to discuss emerging priorities/issues and to discuss ways to infuse resiliency in communities and natural systems.

Emerging Priorities:

- Advocacy effort - informing and reforming decision making so resiliency is part of discussions and plans
- Data and information - useful to know what worked well in the storm
- Lessons coming from local or regional demonstration projects
- Need to keep stories in the media

Funders can help by:

- Keeping equity part of the conversation
- Supporting collaboration and coordination
- Using our dollars to add value to cover the gaps that federal and state funding can't cover
- Keeping a broad focus - one that reaches beyond coastal communities
- Support the research and data that helps the recovery effort

Long Term Recovery Group updates

[NJ VOAD](#) - *Cathy McCann*

- NJ VOAD is providing three trainings in north, central, and south Jersey: "Tools and Training" - training faith based groups and local recovery groups

- Facilitating regular conversations between LTRGs.
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce [Corporate Citizenship Center](#) (formerly the Business Civic Leadership Center) will be visiting
- Volunteer Hours - Some types of volunteer labor can be included in calculation of matching funds from municipalities for federal grants - CNJG will send those guidelines out. NJ VOAD has been tracking volunteer hours: so far only 25 of the 480 volunteer orgs working on recovery efforts have confirmed volunteer hours, at an estimated added value of over \$20 million.
- Volunteer Housing - still a huge need
 - [Ocean First Foundation](#) met with church leaders about volunteer housing: if churches have spaces to house disaster relief volunteers and agree to do so for a year or more, they can submit a grant to Ocean First to request upgrades to their facilities (commercial kitchens, upgraded/installed showers/bathrooms, bunks, etc.). Ocean First is allowing churches to apply as a group and list individual upgrades required.
- Grant applications for LTRG seed money are available from the [Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund](#)

Bergen County LTRG - Janet Sharma

- Had an LTRG set up in 1999 after Hurricane Floyd. Moonachie and Little Ferry (lower-income and undocumented population) are the most impacted communities, with 3,000 FEMA applications. LTRG has a case management structure, reconstruction structure, storage for donations, and is formalizing administrative processes. \$50K in grants from local orgs and National VOAD to cover immediate needs for rudimentary staffing and materials.

Hudson County LTRG - Dan Altilio

- Municipal committees formed very quickly in Hoboken, Jersey City, etc. and the county-wide LTRG is augmenting their work. Didn't have an active VOAD, but revived former members. Hudson doesn't have an interfaith organization to LTRG working to link them. [United Way of Essex and West Hudson](#) has devoted a full-time staff person, who is working on coordination and a few applications, but they don't actually know what the needs are yet.

Essex County - Toni Moen

- No LTRG yet, but greatest need is in Newark so Toni, as [Voluntary Agency Liaison](#) for FEMA, is working with United Way of Essex and West Hudson and the [Ironbound Community Corporation](#) to pull an LTRG together.

Middlesex County - Maria Hunter

- Just incorporated first LTRG: about 37 organizations represented. [Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen](#) has been involved in case management; they will refer people to the LTRG when they're resources are gone. Therefore, the LTRG needs to hire 1-2 case managers. No direct contributions have been made to the LTRG so far, but will be submitting applications for the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund and [The Robin Hood Foundation](#). Sayreville and South River hard hit. [Mennonite Disaster Service](#) is coming to do a site visit.

Monmouth County - *Tim Hearne*

- First LTRG: over 60 agencies/nonprofits, 9 Committees. Regular committee, public and public board meetings. A listserv is set up and the LTRG hopes to be set up to do case processing by March. Also investigating opening up warehouse to house donations and materials.

Ocean County - *Ted Gooding*

- First LTRG. Committees, checking account and leadership in place. Currently, working to establish a permanent office. Meeting with the [Mayor's Association](#) to help them understand what's available to them and to understand what funding streams the LTRG can count on.
- Staff capacity: Also working with P.I.C. Program - a county office for job training that provides young unemployed men and women jobs until the end of April. Hired about 40 people already, who are being paid \$11.40/hour, along with one permanent person focused on critical support and weatherization.
- Working with [Dept. of Community Affairs](#) to replace heating and hot water unites in Ocean, Monmouth and Atlantic Counties (approx. \$6-\$10K for each income-eligible home).
- Operating Grants: focused on HUD or state grants, working to establish parameters for funding through [Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Relief](#) (CDBG-DR) programs for income eligible families) and through [Community Services Block Grant](#) program.

Examples of Committees (National VOAD has a [recommended committee structure](#) LTRGs can use)

Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) - developed by the Red Cross to track distribution	Housing
Case Management	Policy/Advocacy
Communications	Public Relations
Construction	Resources
Donation	Technical Info
Executive	Unmet Needs
Fundraising	Volunteer
Health and Healing	

Operating Funds for LTRGs:

- Funding Gap: Majority of grants cover the recovery processes in the community, but not the administrative costs of the organizations doing the work.
- Some CDBG-DR money may be applicable - the new guidelines/funding streams will have to be reviewed
- [National Emergency Grant](#) through the Dept. of Labor - organizations may be eligible to hire through local workforce development (this is the P.I.C. grant used in Ocean) - but the grant ends April 29th, 2013. An extension of that grant would be ideal, but could also be a private sector funder opportunity.

- Many people serving on LTRGs are from nonprofits, so it's difficult to get people to also fundraise for disaster relief

Other local LTRGs established or in process:

- Atlantic City, Atlantic County, Cape May (in process), Rahway, Linden and Union, Morris County and Somerset County are still working Hurricane Irene cases and is now starting Hurricane Sandy. Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester Counties (in process).

FOLLOW UP

- Get info on Hoboken & Jersey City LTRG
- Nina to learn more about long term funding of LTRGs (5-7 years of operating in other areas of the country)

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: January 28, 2013

Funder Briefing #10: FEMA's Long Term Recovery and Capacity Building Team (webinar)

Speakers: **Denise Gilliam**, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination Unit - FEMA:
Charles Heltsley, Jr., Federal Disaster Recovery Officer – FEMA

FEMA Recovery Support Function Offices:

Emily Meyer – *Community Planning and Capacity Building*

Sarah Matthews Johnson – *Economics*

T.W. Theodore/Byron Mason - *Health and Social Services*

Victor Aldorado – *Housing*

Alicia Gould – *Infrastructure*

Donna Gill – *Natural and Cultural Resources*

Mike Foley – *Flood Mitigation*

HIGHLIGHTS

Representatives from all six [Recovery Support Functions](#) of FEMA's [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (NDRF) joined the call/webinar. The NDRF is a new concept FEMA is developing, based on learning after Hurricane Katrina and direct guidance from nonprofits and other disaster recovery agencies on the ground.

Key concepts for NDRF (Denise Gilliam and Charles Heltsley):

- **Phases:** Preparedness - building networks and partnerships; Short-Term - safe, sanitary and secure/out of harm's way; Intermediate - coordinating the "new normal"; Long-Term - working toward resiliency
- **Goals:** Unity of effort, Local partnerships, Building resilience and sustainability
- **Core concepts:** Working with leadership, identifying Local Disaster Recovery Managers; supporting planning, supporting organizational structure - six recovery support functions on duty, coordinating mission scoping assessments

Recovery Support Functions (RSF) and Recommendations for Funder Action

Community Planning and Capacity Building (Emily Meyer)

- This RSF is focused on municipalities' ability to plan for long term success - we help all communities across the state that have suffered impact from the storm by providing targeted technical assistance, coordination support; and direct planning support in the worst cases.
- Priorities include:
 - Impact on municipal tax revenue
 - Limited capability for municipal planning capacity
 - Large potential for abandonment and blight (insurance rates and lack of ability to move away)

- Working with hazard mitigation
- Four ways the funding community can help:
 - Need for local disaster recovery managers - normal everyday staff don't have expertise or time
 - Opportunities for micro-grants to design and execute charrettes on targeted issues
 - Grants to help small businesses, nonprofits, individuals meet federal requirements for matching dollars for hazard mitigation
 - Statewide grant writing workshops to help build capacity

Economics (Sarah Matthews Johnson)

- Access to capital for small business owners is the #1 issue
 - Funders could support riskier loans, or help support loan forgiveness, from micro-lenders, local banks, federal and state agencies that offer capital or other reimbursement programs.
 - Business assistance: for companies that need to rethink operations and marketing plans post-Sandy.
- Expanding business assistance to include entrepreneurship programs
- Supporting Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs); state DMOs have tiny budgets. They may not survive the summer: there's a general perception that NJ tourism isn't open for business, which is causing lots of damage even for the tourist areas that ARE open

Health and Social Services (T.W. Theodore/Byron Mason)

- Healthcare facilities - acute care hospitals, schools, need to be rebuilt with more resiliency
- Emerging issue: increases in behavioral health issues caused by, abuse, depression, substance abuse - starting to stress the current service providers
- Opportunity to rebuild the capability of the social service network throughout the state
- Need for special actions and programs by funders and nonprofits:
 - E.g. [The Healthcare Foundation of NJ](#) held a "Day of Health" event in January, providing screenings, flu shots, integrated medicine for stress reduction, support groups, etc. These events will continue for 6 months as the need was great.
- PTSD - FEMA is currently looking for data to confirm how big an issue it is and the best ways to address

Housing (Victor Aldorado)

- Major need for private sector/funder support for [Home Counseling](#) - help homeowners understand what's going on with their biggest assets (Home Counselors are HUD approved & trained);
- Home Counselors could be a great source for detailed assessment data, but they don't have the funding necessary to do that kind of data gathering at that level
- Sponsorships needed: NJ State Housing Disaster Task Force is working on housing expo symposium
- Detailed Housing Assessment - need block by block assessment to clearly identify displacement
- In VT, the [Stratton Foundation](#) provided funding for cost-share to individuals whose homes were destroyed so they could move out of harm's way - took on 25% of the cost

Infrastructure (Alicia Gould)

- There's a huge interdependence between transportation, energy, critical government facilities, communications and flood control measures. Funders could support resiliency and energy efficient building and education on sea level rise/climate change to address the problems NJ faced, including:
 - Power outages had a huge effect on every other area listed above.
 - Petroleum distribution - companies couldn't get key employees to work because of gas shortages
 - Dunes and berms were decimated
 - Communications systems failed or were never in place
 - Waste water treatment plants were inoperable and discharged untreated sewage into waterways
 - Transportation was offline - rails, bridges, Holland tunnel
- Other partners include a Port Authority liaison, American Planning Association, Regional Plan Association, Rutgers School of Planning, NJ Future

Natural and Cultural Resources (Donna Gill)

- Cultural Resources:
 - [Small Business Association](#) (SBA) low interest loans can't be paid back
 - [NJ Center for Nonprofits](#) - working with Historical Properties office to inform institutions and get help
 - Cultural institutions have high level of damage - they need to apply to FEMA Public Assistance
- Natural Resources:
 - Height/size of dunes severely impacted, sand washed inland, damage to bays and wetlands, forest & wildlife
 - [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), [Barnegat Bay Partnership](#) - want to do a baseline study for wetlands

Flood Mitigation (Mike Foley)

- Help with communication between RSFs, Mitigation Operation Branch, and the state to incorporate in mitigation strategy
- New mapping of flood lines

FOLLOW UP

- FEMA requested to find out more info about Clinton Global initiative, specifically on any interactions or work that's being done right now.
- FEMA was asked if they could confirm the turnaround time on FEMA applications submitted by first responders

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Consultants [Witt Associates](#) operate in an advisory role. FEMA's partners are state agencies and [Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding](#) (GORR). Disaster recovery consultants for nonprofit community would be helpful.
- Governor's office will be designated to be working with the philanthropic community - FEMA's encouragement of a partnership between the philanthropic community and governor's office would be helpful
- CNJG members are welcome to visit Lincroft Joint Office

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: February 4, 2013

Funder Briefing #11: Housing issues related to Natural Disasters and Post Hurricane Sandy

Speakers: **Michelle Whetten**, Gulf Coast Vice President - Enterprise Community Partners;
Keith Fairey, Solutions Vice President - Enterprise Community Partners;
Staci Berger, Executive Director - Housing & Community Development Network NJ;
Kevin Walsh, Associate Director - Fair Share Housing Center

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements

- [New Jersey Recovery Fund](#) has released guidelines - check their website
- CNJG members have been asked to share what they've done in response to Hurricane Sandy for Nina to report at the D.C. Conference. Funders not based in NJ can share their grantmaking in NJ, as well.

[Enterprise Community Partners](#) --Michelle Whetten and Keith Farley

Enterprise is a national affordable housing and community development organization that works with funders, lenders, advocates, innovators, policy changers and home owners to create thriving communities. Enterprise's framework is focused on three key areas:

- Increasing **capital** for addressing housing and community development issues
- Promoting public **policy**
- Formulating **solutions** to specific challenges where solutions don't already exist

Enterprise's NJ Activities:

- **Capital:** formed a rebuilding fund, raised enough money to award \$300,000 in grants. Enterprise is also looking at lending and equity, and building a program for retrofitting affordable housing across the region
- **Policy:** inform policy makers with what is happening and how to support local needs
- **Solutions:** Help organizations that own/manage affordable housing be prepared for future disasters
 - Housing solutions: research hopes to inform programs implemented by the state
- Enterprise is interfacing with NJs advocates and policymakers on weekly legislative update calls, helping to build dataset for benchmark recovery and look at needs

Key housing issues:

(1-4 family properties - owner occupied and rental homes)

- Clean up/Clean out
- Temporary housing

- Disaster Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) - support repairs for owner-occupied properties, which can ultimately allow owners to get property in condition to receive a buyout
- Nonprofit volunteer coordination
- Assisting homeowners in determining what to do with property, helping them navigate process, and helping them gain access to funding

(Multifamily rental)

- Low income tax credit and [CDBG-DR](#) were primary sources of funding after Katrina, and utilized a special allocation for 3 years of low income tax credits, which drove redevelopment of 25,000 units
- NJ doesn't have that the low income tax credit, so alternative ways to bring multifamily homes back online will be necessary

Funding strategies and considerations:

- Provide flexible money for organizations that have some amount of capacity and time to figure out their best role in recovery
- Consider holding back some money for longer term capacity
- Local government gets extremely stretched (permits, applications, code enforcement, etc.); help support "executives on loan" to local government.
- Disaster funding from federal sources are limited and takes a long time - adding private money can stretch the impact
- Get private sector financial institutions to invest in places they normally wouldn't
- Supporting nonprofits assisting home owners
- Supporting data and analysis - where the damage is, where the needs still are and what has been accomplished so far, like the [Greater New Orleans Community Data Center](#)
- Community revitalization fund created by [Greater New Orleans Foundation](#) attracted national dollars

Housing and Community Development Network NJ (Staci Berger) and Fair Share Housing Center

(Kevin Walsh)

- Important that attention that is drawn to all affected communities, like the Ironbound District of Newark
- Concerned we haven't finished seeing help requested - undocumented population are afraid to ask for help
- Working for continued coverage in the media so unmet needs can continue to be addressed
- Trying to get the data we need from FEMA regarding statistics on rehabs, gutted, torn down, etc.
- Identifying vacant homes and apartments that could be temporary housing (we've worked to remove age restrictions 55+ communities that have openings)
- Advocate for inclusionary development and affirmative marketing - inclusive planning
- serving on joint state led task force and engaging with state and federal decision makers
- Make sure Civil Rights requirements are being satisfied in rebuilding efforts

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

- \$6 billion in CDBG funds has been approved

- Urgent need for advocacy and transparency: The State put out an RFP for firms to manage CDBG money on Jan 17th.
 - The contract may already be awarded, and from the date that the contract is approved there are only 10 days for draft plan, and then only another 7 days for HUD to approve plan and for public comment. This process is moving incredibly fast and may have impact on low income families.
 - Each time HUD distributes funds, it's possible to request waivers for affordable and equitable housing - there must be monitoring to watch for abusive use of waivers

What funders can do:

Short-term:

- Support resources to help families move into temporary housing, as well as support legal and counselling work
- 1500 families in hotels may be moved to PA if NJ housing couldn't be found - assist in finding housing
- Huge rental market pressure - making sure that security deposits and rental costs are not taking advantage of displaced individuals

Long-term:

- Support and help mobilize adequate advocacy efforts
- Monitor the state to make sure the money is being spent responsibly
- Provide technical assistance to local folks
- Support media coverage of the untold regions affected by Sandy
- Match and support members of the Housing Alliance to work with communities that don't have as much in local capacity
- Help focus attention on the affordable rental development next to revel - there are plans to take it down even though we now have incredible market pressure on rental inventory

FOLLOW UP

Speakers will supply more detailed information in writing which will be distributed via the listserv.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: February 11, 2013

Funder Briefing #12: NJ Recovery Fund and Post-Sandy Environmental Issues and Challenges

Speakers: **Hans Dekker**, President - Community Foundation of New Jersey;

Michael Catania, Past President - Conservation Resources (current ED of Duke Farms);

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director - The American Littoral Society;

Tom Gilbert, Regional Conservation Services Director - The Trust for Public Land

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements:

CNJG is planning a funder's site visit/bus tour for Hudson and Bergen counties, based on the informative and successful tour of Monmouth and Ocean counties, and is looking for help in underwriting the costs.

New Jersey Recovery Fund (NJRF) – *Hans Dekker – NJRF*

Grants will be awarded by the end of March. \$5M raised for the NJRF so far. Ideally, projects will include collaborations between organizations in communities, and there will also be a series of non-competitive grants on capacity building, health care services, and community development. NJRF will also provide resources to help navigate Federal aid. Funded Areas:

- Public Information/Community engagement
- Policy reform
- Community and regional planning, for demonstration projects and other planning
- Environmental restoration/protection
- Arts

Environmental Issues and Challenges

Michael Catania - Conservation Resources

NJ is the first state projected to reach complete buildout in the next 20 years or so. Therefore, we are the policy laboratory. Sandy has complicated current policies that regulate development, protection of natural resources and tourism initiatives. The Philanthropic community can take a leadership role in thoughtful and long-term plans for recovery, where public entities may not be able to do the same. E.g.: Instead of reacting to proposals, Conservation Resources actively works with applicants and encourages them to find appropriate collaborative partners.

Tim Dillingham - [The American Littoral Society](#)

Impacts to coastal environment:

- Sandy exposed weaknesses in our current policies and are handicapped by the fact that we don't have a policy framework, capacity or approach that looks at resiliency.
- Nostalgia is dominating the view of how we rebuild after the storm instead of looking forward
- Restoring coastline is important - we've lost a lot of natural resilience. Sandy reshaped physical landscape - marshes, bays, inlets. With Sandy we saw water quality issues - physical habitat changes, pollution events that carried raw sewage into the bays, estuaries and communities. Pesticides and herbicides were carried from basements into water, petroleum tanks failed, as well.
- Access to the coast for recreation, subsistence or business uses are now affected, which translates to lost jobs, lost physical ports and the fleets tied to them.
- Urban areas - had equally significant impacts from flooding - inability of folks to move due to more fixed nature of infrastructure

Tom Gilbert - [The Trust for Public Land](#) and [Keep It Green Coalition](#)

- State funding for preservation programs such as [Green Acres](#), [Blue Acres](#), and [Farmland Preservation](#) was recently finished being allocated so isn't available to help with new Sandy needs. These types of preservation programs help to set aside land from development and can assist with buyouts.
- Blue Acres - has been focused on inland waterways, and a coastal Blue Acres program will likely grow, and both FEMA and [CDBG-DR](#) funds could be leveraged to address the need for that growth.
 - Recent project collaboration helped set aside 5,000 acres for preservation in Little Egg Harbor, and in Barnegat Bay 15 high priority parcels were preserved, equaling about 17,000 acres.
- Green Acres - has also been using funds through Blue Acres type projects to acquire flood prone lands and can play a role in boardwalks, docks fishing piers, waterfront parks, recreational infrastructure repairs, and prevent development and impervious surfaces.

On February 4th, the State Environment & Energy Committee met to look at three principle options in the legislature to help fund environmental policies:

- Water user fee
- \$400M bond measure
- Dedicated \$200M annually in sales tax revenues over a 30 year period (this option appears to be gathering momentum)

Gilbert says Gov. Cuomo (NY) is taking proactive response with lots of attention flooding issues, buyouts, etc. In NJ, it's a much less public process than in NYC, driven by narrow economic concerns about property taxes and tourism dollars. While those concerns aren't unfounded, the longer term costs and benefits for the future are not being measured.

What can funders do?

- Raising awareness and education is essential - past public education campaigns about the Green Acres & Blue Acres programs supported by private foundations have been very helpful

- There are a number of funders that support land conservation organizations:
 - Gifts of land play a huge role in our ability to change development and the proposed cap on charitable giving would cause huge problems in this regard.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Speakers and members are all welcome to join the CNJG Environmental Affinity Group.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: February 25, 2013

Funder Briefing #13: Lessons from Hurricane Irene: Vermont Community Foundation

Speakers: Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, President - Vermont Community Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup - [Vermont Community Foundation](#) (VCF)

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, VCF took on a leadership role to provide technical assistance and resources to populations in need, many of whom were overlooked or ineligible for federal and state dollars.

VCF had emergency plans for their organization and their immediate services area prior to Irene, but they hadn't planned for widespread disaster in the state. After the storm subsided, VCF set to work on collecting information from social media to assess the areas in greatest need, but there were parts of Vermont that people simply couldn't get to for needs assessments because road access was completely cut off.

As federal and state dollars started to come into Vermont, VCF focused its granting work on:

- Farm disaster recovery - agriculture is a huge part of VT's economy but aren't considered small businesses and don't have access to other small business relief funds
 - Farm Program launched within a week with first grants out within 10 days of disaster.
- Flood damage relief for nonprofit organizations to enable the organizations to serve populations in need
 - No large scale statewide opportunity existed for people to donate to damaged nonprofits
 - VCF already had a "Special Emergent Needs" fund - small grants for emergencies \$5K. They took that structure and expanded it, and were able to launch quickly.
 - The initial 3-4 months grants were focused only on helping with physical damage. Then VCF started to see a strong need to support nonprofits who weren't themselves damaged, but who needed to build capacity very quickly to respond to communities that were struggling. Those organizations needed staff, case managers, and to meet higher stocking needs at food pantries.
- Mobile home residents were disproportionately affected (700 families displaced) because mobile home parks are often in less "desirable" locations, often in valleys and in flood plains. Mobile homes were considered "temporary housing" so didn't have the same kind of access to full reimbursement from FEMA even when the trailer was totally destroyed. Other barriers included general distrust of government and difficulty negotiating relief efforts. Mobile Home fund took about three weeks to launch.
 - A documentary film was created about this: "Strength of the Storm" - [watch the trailer](#).

Lessons Learned:

- VCF donations collected were given fee-free to the community foundation: 100% of donations received were granted out. It was the right moral decision but VCF should have held back some funds to support its own expenses.
- Working with networks – donors, grant programs, businesses, etc. - is essential. VCF had a food and farm funders’ network, which was activated in short order to help with the agricultural community. VCF worked cooperatively with [FEMA](#), [VT 211](#), [Red Cross](#), [VT VOAD](#), and State government in order to effectively participate in relief and recovery efforts. Also built successful relationships with new organizations.
- Flexibility and a willingness to work in an uncomfortable space: The aftermath of Sandy was the first time VCF did online giving and small donation amounts, the first time they produced events like concerts, golfing and benefits, etc. VCF expanded its leadership capacity and profile in the state because of its flexibility.
 - \$4.2 million was raised: Farm disaster relief was about \$2M. \$800K came from one anonymous donor, but VCF also accepted bags of change collected by children, lemonade stand donations - however the money came in.
- Transparency: created a website to track the donations coming in and where the money was going which built trust with both donors and grantees: www.VTFloodResponse.org
- Where access to resources/affluence/networks exist, communities can take quick action: Recovery Waterbury did a good job at mobilizing, Deerfield Valley had a strong network of second home owners that were able to organize access to resources very quickly. Low-income communities had to start from scratch
- Meeting with residents is something that community foundations are not used to doing but is essential

What to change before the next disaster:

- Policy: FEMA will only provide grants to rebuild the infrastructure to the level that existed pre-disaster. Roads and bridges need to be rebuilt to better standards, and has led to a significant policy battle with FEMA and government.
- Future resiliency: Create grant programs committed to farmers and affordable housing. Focus on energy policy; Agro-resiliency work with University of Vermont
- Mobile home parks are privately owned and can’t just pick up and move. Fix issues around mobile home vs. stick built home eligibility and the financing mechanism/options for mobile homes (right now prospective mobile home owners can only get consumer loans, and are essentially forced to pay by credit)
- Research of cottage homes that would be cost comparable to mobile homes - located in less vulnerable places
- VCF has determined that it is essential to aligning their investment with their grantmaking, even though they may take a hit on their investment returns, and be turning away from highest return they could get.

Focus of work 18-months out:

- VCF is working to align their investments and grant programs
- Working closely with VT Long Term Recovery Group to help redirect donations to them: [Vermont Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Participating in leadership efforts about resiliency and climate change work
- Farming support: Availability of feed for livestock became a huge issue, as most farmers couldn't use the harvest and those who could found lowered nutritional value and needed more feed to compensate.
- Mobile home residents project: zero attention was paid to the housing needs of this population, where were often very stable, often multigenerational neighborhoods with capital.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: March 4, 2013

Funder Briefing #14: Governor & Mrs. Christie's Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund & Report on Ocean/Monmouth Tour

Speakers: **Cam Henderson**, Executive Director - Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund;
Leigh Gibson, Senior Program Officer - The Fund for New Jersey;
Doug Schoenberger, Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Public Affairs - Verizon New Jersey;
Abby O'Neill, Board of Trustees - Union Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Update on the activities of Mrs. Christie's [Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund \(HSNJRF\)](#)--*Cam Henderson*

- Raised \$32M in commitments over 26,000 donors
- First million dollars committed to Long Term Recovery Groups around the state, for which there were 6 applications from LTRGs in Atlantic, Cape May, Bergen, Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth Counties.
- Anticipate making grants for the next 2-4 years.
- Feb 11th announcement of next \$5M allotment, which is open to organizations other than LTRGs. 120 are registered and likely that many will also apply. Announcement and disbursement will be in May 2013.
- Priority areas:
 - Housing - temporary housing, construction, relocation
 - Financial & legal counselling
 - Social service & education
 - Workforce & small business development

HSNJRF has consulted with a number of funders with experience in disaster relief for best practices including:

- [The Robin Hood Foundation](#) (NY) - talking with them about best practices/processes. Robin Hood has a \$55.7M relief fund, 40% is going to NJ for Hurricane Sandy relief.
- Jeb Bush's Florida Hurricane Relief Fund, administered by the [Volunteer Florida Foundation](#)
- [New York Community Trust](#) - 9/11 needs
- Corporate donors: HSNJRF was encouraged to reach out to IBM about getting business back up and running and McKinsey & Company to help with needs assessments.
- [FEMA](#), Cathy McCann at [NJ VOAD](#) and [American Red Cross](#)
- Hans Dekker at the [Community Foundation of New Jersey](#)
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) - member of their staff is on the HSNJRF board and grants committee

Observations from CNJG's recent Coastal Communities Site Visit Tour of Sandy Impacted Communities

Abby O'Neill – Union Foundation

- It was impressive to see how entrepreneurial organizations were as serving as ambassadors to the outside world. They embraced roles as storytellers, fundraisers, strategic thinkers cheerleaders, cajolers and beseechers, managers and workmen.
- Can the funding community develop a special crisis leadership fund for people who find themselves in leadership roles they never imagined - to which they can turn to for technical training and support?

Doug Schoenberger - [Verizon New Jersey](#)

- The distance between bay and ocean is sometimes just yards. As a supporter of the free market [in terms of development], I realized it was time to think about the social impacts: today's flood is tomorrow's high tide.
- Existing issues already, now made worse: lack of rental housing, 13% of residents with mental health issues which are now exacerbated, low-income people struggling anyway, domestic violence will rise
- Never be annoyed by the "Stay Off" dune signs - if the dunes weren't there, the houses weren't there
- Beach tag sales are up, hopefully to show support and not just rubbernecking
- Corporate side of philanthropy is driven quarter by quarter and it will be a challenge as we look at corporate giving for long-term impacts

Leigh Gibson – [The Fund for New Jersey](#)

- People who had their lives disrupted are faced with another perfect storm – of paperwork, policies and regulation – incredibly challenging to understand options and make decisions about what to do next.
- Funding community is hit with a tremendous and prolonged need for transitional aid to support the families in that region
- FEMA maps caused confusion over height and other regulations on rebuilding. One Mayor said there has been a tenfold increase in properties that need to be raised according to new FEMA floodplain maps.
 - Flood maps - people are now looking to challenge the maps - is there a role for funding community here in terms of public education around sustainable and resilient rebuilding?
- Left with a heavy heart about kinds of gentrification we can expect
- Lack of buyout deals available to NJ residents - trapped with lower valued properties if not enough buyouts available which can be financially devastated.
- There aren't enough philanthropic donations to help all of the families in need
- Political and regulatory decision making determines the path, the process it takes and how long the money will last. Is the NJ funding community able to consider some of the advocacy for issues of importance?

FOLLOW UP

- Contact info for speakers and a list of everyone who participated in the site visit will be shared.
- Flash drive info from site visit will be shared with the listserv and via the CNJG website.
- Who are the Hudson or Bergen county leaders on the ground CNJG should be in touch with for site visit?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Red Cross is starting long term recovery efforts for the first time
- Major thanks again to those who made the Ocean County site visit possible: Kathy Durante - [Ocean First Foundation](#), Tom Hayes - [NJ Natural Gas](#), and [PSEG](#)
- CNJG Listserv will continue after these calls end

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: March 11, 2013

Funder Briefing #15: Update from the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding and Universal Design

Speakers: **Terrence Brody**, Executive Director - Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding;
Eric Daleo - Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding;
Elaine Katz (moderator), Vice President of Grants & Special Initiatives - Kessler Foundation;
Harold Garwin, Esq., President & Executive Director - Community Health Law Project;
Thomas G. Dallessio, AICP/PP, Project Manager, Center for Resilient Design - NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT);
Richard Olson, Retired Professor, School of Architecture - NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT)

HIGHLIGHTS

Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding (GORR) – *Terrence Brody and Eric Daleo*

GORR's primary goals are:

- Assess impact and damages and develop initiatives and programs to address needs
- Working in partnerships with State departments like [DCA](#), [DEP](#), [EDA](#), etc.
- Build a joint field office and provide free of charge technical assistance
- Mobilize state employee teams to be working with municipalities
- Stabilize Cash flow situations in towns in partnership with local governmental services

Priorities:

- Get people back into their homes and renters back into apartments
 - Working with [HUD](#) to develop action plan for programs to help people - rehabilitate or rebuild homes, elevate homes
 - Working to help small and large rental properties get back into operation
- Help small businesses get back on their feet
 - EDA to develop grants and loan programs to provide capital for businesses to do repairs or buy more inventory, with the hope that businesses can expand using resources.

GORR will have a significant amount of funding that they'll have to find - so partnering with the funding community, like CNJG members will be key. Unmet needs that funders can help with:

- Low-income people with mold remediation needs
- Nonprofits that are ineligible for FEMA money whose facilities were destroyed or damaged

Universal Design Approach – *Elaine Katz, Kessler Foundation* (moderated the following briefing)

- Comprehensive best practices guidelines for how to design, build and manage public and commercial structures and spaces to be readily accessed by anyone regardless of age, size, ability or disability.

- Rebuilding in NJ requires meeting barrier-free subcodes, and should meet public accommodations requirements that are functional, attractive and cost effective options

[Community Health Law Project](#) – *Harold Garwin, Esq* -- legal and advocacy organization for services with physical & developmental disabilities, provides direct services to 5,000 individuals across the state and is also involved in larger scale issues, such as fair housing and barrier-free access.

Hurricane Sandy is providing opportunities to:

- Rebuild to ensure accessibility to shore, amusement and public accommodations
 - Build ATMs, kiosks along boardwalk designed so those in wheelchairs can also access
- Provide connections and information about barrier-free access requirements, and training of code enforcement & municipal officials - many municipalities are not aware of new requirements for beach access, boardwalks, access roads, etc.
- Expose people to universal design concepts
- Work with municipalities on plans and provide ADA training to help get towns up to date on requirements - Funders can help with this effort.
- Emergency facilities and shelters - people forget those are important first aspects of disaster relief - shelters, schools, etc. aren't necessarily up to code, or set up in accessible ways

[Center for Resilient Design - NJ Institute of Technology](#) – *Thomas Dallessio*

Priorities: applied research, experiential learning and civic engagement - provide federal and state representatives local leaders, businesses, and residents

- Develop resilient proto-typology - creating opportunities for students and faculty to design programs that could be utilized by state and local government. A book collecting the ideas/case studies from throughout the state will be available soon.
- Creating this new Center for Resilient Design to be a clearinghouse for information and contacts - one stop shop for organizations like the [League of Municipalities](#), DCA, State and FEMA
- Creating an alternative spring break program at NJIT which will send 500 volunteers registered to work in communities - cleanup, deconstruction, construction, survey work, etc., in conjunction with local organizations in each community. NJIT is doing this in tandem with 22 other universities.

Richard Olson (NJIT) - Environmental psychologist focused on how to make environments work better for people with physical, cognitive and mental disabilities. Accessibility and safety core focus of his work along with helping municipalities with plan review, site visits, training, etc.

- Oftentimes disability issues are seen as a separate group, but need to be integral when thinking about planning and designing healthy communities.
- Everyone ends up benefiting from all accommodations (ramps for beach access helps everyone).
- Funders can assist by encouraging collaboration beyond lawyers and disability partners, such as involving [DCA's Division of Codes and Standards](#), [Mental Health Association for NJ](#) and [Arcs](#).
- Healthy community organizations: already working with the [American Planning Association](#) design and planning charrettes and activities - how infrastructure is designed will help determine community health.

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: March 18, 2013

Funder Briefing #16: Update on Environmental Justice Issues in the Aftermath of Sandy

Speakers: **Leigh Gibson**, Senior Program Officer - The Fund for New Jersey;
Nicky Sheats, Esq. PhD, Director - Thomas Edison State College, The Center for the Urban Environment & member of New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance;
Ana Baptista, Director of Environmental and Planning Programs - Ironbound Community Corporation;
Debbie Mans, Executive Director - NY/NJ Baykeeper;
Debra Coyle McFadden, Assistant Director - NJ Work Environment Council

HIGHLIGHTS

Urban Communities update - Leigh Gibson - [The Fund for New Jersey](#)

- [Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.](#), hired by HUD, published data recently that determined Jersey City and Hoboken were the 4th and 5th most damaged zip codes in the state when calculated by the number of FEMA registrants. Newark homes flood with water from rivers that are known to be contaminated. Yet we are not seeing the level of media coverage that the shoreline has received.

Newark's Toxic Flood - Ana Baptista - [Ironbound Community Corporation](#) (Newark, NJ)

- Communities of "environmental concern" mean communities that are low-income, that have a concentration of environmental burden, and can be urban or rural. Social, health and environmental vulnerabilities that already exist within the community - a storm like Sandy exacerbates those vulnerabilities.
- Dense residential area mixed in with a concentrated industrial sites and use along the Passaic River, which is also a [Superfund](#) site.
- A storm surge of 8- to 10-feet brought toxins and sewage into Newark homes, having first washed through industrial facilities, such as silk and paint manufacturer, and through active [brownfield](#) sites.
- There were and are challenges with communication, evacuation, clean up recovery efforts, etc. and people are suffering disproportionate environmental exposures.
- Vulnerable communities need to be targeted for enhanced resources and innovative solutions - think about how hard it is to rebuild in better resourced communities?
 - Homes are not insured, compromised health, undocumented, language barriers, public housing, etc.
 - Both active and blighted properties exist on brownfields. Exposure, economic blight and other rippling effects in neighborhoods
- Rebuilding:

- Don't exacerbate underlying vulnerabilities - make sure environmental policies are in place and are not skirted for the sake of rapid recovery
- Need to include community in conversations and decision making process
- Limited access and mobility - we'll have the same problems if these are not taken into consideration
- Green infrastructure requires a lot more collaboration in order to implement in socially and environmentally vulnerable communities

How funders can help:

- Funders can direct resources to organizations close to the ground/on the ground, to support - cooking meals in public housing, door to door, long term planning and resiliency funding often goes to policy think tanks but shouldn't be in lieu of supporting the continued work on the ground and community level as they work on solutions

Water Contamination - *Debbie Mans* - [NY/NJ Baykeeper](#)

- Storm surge caused 3 separate oil spills in the tidal waterway between NJ and Staten Island - tanks collapsed when surge overtopped the berms around the tanks
 - Woodbridge - 378K gallons of diesel oil was released, including waste oil
 - Carteret - 10K gallons of biodiesel released
 - Linden - 5K refined oil released
- Raw sewage spills in northern NJ - sanitary wastewater is combined with storm water pipes and overloads when it rains, so there are discharges.
 - 2 major plants - Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (Newark) (5th largest in country - 350M gallons per day) - equipment was completely flooded and entire plant went down and weren't at capacity for several weeks. **7 billion gallons of untreated wastewater was released.**
 - Middlesex County Utilities Authority (Sayreville) - plant was fine but 3 pump stations went down so water from houses was not moved into plant. Temporary bypasses were installed but **750 million gallons were released.**
 - Clamming industry has been shut down in the area because of this for several months - fishermen have had to move to find other work
- **It took several days for the public to be notified that the contaminants were in the water.** People had been wading through their yards and basements, not realizing there were high counts of bacteria and pathogens in the water.

Preparedness:

- Do we have emergency preparedness in place and do those plans account for climate change mitigation and continuing extreme weather events, sea level rise, etc.? We have a lot of our critical infrastructure on the coast - do we need to think about moving that to safer locations?
- Do we understand how we can communicate to our vulnerable communities - mapping overlays with demographics and floodplains

- How do we educate public about what money is coming in and how it's being used? Public engagement in those decisions would be transparent - like buyouts. How do we get info from the ground to the decision makers?

Labor and Safety - *Debra Coyle McFadden* - [NJ Work Environment Council \(WEC\)](#)

- WEC is an alliance of labor, community and environmental organizations working together for healthy sustainable job environments that tries to protect front line workers by making workplaces safer.
- It's the most vulnerable workers recruited to do the most dangerous work and often don't have the necessary health and safety training or equipment and are walking into sites with chemical spills, water contamination, sewage, lead, asbestos, hazardous mold, etc. We also learned some contractors were hiring and not paying the workers.
- During 9/11, there was a failure to help volunteer workers with proper respiratory and safety equipment. With Sandy, WEC developed a basic hazard awareness flyer distributed widely within days of Sandy. Getting Critical Hazard info out to the public immediately helps to keep Sandy from being a second disaster. PSAs developed and should be aired later this month.
- WEC sent highly trained workers into the field along coastal region - did formal trainings with volunteers, informal trainings with day laborers, and Occupy Sandy participants. WEC also developed volunteer network of health and safety professionals who could be contacted with questions.

Race and Rebuilding - *Nicky Sheats* - [The Center for the Urban Environment](#) / [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#)

- We're not talking about race and we will not make good policies if we continue to avoid talking about race. Funders can catalyze conversations about race around recovery and climate change - including low-income issues.

Examples of why discussions about race are important:

- Cumulative impacts: multiple pollutants emitted by multiple sources. Highly correlated with race and income, amount of people of color or low income people go up, the more pollution. Need to make sure we're not perpetuating this correlation by asking questions of rebuilding plans:
 - Is a new facility going to pollute?
 - Is lot of pollution in neighborhood already?
 - What are the demographics?
 - How do we minimize pollution coming from a facility or NOT build it there until we can minimize pollution in this neighborhood?
- Discrimination in lending. This may be happening in NJ and we're not looking at it. Funders could also help to look at this research.
 - More people of color displaced in Katrina, fewer returned due to housing discrimination.
 - If it's harder to get loans as person of color, then recovery will be more difficult.
- Adaptation & mitigation

- Elderly, young, chronically ill, homeless, disabled, low-income communities and communities of color should all be protected.
- Mitigation policies should not detrimentally affect communities of color/low-income.
- Funding community can help spread best practices to help protect these populations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Nicky Sheats recommendations for further reading on Environmental Justice: [Dr. Robert Bullard](#) and [Dr. Beverly Wright](#)
- State Action plan released last week: The \$6 million of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) money that will be administered by HUD is the equivalent of 300 years of typical CDBG money.

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Date: March 25, 2013

Funder Briefing #17: Update from the President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

Speakers: **Laurel Blatchford**, Executive Director - The President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force;

Michael Passante, NJ State Director - The President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force;

Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, Director - Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation, and Partnerships Director - The President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements:

- Moving forward with May 2013 Hudson and Bergen County bus tour/site visit. [The Fund for New Jersey](#) and [The Horizon Foundation for NJ](#) helping to underwrite the cost. Need a bit more to cover.
- CNJG annual conference: June 10th at the Berkley in Asbury Park. Open to Grantmakers and nonprofit organizations. Guest speakers will include John Davies, [Baton Rouge Area Foundation](#) and Sherry P. Magill from the [Jessie Ball duPont Fund](#), among others.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

- Task Force doesn't get the supplemental funding – that goes to the agencies. The Task Force is coordinating the various players and make sure the funding is aligned by setting principles for the Federal investment
- There isn't a tested playbook, we're doing that work now. The roles are clear - Governor's role is to propose plans to allocate resources, it's the Federal government's role to facilitate coordination to help the state and localities to rebuild; the Task Force comes in as a separate Federal entity who is more independent and objectively try to evaluate how the federal resources are being coordinated and look at more regional issues, whereas FEMA's Recovery Support Functions (part of the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)) focus on specific needs in each state, rather than regional level.
- This is the first time FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework has been operationalized, so we are all learning a lot. The idea of the Task Force as an extension of the Framework is part of the experiment.
- The Task Force is working with Governor's office and is in regular communication to help answer questions about how federal programs work, outreach efforts, etc.
- Task Force is also tracking agency performance and spending through a project management office
- Timeline for Task Force on the ground: 6 months - final report out late July/early August
- Working on alignments of funding and activities and creating a matrix of the funding streams.
- Task Force's team of 9 people got on the ground last week and set up in joint field office in Lincroft, NJ in order to provide the local inputs that the Task Force needs to develop strategies, and to

ensure that the recommendations and findings at the Federal level match with what we're hearing on the ground.

- Planning advisory meetings with key stakeholders, mayors, faith-based community, planners, etc.
- Working with FEMA, Federal officials and Governor to ensure we're building on work in process
- Want to get funder input and share what we're learning to help funders decide what they're going to support
- Learn and share Health and Human Services needs, as well.

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) supplemental funds

- Supplemental federal funds passed Congress on Jan 29th, providing funding to four primary agencies - [FEMA](#), [DOT](#), [U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers](#), CDBG-DR (administered by [HUD](#)). \$10 billion went to [National Flood Insurance Program](#). \$16 billion for HUD.
- HUD released 33% of funds within 8 days, now in public comment mode, for a short period of time.
- This Supplemental CDBG money is just that - a supplement to standard recovery programs like FEMA & [SBA](#). The CDBG funds are legally not allowed to replace funds from other sources.
- 1st round of funds – for estimated unmet recovery needs (not covered by insurance, grants, FEMA and SBA loans); allocation based on housing assistance damage data - immediate supplemental needs in housing and small business
- 2nd round depends on the work of the Task Force and the latest data (probably summer 2014) – focus will be more on mitigation and for community planning

What funders can do

- Gap Analysis - When HUD approves CDBG projects, then the funding community will see where funds are flowing, which will also reveal where the gaps are.
- Community foundations could help catalyze community planning, capacity building and smaller projects with smaller groups.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- HUD will hold 2-3 more calls about their report, capacity and other topics. Info on that will be shared with the listserv
- As part of CDBG community planning projects – recommendations for any principles around healthier community design such as walkable communities, building materials so that quality of homes continues to promote health would be welcome.
- [FEMA Region II: Coastal Analysis and Mapping](#)--- an informative site with interactive mapping
- [FEMA GeoPlatform: geospatial data and analytics](#)

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: September 9, 2013

Funder Briefing #1: Review of Federal Task Force Recommendations with NJ Director Michael Passante

Speaker: Michael Passante, NJ State Director, The President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements:

- CNJG is partnering with the [Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) and [Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers](#) on a creation playbook of strategies that funders have used nationwide following disasters.
- Also partnering with the [Foundation Center](#) to produce a scan of how the funding community responded to Hurricane Sandy and which nonprofits were/are being supported. This information is highly useful for national funders who are interested in giving funds to continued recovery efforts.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force: Recommendations from Michael Passante

The Task Force prepared a comprehensive [regional rebuilding strategy](#) with 69 recommendations for how the Federal government can improve response to Sandy, which includes plans to:

- Better meet people's needs on the ground, cut red tape, create principles and guidelines for how the Federal government should invest taxpayer dollars
- Plan for holding agencies accountable at White House level for implementing those plans. Appropriate federal agencies are tied to recommendations with plans to implement them (FEMA, HUD, Army Corps, etc.).
- State has implemented first round of CDBG money so far.

Rebuilding Strategy Highlights - Areas of interest for Funders

The following are broad summations of areas for improvement and investment from the report:

- Infrastructure - ensure regionally coordinated, resilient approach to infrastructure (smarter, flexible electrical grid, protect liquid fuel supply chain, develop a resilient power strategy for communications, etc.).
- Hold a forum to coordinate large scale regional infrastructure projects - one that aims to established guidelines that all Federal agencies involved in infrastructure investment must adhere to, to ensure projects with Federal investments meet certain criteria. Investments might require that projects proposed are resilient to future storms, transparent for the public, and that take into consideration all alternatives including green infrastructure.
- Housing - providing safe affordable housing options and helping homeowners make emergency repairs more quickly, creating nationally consistent mortgage policies to prevent evictions, require smart recovery steps like elevating houses for all houses receiving federal money.

- Small business and revitalization of communities - make it easier for small business to access federal contracts for rebuilding, offer specialized skills training for low-income individuals or vulnerable populations in the industries most needed for Sandy recovery, create a one-stop shop online for info that small businesses need for recovery, increasing SBA's unsecured disaster loan limits and expediting disbursement of those loans.
- Insurance - Streamline payouts. Research and further study how to balance affordability with insurance premiums.
- Promoting resilient rebuilding - based on current and future flood maps. [Rebuild by Design](#) competition to deliver innovative resilient rebuilding designs
- Building local government capacity for long term rebuilding and preparing for future disasters
- Creating local disaster recovery manager positions and supporting local resilient partnerships to coordinate regional planning. Working with [NJ Future](#), [Sustainable Jersey](#), the [Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#), [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), and others.

Recommendations of note for Funders:

- #15 - Mobilize the private sector and nonprofit community to develop innovative solutions that support and integrate whole community efforts for disaster relief. *Lead: OSTP and FEMA, in coordination with DOE, and other Federal Agencies*
- #32 - Help identify opportunities for State and local housing programs to leverage funds and create public-private partnerships. *Lead: HUD*
- #44 - Encourage HUD CDBG-DR grantees and private sources to fund additional CDFI outreach and support to small businesses in vulnerable communities. *Lead: Treasury, in coordination with HUD*
- #59 - Support New Jersey planning efforts, including pilots for NJ Local Resilience Partnerships, and encourage federal agencies the State, nonprofits, and funding organizations to provide both financial and technical support for the formation and operation of the Local Resilience Partnerships. *Leads: HUD and CPCB RSF (FDRC with FEMA as RSF coordinating agency), Sustainable Jersey, and New Jersey Future*
- #61 - Facilitate and expand opportunities for funding and nonprofit engagement in recovery, including opportunities for organizations that work with vulnerable populations. The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function (CPCB RSF) in NY and NJ should actively support funder collaboratives that provide grants to nonprofits working in coordination with government. This should include encouragement of sub-grants to NGOs that would assist in accomplishing the Federal outreach requirements, including those specific to vulnerable populations to ensure they are included in the recovery planning process. *Lead: CPCB RSFs (FDRCs with FEMA as RSF coordinating agency) and RSFLG*
- #68 - Continue functions of the Program Management Office (PMO) to track the progress of the [Sandy Supplemental funding and performance](#). *Lead: Sandy Recovery Tracking Team or [Recovery.gov](#)*

Next steps in implementation:

- The state has to agree to implement these recommendations. Some recommendations require no state or local involvement - just changes that fed govt has/is changing. However, if Task Force

strategies are linked to a topic (like hazard mitigation), then those recommendations will be required moving forward.

- Are succession plans in place and will be a team remaining at HUD responsible for tracking the progress of the recommendations. Believe there will be a role for nonprofits for evaluation of existing programs or policies, as well.
- Task Force's work closes September 30th. FEMA's Lincroft office will be present through fall, but personnel will be decreasing and will be taken over by FEMA Region II office (based in NYC).

FOLLOW UP

- FEMA Region II office contacts will be circulated to group
- Michael checking on whether or not data being published is still on track for October and how granular - will it be any more detailed than state-level

ADDITIONAL INFO

- [NJ Sandy Federal Funds Tracker](#) - Office of the State Comptroller
- [Sandy Recovery Progress Home Page](#) - public access to data on the status of Sandy funds. Monthly reports are published three weeks after the close of each month.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: September 16, 2013

Funder Briefing #2: Update on Statewide Progress of Long Term Recovery

Speakers: **Cathy McCann**, President - NJVOAD;

Janet Sharma, Chair - Bergen LTRG;

Meghan Wren, Chair - Cumberland LTRG;

Elizabeth Murno, Chair - Monmouth LTRG

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements: Oct 2nd - CNJG Affinity group Funders for Strong and Thriving Communities will meet and discuss resiliency initiatives

NJVOAD – *Cathy McCann*

17 Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) have formed or are forming - only two are community or city specific - Ironbound Community Corporation & Atlantic City, all the rest are County-wide.

- NJVOAD is hosting regular calls to support the work of the LTRGs:
 - Case manager call every Tuesday morning
 - Volunteer call every other Wednesday
 - Construction call every other Thursday
 - Emotional/Spiritual Care call every Friday
 - NJ VOAD Member call every Friday
- October NJVOAD will host a face to face meeting for training and self-care
- FEMA is drawing down its presence: Had 18 FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VAL)- now just one VAL
- Mental health reps have been working tirelessly, so we need to support them.
- NJVOAD is in a holding pattern waiting for state programs to come on board and to see which homeowners are eligible for support. Also, getting accurate elevation requirements is holding up rebuilding efforts.

Bergen LTRG – *Janet Sharma*

- Bergen Cty started after Hurricane Floyd; communication services mostly, until Sandy hit
- 12,000 homes applied for FEMA (4,000 of which are in Moonachie & Little Ferry)
- \$1.7M grant money received so far
- \$800K is allocated - vast majority is assistance to clients
- Gradually got grants, were able to hire a project manager; now we have staff of 7 - 1 project manager, 4 case managers, 1 volunteer coordinator, VISTA office administrator. The Bergen LTRG is housed in a church in Moonachie, open all day every day, 629 assessed cases of which 350 cases assigned to case managers, engaged 3000 volunteers (34,000 volunteer hours)

- Held information fairs - tables for service organizations who could help if more money became available
- Bergen LTRG insulated underside of 173 mobile homes; issue with access to Federal aid because land is owned by the trailer park and homes are owned by individuals. Trying to get state-level entities' attention.
- Bad flooding and wastewater issues - not like the destruction on the shores - but most Bergen residents didn't qualify for federal funds

Cumberland LTRG – Meghan Wren

- No VOAD existed prior to the storm, but learned creating an LTRG was essential for receiving private funds
- [World Renew](#) did an assessment - Cumberland County was determined not to be one of the top nine counties eligible for Federal funds, but Bayshore communities were devastated.
 - \$1.3M worth of damage from assessment done by World Renew - which only got to 34 people out of the 727 - the financial shortfall is enormous because our residents can't apply for REM grants.
 - Only 727 people applied for FEMA assistance because we have lower density, but the impact was enormous. Approximately 270 of 300 residencies in Downs Township were damaged and 30 were lost entirely.
 - Poorest county in the state, less than 1% of the ratables of the county, but communities sometimes had 10% of the ratables affected
 - Bright spot: because residents aren't eligible, they don't have to wait to move, handle mold remediation, etc.
- Literacy in our county is a big stumbling block and need more time and guidance
- Family Success Center of Commercial Township has helped with advocacy for the families - this could be done throughout the state with Family success Centers. Named the Advocacy Committee and call families "families" and not "clients" - they are not case managers but can take on families
- One community is speaking with the Blue Acres program and may be bought out entirely
- [Hope and Healing](#) assistance isn't available because not a designated community
- Anniversary event planned with a dinner and first recovery fair

Monmouth LTRG – Elizabeth Murno

- 34,000 registrants who applied for FEMA over 300 of which received maximum grants; Monmouth & Ocean County received 80% of the damage in NJ
- Camp Evans - Took over former Military campus that allows for offices, volunteer housing, warehouse storage space in middle of Monmouth county. Spaces require renovation to be up to working order - volunteer housing targeted to be built out and ready to house volunteers by November 2013
- NJ State contract for case managers with Catholic Charities only funded 40 case managers for entire state - NY received funding for 200 case managers. FEMA's formula for calculating case managers had about 80 initially calculated, so State has gone back to Federal government to request expanding the total case managers to the larger number

- We've been reaching out to partners to recruit them to provide disaster case management services, and we're providing trainings, how to interview clients and get conversations started
- Recruit national rebuilding partners to come to Monmouth County
- Work around we're exploring: For communities that need to elevate, we may be able to help them to rebuild with *volunteer* assistance, and therefore it may be possible that families who are currently waitlisted for assistance can rebuild their homes now and will deal with elevation later without jeopardizing their eligibility for assistance.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: September 23, 2013

Funder Briefing #3: Long Term Recovery Issues and Strategies

Speakers: **Joseph Della Fave**, Executive Director - Ironbound Community Corporation;
Wesley Moore, Chair - Middlesex County Long Term Recovery Group;
Linda Gyimoty, Executive Director - United Way & Ocean County Long Term Recovery Group

HIGHLIGHTS

Essex Long Term Recovery Group (formerly Ironbound LTRG) – Joseph Della Fave

- Unanticipated surge of both the Passaic River (a [Superfund](#) site) and Newark Bay sent water into the mixed industrial/residential Ironbound Neighborhood of Newark, decimating housing projects (350 units) and over 100 family homes, also drowning one worker on site.
- Newark's Ironbound Neighborhood is a vulnerable community because of existing environmental impacts including the state's biggest incinerator, a Superfund site with the largest concentration of dioxin in the country, and a large low-income and undocumented population
- No emergency preparedness or LTRG existed prior to storm. The [Ironbound Community Corporation](#) (ICC), along with a few other partners, started the Ironbound LTRG in response to the damage, with a focus on Newark. The group just became Essex County LTRG and will now also provide county-wide services. [Newark Salvation Army](#) is fiscal sponsor for Essex LTRG.
- Because Newark was not a focus in the media, getting [CDBG-DR](#), [Blue Acres](#) and [Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund](#) has been challenging
- Immediately after the storm ICC provided hot lunches and dinners in the projects for 200+ families for 2 weeks, then began recovery work
- We are the only recovery group that has dealt with this kind of industrial environmental impact
- 700+ FEMA applications from Ironbound alone
- Undocumented people in our community have not sought federal support
 - Emergency food, replace clothes & furniture, rental assistance, mortgage assistance, medical care, not being sought by undocumented people, many of whom were without power for months afterward because they were afraid to contact the government for help
 - FEMA, as a subgroup of Homeland Security has the HS logo on it and scared many people away from applying.
- ICC / Essex LTRG helped to provide new boilers, rehabilitation to houses, still need to rebuild some
- Continue to case manage 50 families or so and try to restore stabilization to community
- The ICC had pushed for current 12-acre waterfront park that is adjacent to neighborhood, which acted as a significant buffer and mitigated damage to the businesses across from it. Impervious surfaces caused huge damage in other areas.
- Mitigation, resiliency and planning measures need to be put into effect. The Essex LTRG is working with city and others on new possibilities for designing and building, along with new zoning

possibilities, how to transition people who have lived there for generations out of that neighborhood to protect them for the future

Middlesex County Long Term Recovery Group – Wesley Moore

- Middlesex County currently has 20,000 FEMA applicants
- The Middlesex LTRG started in April 2013 - director, associate direct, 2 case managers, 2 resource specialists, construction coordinator
- Any unmet needs less than \$5000 are approved by director; anything above that requires a meeting of the LTRG Unmet Needs Committee.
- Middlesex LTRG works with financial assistance partners to see what they can give to help individuals. If a gap still exists, then our LTRG commits its money to cover the gap. CDBG-DR in Middlesex - now that this money is available, LTRG will be able to focus resources on rebuilding.
- Initially, most unmet needs included household items, bedding furniture and clothing, and rental, mortgage and utility assistance. Now unmet needs are in construction areas and therefore requests are now in excess of \$15,000-\$25,000. To date those requests have been met.
- Developed “Resource List” of licensed and insured contractors with disclosure to give to clients
- Challenges with reaching undocumented - less than 25 undocumented people have been assisted so far, even after trying to simplify the application process.
- Senior population is now coming to seek assistance - they didn’t think government was going to help them, so they didn’t try to seek assistance earlier.

Challenges:

- No one thought of funding preventative items, but we received requests for sump pumps, generators, tree removal, etc. [NJVOAD](#) agreed we should consider these items and we encourage partners to consider that, as well.
- Blue Acres buyouts program: in Sayreville 129 homes are slated for buyout, Woodbridge and South River also under consideration by Blue Acres.
 - We are seeing a number of families who originally placed their names on the buyout list are now seeking assistance from the Middlesex LTRG. In order to provide them with any money toward property development/repairs we would require them to remove themselves from buyout list. Currently 10-15 families have come off the Blue Acres list in order to receive assistance from us. Emergency unmet needs can still be requested (food, clothing, etc.) if they remain on the Blue Acres list.
- Mental health - We refer clients for outpatient therapy

Ocean County Long Term Recovery Group (OC LTRG) – Linda Gyimoty

- 60,000 Ocean County households applying to FEMA for support
- Currently, United Way is the fiscal agent for OC LTRG
- It’s surprising how long it's taking for some of the cases to come to the table - some of the lag in cases coming in were about pride - after so many months pride isn’t as much of a barrier now.
- We hold monthly community meetings, bi-weekly steering committee meetings, 140 volunteers, 90+ agencies still involved

- Currently in process of incubating a separate organization solely dedicated to the recovery
- Funding has come from the [Robin Hood Foundation](#), [Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund](#) - brought in about \$2.9 million initially, and we have been able to mobilize new dollars through an [American Red Cross](#) grant.
- Still in relief stage - doing a lot of the case management. Originally planned for 4 staff, but quickly realized we needed more case managers because of sheer volume
- Undocumented communities
 - Undocumented populations will seek services from agencies they know - usually culturally specific ones instead of government representatives
 - Encourage undocumented people to come see us with the case managers from the agencies the undocumented ARE speaking to. We've also offered to send an LTRG case manager out to them - not a lot a movement yet on this but we hope there will be more.
 - Only one member of a family needs to be documented to access FEMA services
- Reaching and assisting the senior population in Ocean County (1 in 5 is 65+): as much as 40% of population affected by storm fall into this demographic. Electronic communications are not as effective - radio is proving more effective, newspaper, etc. Looking to hire more case managers with expertise in working with seniors
- If homes have not been fixed and raised, or have been abandoned, those structures can become an issue for structures that HAVE met the new rebuilding requirements when a future storm strikes.

What we've learned:

- Substantial assistance required documentation for insurance claims and government assistance, but release of government funds is slower than anyone anticipated
- People need assistance right upfront to learn how to gain access to the federal dollars - funding from private dollars to help make that happen has a great impact
 - By not having an LTRG right away, assistance could be delivered quickly because they could cut through the bureaucracy
- Cost of elevating homes: people feel like they have to wait for the appeal process, so it stretches the issue for a lot longer
- Mayors are concerned about blight issues, particularly with second homes that owners are not dealing with and often that did not have enough insurance to cover repair costs.

FOLLOW UP

- Some of the money coming into the human services advisory council is going to traditional emergency service organizations that aren't part of Sandy recovery.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: September 30, 2013

Funder Briefing #4: NJ Department of Community Affairs Sandy Recovery Programs

Speaker: Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner - NJ Department of Community Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

Hurricane Sandy 1-Year Anniversary events

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation –Mental Health convening scheduled for October 18th
- NJ Future, Sustainable Jersey, and NJ Recovery Fund – conference & reception scheduled for October 29th
- NJ Performing Arts Center & Star Ledger – conference on Arts & Sandy Recovery scheduled for October 29th

[New Jersey Department of Community Affairs \(DCA\)](#) – Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner - NJ Department of Community Affairs

The DCA oversees the work of the Sandy recovery including:

- [Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation](#) (RREM) program
- [ReNew Jersey Stronger](#)
- Manages majority of federal funds being used to assist the state in recovering from Sandy. Funds come from [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery](#) (CDBG-DR) from HUD

Overview:

- FEMA funds used for response, HUD funds used for recovery (\$1.825B in CDBG-DR federal funds)
- For CDBG-DR Funds to be released, HUD requires the State to submit an action plan, after a period of public comment, that contains an assessment of the damage, definition of the programs, the ways the State plans to develop those programs, and how they plan to disperse funds
 - State plan was submitted and detailed 17 recovery programs, all of which launched within first three months.
 - The first needs identified in the State's plan were:
 - Addressing housing needs for renters and homeowners
 - Addressing economic revitalization needs - with a focus on tourism-industries
- CDBG disbursement timeline: 2 year spending time; trying to get flexibility, but want to be strategic. Funds slated to end Sept. 30, 2017.
- All dollars have to be assigned to programs BEFORE CDBG-DR can draw down funds, which also requires public comment and incorporation of any recommendations from the public comment

period. Action plan “Amendment” has to be developed before second tranche can be released to address what is different from the first tranche/request of CDBG-DR funds.

- Statistics: over 25,000 homes received minor damage; over 40,000 owner-occupied homes and 15,000 rental units sustained severe damage; huge loss of affordable rental units
- Programs for homeowners:
 - \$180 million available for a resettlement program, targeted to at-risk communities along the shore, maximum \$10,000 grants offered for residents who sustained over \$8,000 in damage (this program is over subscribed). \$113 million of the \$180 million has been dispersed already. 60% funds set aside for Low to Moderate income individuals.
 - Rental Repair Program-1000 landlords applied to receive up to \$50K per unit (1-7 units, max 25 units) for repairs, but must agree to make that unit affordable to a low/moderate income tenant.

Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation & Mitigation Program (RREM)

- Construction program - maximum \$150,000 grants to homeowners - state prioritized funds for low to moderate income homes *and* those most severely damaged (homes with damage costs over 50% of their tax-assessed value *and* those that also require elevation). This program is over subscribed. Max income level for a family to be eligible was capped at \$250,000.
 - 3,545 - preliminary awards issued and will continue to serve as many people as can be funded.
 - 8K households on waitlist to receive funds
- Gap Needs / Duplication of Benefits
 - Inspections contractors will assess properties, owners will meet with a housing advisor and discuss total development costs, and any duplication of benefits
 - Duplication of Benefits are strictly enforced by government and requires the State to look to any funds the individual has received for any like/similar development services the homeowner has received, such as money from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Homeowner insurance, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, and FEMA funds for reconstruction for things like debris removal, starting rehab, etc.
 - Any money received would be deducted from the total CDBG money available to the homeowner.
 - E.g.: Total development cost is \$300K, and insurance reimbursement of \$50K would have to be subtracted, meaning total eligible unmet needs are \$250K. However, the CDBG grant is capped at \$150K, so the \$100K gap would be required to be covered by the owner. (Generally gaps are in the realm of \$20-\$25K, not \$100K.)
 - Additionally, the homeowners have to show that they have the funds to cover the rest of the cost to getting it to a livable standard AND for required Elevation after CDBG grant awarded
- **What funders can do:**
 - Effort to find funds that could be used toward covering gaps - currently in exploration with NJ Community Capital.
 - Potential partnerships to address needs if low or moderate income homeowners who didn't have insurance or who have a gap for some other reason

- Planning initiatives -20 planning grants awarded in an effort to continue local government planning efforts that focus on resiliency. Funders can help with supporting planning and implementation.

Economic development programs

- Capital equipment losses and working capital for lost inventory
- Nonprofits are only eligible for construction money, not working capital funds

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: October 7, 2013

Funder Briefing #5: Post-Sandy Environmental Issues and Climate Change Effects on NJ (webinar)

Speakers: **Mark Mauriello**, Former Commissioner - NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and Director of Environmental Affairs and Planning - Edgewood Properties;

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director - The American Littoral Society;

Jeanne Herb, Associate Director - Environmental Analysis and Communications Group at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University;

Marjorie Kaplan, PhD, Associate Director - Rutgers Climate Institute

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements:

- Oct 15th - Center for Disaster Philanthropy - webinar
- Oct. 18th - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Forum will focus on Mental Health and Sandy Recovery at the Toms River Barnabas Behavioral Health Center

Overview - Tim Dillingham - [The American Littoral Society](#)

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy we have an opportunity to readjust parts of our relationship with the coast in ways that make us more resilient.
- Goal is to ensure, as we look at policies, that rebuilding happens quickly AND responsibly, without putting homes and businesses back in harm's way. In ways that:
 - promote resiliency
 - respond to the future changes we know are coming to the environment and along the coast
 - make wise investments
- Changing fundamental footprint of vulnerability along the coast - we haven't looked back at State's coastal development policies and instead are rushing back into the same places.
- Working in collaborations with [Clean Ocean Action](#), [Nature Conservancy](#) and [NJ/NY Baykeeper](#) on nature-based defenses, as well as working with [Army Corps of Engineers](#), [NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection](#).
 - Where healthy dune systems and tidal marshes often received less damage - nature based defenses should be restored, strengthened and maintained
 - Beach nourishment projects and home elevation is helping, but we're really look at mitigation steps not resiliency
- Decision makers - some positive signs, techniques and fundamental research is being undertaken at the state level. NYC in particular did a great job of bringing a diverse group of people together to suggest solutions
- find a surprising recognition at grassroots level that things need to change - we can stay positive and harness this understanding to set the stage for policy changes

Pre- and post-Sandy public perception and awareness - Mark Mauriello - Edgewood Properties

- This storm has brought public awareness and education of the vulnerability and risk for coastal and floodplain residents and municipalities to make informed decisions, and hopefully will influence policy and spending at the state level, as well.
- Sea level has risen over 1.3 feet in the last 100 years in NJ. Flood plains are expanding horizontally, flood heights are increasing. Sediment problems along beach.
- Good things that have happened:
 - Adoption of stricter construction standards is key to reducing damage to future building
 - Property acquisition in the Raritan Bay, particularly Sayreville, and in Passaic basin - NJ has a great track record of doing that
 - Mobilization of the advocates - rallied environmental advocates and those that don't always work together (environmental and housing advocates, higher education, etc.)

Areas for improvement:

Land use / buffer zones

- Haven't seen a move to acquire vulnerable ocean front property; particularly in northern Ocean County, Toms River, Ortley Beach (road and several lines of homes destroyed - could pull back during reconstruction there), and Mantoloking - very little discussion about pulling those homes back, which are currently a 100+ feet seaward of the road.
- Haven't seen discussion at State level about land use management and/or changes that might be appropriate in these communities ([home rule](#) is a challenge) but State oversight could be brought to bear ([Transfer of development rights](#) and other tactics could get more people out of harm's way)
- Shore protection response to the storm - beach nourishment is temporary, costly, and carries equity issues (who has access vs. who is paying for the nourishment). Similarly, proposals for armoring of beaches are a dangerous path - building sea walls and structures ties us into a lot more spending and false sense of safety.

Planning

- There is a great need to ramp up coastal planning using regional long-term planning that ignores the political boundaries of communities
- Transparency and accountability very important to track the spending of relief and recovery dollars so we can improve in the future.
- Policy analysis: funders could support a study of land use decisions and how those contributed to or prevented losses

Webinar - Jeanne Herb - [Environmental Analysis and Communications Group](#) and Dr. Marjorie Kaplan - [Rutgers Climate Institute](#)

See accompanying [Slide show](#) [start at 33:45 on CNJG website]

- Future weather:

- Tide data for Atlantic City shows the rate of rise is higher than the global rate. 16 inches in 100 years, land is subsiding due to compaction of sediments in coastal plains from ground water withdrawal.
- Even without any changes in storm intensity the rise in sea level will make the impact of regular coastal storms greater
- Extreme events - hurricanes will likely increase in strength, frequency of most intense storms expected to increase
- Climate Change Impacts in NJ
 - Vulnerable sectors: Built infrastructure, water resources, public health & society, agriculture, coastal, the natural environment
 - Climate changes will affect certain populations more than others: elderly, children, poor (no air conditioning, pre-existing health disparities), urban communities (contamination from polluted sites, need for mass transit, heat island effect), outdoor workers, people with mental health issues, people subject to coastal and inland flooding
 - Coordination with surrounding states - engaged in northeast and mid-Atlantic on planning strategies because NJ is behind other states in plans

Funder Recommendations

- Prevention / Mitigation: Reducing the emissions that cause climate change
 - Look to State Climate Action Plans
 - Reduce emissions from stationary emitters (power plants) and mobile emitters (cars)
 - Put a price on emissions, increase energy efficiency, enhance carbon sinks, etc.
- Adaptation:
 - State Adaptation plans (NJ doesn't have one currently) - so formed the [New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance](#)
 - Working on public policy recommendations using a very deliberative process, with impact data and leading practices, stakeholder engagement, policy gap analysis summary, sector specific workshops and finalizing policy recommendations.
- Low hanging fruit - if funders are working through the [NJ Recovery Fund](#) - activities funding by this one is really filling the gaps where no other funding is provided.
- Broadly share [The Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) / CNJG philanthropic disaster response playbook when complete because learning and best practices will be collected in one place
- Public education:
 - Provide informed experts in the communities
 - Bring communities together for informed discussions including assessment of risk and vulnerability - akin to the work that [Creative New Jersey](#) is doing. Funding community and NJ Recovery Fund are the only ones doing it - need to scale up.
 - preparing/made available demonstrated best practices and personal assistance in working with them
 - Much of what is going on now is not transparent - it's a government conversation, but not involving residents.

- Funders can help bring together cross sector groups/stakeholder for collaboration, such as the [Common Ground Initiative](#)
- Not everyone is going to get insurance or funding to elevate their homes - we are limited in our ability to fall back in the “old way” of doing things, so we will probably start to see a demand for a different governance framework - municipalities by their nature cannot think and plan regionally.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: October 21, 2013

Funder Briefing #6: Post-Sandy Housing, Planning & Resiliency Initiatives

Speakers: **Staci Berger**, Executive Director - Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey;

Adam Gordon, Esq., Staff Attorney - Fair Share Housing Center;

Peter Kasabach, Executive Director - New Jersey Future;

Randy Solomon, Co-Director - Sustainable Jersey

HIGHLIGHTS

Announcements:

- [NJ Future Conference](#) on Oct. 29th at Monmouth University: Panels will focus on what is the new normal. How do we assess the new risks, how do we plan differently going forward, what part does design play in this?
- Also on Oct 29th - NJ Performing Arts Center (Newark) hosts "[Arts Take Action: Sandy One Year Later](#)"

Fair Share Housing Center – *Adam Gordon, Esq.*

- As an advocacy organization for homeowner rights and ending exclusionary and discriminatory housing patterns in NJ, we are focused on transparency for housing / rebuilding programs to make sure that dollars are distributed in a way that matches up with basic data needs, impact, and fair distribution.
- One year after Sandy 40,000 people still displaced, disproportionate number of those people are lower-income
- We work to ensure the application process is fair for those with issues including - access, literacy, language barriers, etc.
- 45% of people have a household income less than \$30,000, includes 67% of all renters in NJ, of those affected by Sandy
- Rebuilding - we are working to ensure that lower-income people have an opportunity to return to affordable housing in the communities they came from.
- We were able to push for FEMA to publish data on storm impact by income level, race/ethnicity, geography, etc., BEFORE initial funds were allocated, to ensure transparency.
 - That baseline allowed us to take the initial action plan and measure it against an objective benchmark
 - 43% of impact was to renters, but most of the funding from the initial action plan didn't target renters. Through meetings and advocacy, got an extra \$75 million of Federal funds allocated to highly impacted lower-income renters, including \$15 million for public housing.

- This renter-focused effort was one of the best administered Sandy programs, leading to commitments for over 2,000 new or rebuilt affordable homes all over the state, focusing on the most impacted communities
- Focused on making sure Resources for homeowners are also fairly distributed - Fair Share Housing Center started a [complaint website](#) for people who were having difficulty receiving federal assistance for rebuilding.
 - State Open public records request for criteria for grant distribution (\$800 million Federal funding)
 - Hearing a lot of stories about people who received a letter that they weren't eligible because didn't make the \$8,000 damage benchmark, when they actually had tens of thousands of dollars of damage
 - There wasn't a consistent set of transparent criteria for who could apply for what.
- Additional \$2 billion (second tranche) of [CDBG-DR](#) money coming in the next few weeks, and there may not be a third tranche because it could go to Colorado or be stuck because of the Federal government sequester.

[Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey](#) - Staci Berger

- Concerned about how some of the community development programs have been set up, which are lacking in robustness with how they are being distributed (can't secure the actual money allocations and the rate of dispersal or application). One application was 85 pages long - at a time when we need quick, flexible, responsive dollars the money isn't getting out. We're asking legislators & decision makers to help make those funds easier to access. The programs of concern are:
 - Neighborhood enhancement program
 - Landlord incentive program
 - Small rental properties program
 - Special needs housing fund
- Media coverage - working to keep the balanced approach to Sandy stories - trying to direct coverage to Ironbound neighborhood of Newark, for example.
- Homeowner resettlement program has \$10,000 grant with a 2-year residency requirement: that may be impossible for lower-income people to commit to if they are unsure if they can afford to keep their homes, so there may be a huge disparity in terms of who is receiving grants
- Next CDBG-DR - housing counseling is desperately missing from funding allocations - state should be asking for this and utilizing HUD certified counselors
- [Blue Acres Program](#) has funds for buyouts, but [DEP](#) hasn't moved forward - we're working to try and move those efforts forward.
- We need to be resilient about what we're asking for, documenting when things aren't being addressed, would like to hold some public hearings so we can hear what worked well or needs to be changed so that community members can diversify the voices represented
- [Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation Program](#) (RREM) - 8,100 on the waiting list - many people didn't even know that they had to apply. Spanish language guidelines on FEMA website were not updated to reflect the deadline of June 30th, so there is a lot of conflicting

information out there. The rejection letters were general, so it was confusing for people to appeal, further complicated by enormous intake problems.

Sustainable Jersey - *Randy Solomon*

- Municipalities are suffering from the disparate impacts of funding resources - but some municipalities with low capacity have issues even identifying the resources available to them; staffs are overwhelmed
- Sustainable Jersey is working with municipalities to help with connect with the resources available, and to start to shift their thinking to include long term resilience
 - E.g. - some municipalities receive lots of requests for urban studio planning support, and some municipalities don't get contacted at all
- Creating Resiliency Network (launch in two weeks) - partnership of nonprofit, public and private, aid and resource organizations to link municipalities through technical assistance and grants to coordinate and do matchmaking. 3 regions for Resiliency Network Coordinators: Urbanized Coast, Monmouth & Ocean, and all the other southern coastline including Delaware Bayshore.
 - Helping to coordinate between aid organizations as well, to ensure that they are efficiently, effectively and fairly applying their resources
 - Asking municipalities what they need and communicating that out to help source new resources
 - Advisory board includes practitioners, municipal representatives, research organizations, etc.
 - Creating database of vetted resources available to municipalities
- Networks could provide assistance such as:
 - Sample ordinances (floodplain, design standards for elevated homes, etc.), risk assessments (ecosystem vulnerability, wildlife, etc.), better understanding buyout opportunities or transfer development rights (alternative to a buyout), providers could give free technical assistance
- Funders could help get involved with supporting organizations who are working to determine decision support tools, models and programs to help communities become more resilient

NJ Future - *Peter Kasabach*

- A lot of collaborations have come out of Sandy work, and funders have really stepped up to help foster that.
- NJ Future worked with HUD about language about planning and sustainability in first tranche and with FEMA on how planning was incorporated in their roll out different programs.
- State Government - state did put \$5 million out for planning, Hazard Mitigation - now trying to make sure there are more robust requirements that incorporate, local participation, land use discussions, etc.
- Tools that will help municipalities understand how vulnerable they are:
 - Rutgers has created a great tool called [Flood Mapper](#) which offers a way to look at your town years down the road in terms of flooding and storm scenarios

- 3 [Local Recovery Managers](#) (LRM) working in 7 communities - work hand in hand with towns for long term.
 - Funding is in place for 18 months currently, hoping to extend to 3 years. LRMs wear two hats - as assistant business administrators to help meet immediate needs (help to apply for grants or implement projects), and as planners to help meet long-term resiliency needs. David Kutner is manager of Local Recovery process.
 - Zoning officers and grants writers are in high demand
- Planning assistance grants from DCA will allow for hazard mitigation grants:
 - Example: In Highlands, the sewer system was perforated after Sandy, which created at 50% growth in the sewage flows that was being sent to the municipal utility authority. Since that puts them over the “cap” of sewage they are allowed to send, they are not legally allowed to issue any new building permits, which of course slows the rate of rebuilding. Working with them to figure out how to grapple with that.
 - Seabright - 50% of residential structures were destroyed. Most houses are still stripped to the studs and empty. How to reach the homeowners - where are they?
 - **Keansburg - 1,200-1,500 people per day still being fed by soup kitchen. These people have no ability to rebuild, many are sleeping in the park.**
- Blight issues - tied to gentrification issues, as well because tax base in municipalities will have to attract wealthier individuals
- Policy issues:
 - Urban areas - there isn't as much attention being paid to challenging issues about how adaptation will happen to climate change
 - Water infrastructure - leaky pipes, sewage problems - magnified with storms like Sandy

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Kessler Foundation](#) - \$150,000 in small grants for those with disabilities. Getting ready to help a [Community Health Law Project](#) - coordinate rebuilding with ADA standards, and accessibility, so that technical assistance can be provided to organizations that are focusing on rebuilding efforts.
- HUD launching [Restart the Shore Program](#) with [NJ Community Capital](#) - providing financing to buy hundreds of troubled mortgages. Allows homeowners to resize their mortgages to help them try to avoid foreclosure. RFP for housing counsellors will be put out shortly.

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: October 28, 2013

Funder Briefing #7: Mental Health Needs in Aftermath of Sandy

Speakers: **Wendy Yallowitz**, Program Officer - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation;
Carolyn Beauchamp, MSW, ACSW, President & CEO - Mental Health Association in New Jersey;
Carol Chang, Senior Program Director - American Red Cross of Central New Jersey

HIGHLIGHTS

Overview - *Wendy Yallowitz* - [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

- Mental health includes mental wellness - which supports our ability to adapt, make good choices, maintaining relationships, etc. - we're talking about a broader definition than just clinical mental illness. Mental wellness means we can bounce back from adversity and stress, and can balance stress and emotions
- Katrina statistics 1/3 of survivors have experienced PTSD and 38% of those still have psychological distress.
- New Orleans residents 17% reported consistent serious mental health problems, as opposed to the 1%-3% reported by residents in surrounding areas.
 - Striking differences in rates of mental health disorders - those who continued to see adversity in fulfilling basic needs because of the government's slow response had a much higher rate in mental health issues.
- During Sandy, many were evacuated, displaced, and some have lost everything.
 - Children affected by their own trauma and parents' trauma
 - The strain could lead to downward spiral of drug use, abuse, and mental illness

Sandy Mental Health Response - *Carolyn Beauchamp* - [Mental Health Association in New Jersey \(NHANJ\)](#)

- FEMA was active immediately regarding the emotional response and needs that people would have and within a week of the hurricane we were able to start providing services because we have a division in our organization focused on disaster response.
 - Disaster Mental Health Helpline provides public access to mental health services, and was activated as part of the State's response to the storm.
 - With the FEMA resources, within 3-4 weeks of the storm 150 Crisis Counselors were hired and dispersed into the 9 counties most deeply impacted.
 - The Disaster Helpline - people connect people to the service that they needed to get referrals if normal outlets were not longer available
 - Made inroads into most of the communities in Southern NJ.
 - Some problems still exist a year later - anger, depression, upset minus the hope
- Hope and Healing (Federal program)

- FEMA resources will likely be gone in Feb 2014. There are still people coming out of the woodwork.
- **When FEMA pulls out, none of their teams are functional, including programs for children. The Mental Health Association in NJ (MHANJ) will be able to work in two of the most impacted counties once FEMA Leaves, but not sure who will be able to take on the other 7 counties.**
- If MHANJ could keep the programs going they would for another year at least. When FEMA leaves, MHANJ will continue their work in Ocean and Atlantic counties, and a little bit of Monmouth.
- If there is no funding for MHANJ to continue, local providers will need to ramp up their services.
- Cumberland is not one of the counties currently receiving support.
- Working with Ocean County LTRG to help bring mental health training into the faith-based communities with support from a Red Cross grant
- Populations in need of more intervention:
 - Children - work in the schools have been difficult, as schools have to follow their own directive to educate and provide a support system. 30%-40% of direct victims of disaster will experience some sort of mental/emotional disorder. Children emerge with greatest risk.
 - Afterschool hope and healing programs are starting to come to fruition now. Next week starts a 6-session after-school program, which includes activities for children and take-home tips for parents on how to talk about issues with their children. The goal for this program/intervention has been to help the families open communication, talk about what's going on, how people are feeling, and give the kids a chance to do that too.
 - Elderly - Recovery Post - peer to peer program. Hiring seniors to reach out to seniors, those affected by mental illness to reach out to others with mental illness, etc.
 - Disabled
- MHANJ's statewide advocacy work took the form of grassroots organizing of people to get out and try to find people who were affected by mental illness, trying to get people to shelters, and working closely with the American Red Cross to make sure that shelters had what they needed in terms of mental health support.
 - Mental Health First Aid - 30 people being trained, to then train "gatekeeper" groups in communities who can recognize mental health issues, how to intervene in a non-threatening way, how to provide support, and how to make recommendation for more serious assistance, if needed.
- Bright spot: Mayors, municipal leaders, police, etc. are inviting us to come address groups - there is an acknowledgement about the importance of emotional and mental health.

Carol Chang and Judith Rogers - [American Red Cross of Central New Jersey](#)

- 17,000 trained Red Cross workers (90% volunteers) have been working on Sandy recovery. Workers meeting with individuals on case management. \$60 million in grants were given to NJ and NY for food, financial assistance, financial counselling, home repairs, mold remediation.
- Red Cross Disaster Mental Health (RC DMH) workers:
 - Respond to 70,000 disasters every year - most are local (e.g. house or apartment fires). We regularly train mental health workers; support both clients and disaster workers.
- 5,000 RC DMH workers across the U.S.
 - must have a current license
 - In NJ, 28,000 health and mental health contacts were received from clients looking for assistance.
 - NJ RC DMH are training approximately 60-70 local volunteers in mental health issues.
 - Red Cross also has an MOU with the State of NJ for RC DMH workers to help in disasters.
- Three steps that RC DMH workers use:
 - Identifying what the mental health needs are
 - Promoting resilience and coping skills
 - Implementing targeted interventions for people in need
- Response phase:
 - Evacuation can displace individuals and disrupt regular care
 - 5%-10% of people who receive RC services in RC shelters have some sort of health or mental health needs
 - A trained health and mental health Red Cross worker is assigned to each RC shelter

Case management:

- We supervise case managers who make home visits and phone calls. Most cases are just ordinary people with no prior encounters with the mental health system. RC is there to help with referrals and recommendations.
- Asked workers to start observing signs, symptoms and behaviors now that we're coming up on anniversary of Sandy:
 - Depression - mostly as relates to unemployment/under-employment, financial distress & anxiety as relates to lack of work or cost of rebuilding, marital and family distress, anxiety, a small level of PTSD, residents that have relapsed into addiction or beginning new addictions.
 - Some residents are exploring divorce, some students are doing poorly in school, prior mental health history or physical medical issues have seen a worsening of symptoms.
 - In a few isolated cases, extreme responses such as paranoia and hoarding.
- Recent [Social Service Block Grant](#) from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for schools to help students deal with mental health issues related to Hurricane Sandy.
 - **Should funders think about partnering with the State and leveraging that opportunity?**
 - Social Service Block Grant money will last two years to be used for Enhancing existing programs (outpatient employment services, emergency services, etc.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Some LTRG haven't dispersed money to individuals in need because everyone is waiting for insurance and Federal payments, but they may be able to think about supporting some of the mental health needs if dispersal protocols could change

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Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series II

Date: November 4, 2013

Funder Briefing #8: What Philanthropy Has Learned One Year After Sandy

Speakers: **Nina Stack**, President - Council of New Jersey Grantmakers;
Christopher Daggett, President & CEO - The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation & Co-leader - New Jersey Recovery Fund;
Kim Frawley, Grants Management Director - Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund;
Kathy Durante, Executive Director - OceanFirst Foundation;
Robert Ottenhoff, President and CEO - The Center for Disaster Philanthropy;
Ronna Brown, President - Philanthropy New York

HIGHLIGHTS

- Final call in the 25-part series, which began one week after Hurricane Sandy made landfall.

Chris Daggett - [Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#) and [New Jersey Recovery Fund](#)

- In advance of the storm the State, county and local government did a very good job with evacuations
- Good quick response on immediate needs by first responders, nonprofits, government groups
- Much of the philanthropic sector's work is focused on mid-term and long-term recovery
- We have to put some of the long-term needs before short-term needs that will end up costing us billions of dollars
- Learned that many communities are still at risk due to older infrastructures, locations in floodplains, etc. We have a moral obligation to acknowledge that and cross reference and reality check our decisions about rebuilding.
- State needs to take a leadership role in working with inter-jurisdictional land use issues; regional planning is not something we currently have in place but it will be important.
- Transparency needs to happen during the decision making process, not after the fact
 - Specific actions for transparency - foundation community has been good about this, State government has not. It's the decision process that needs transparency and explanation. State decisions were made public - once made - but people couldn't understand why they were denied funds and what the criteria was.
- Rebuild by Design program - international competition for resilient rebuilding. 10 teams designing resiliency projects out of 145 that applied.
- How to balance needs of individuals with those of the state: Seabright Rising, group that started talking about merging with another town for the sake of resources and resiliency.

Still need to:

- Make sure recovery benefits everyone in NJ that was affected: our poorest residents have received a disproportionately small amount of federal and state recovery assistance.
- Press State and Federal officials to pay attention to issues of equity (renters need greater attention paid)
- Need to figure out how to include Cumberland County in Federal assistance. If that is impossible, we have to get the State to step up in a more robust manner.
- Planning and rebuilding in ways that advance the concepts of sustainability and resiliency
 - Invest in green infrastructure, upgrade in-place infrastructure
- Create a Coastal Commission, which means we have to encourage coordination between municipalities.
 - Pinelands, Meadowlands, Great Swamp and Highlands are good examples of regional planning
- Define what a good recovery looks like - government has largely defined this, but need viewpoints from nonprofits and others to reach that
 - Need to define benchmarks - can't just be about reopening the boardwalk - has to include getting people who are still isolated into consideration
- Engage and inform all citizens about the recovery through transparency.
 - Encourage continued reporting like [Jersey Shore Hurricane News](#); with NJ Recovery Fund - trying to encourage storytelling, media and civic engagement to work on transparency issues
 - Follow the money
- Redouble our efforts in mental health services (arts and counselling services)

Kim Frawley - [Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund](#)

- \$38 million raised from 30,000 donors, granted out \$25 million to 93 organizations in the last year in three grant cycles - 1st launch funded 6 LTRGs, 2nd and 3rd rounds were a competitive application process.
- Priorities:
 - Housing assistance
 - Social services - mental health
 - Legal & financial counselling
 - Economic development
- Made 84% of our fundraising in the first 90 days. Transparency and collaboration was and is key.
- Needs:
 - housing (lack of rental stock)
 - insurance
 - case management
 - mental health
- Applications from established organizations can make further progress by expanding impact; most grants went to experienced organizations.
- Pop-up charities - scrappy organizations with new leadership that have stepped up:

- [Church of the Visitation Center](#) (Brick, NJ), which became a nucleus for relief efforts. They took over an abandoned market which became the place for all disaster relief groups set up shop and was a centralized location for aid and volunteers. They have a long term sustainability plan to support their efforts.
- [Gateway Church of Christ Disaster Response Team](#) (Union Beach, NJ) - small church but large network. They worked hand in hand with the municipality. Did extensive case management in the senior center, where they set up shop.
- Funding partnerships - both sharing info and joint funding projects ([RREM](#) Gap funding initiative through [NJ Community Capital](#), modular home demonstration)
- Faith-based community has played an incredibly important role: Mennonites - expert builders; Methodists - disaster case management and training; Presbyterian - expert volunteer management

Kathy Durante - [OceanFirst Foundation](#)

- \$500,000 in grants awarded
- We've been good about bringing people together
- [NJ VOAD](#) and bus tour helped bring us together
- Putting grantees together in a room with [The Robin Hood Foundation](#) in the early days - helped to clear pathways to organizations that had the capacity to get things done
- We didn't have a solid plan about how best to utilize the resources that were flowing into the state; now we have to work with where we are/what we have, but we should try to do more planning for what's left.
- Echoing the value of the faith-based groups
- Great emerging leaders - need to do what we can to harness them and provide them with the training and tools that they need to continue their work.
- MOST of this work is done BY VOLUNTEERS - training and preparing volunteers for the future is very important
- Philanthropies - transparency of grant making process is of enormous importance. I was very surprised by to see how complex some of the requirements were on the grants that I worked on for the [Ocean County LTRG](#). We, as funders, need to streamline our processes, particularly for those who are not experienced grant writers.
- Flexibility is a huge factor in the work being done
- Instinct says to raise money and get it out the door quickly, but one of our biggest challenges is that homeowners are facing problems every day, so we need to rethink what is realistic for awarding dollars to help for the long term
- Seniors - already a vulnerable population, seniors are struggling to navigate the processes that lie before them.
- Keeping spotlight on NJ - How can we keep the needs of all our communities in people's minds?

Ronna Brown - [Philanthropy New York](#)

- Collaborations between CNJG and Philanthropy NY have been hugely beneficial to the members of each organization by sharing information, resources, etc.

- Philanthropists can be flexible and fast and on the ground - that is incredibly important
- Some of the best organizations on the ground don't actually have any disaster training, but they were groups that had capacity - strong leaders, strong community ties. Unions, school groups, faith-based groups, etc. Funders could support those groups.
- We do need to streamline and be flexible
- Urban areas are different. The density of buildings and people means some aid organizations came in without enough supplies, and traffic issues literally meant that they can't get supplies moved quickly enough. Aid organizations will need to think about how to pre-position supplies.
- Having door-to-door contact was critically important
- Preparation was completely inadequate - particularly big communication systems. How do funders, government and people communicate in real time? This is a problem we can help to address.
- We're talking about all coastal communities and still haven't really absorbed the full significance of what that means for the long term recovery in states around the country. This is something that funders can help ensure that people, government, etc. are thinking about.

Bob Ottenhoff - [The Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#)

- Want to capture the experience you've all gone through in the playbook that CNJG and CDP are collaborating on.
- We need to get more focused on planning and preparation and to help funders understand that once immediate relief is over we need to plan accordingly for disbursement of funds that will address the long-term work of recovery
 - Less than 50% of nonprofits had any kind of disaster plan - not sure funders have plans in place for their staff and organizations, either
- Half the money raised is already gone to immediate relief
- Big turnover in local leaders is common, so loss of continuity for the "next time" can be hard
- Include some aspect of disaster planning in the work we, as funders, do on an ongoing basis.
 - Have grants programs focused on including disaster planning and preparation. Are we asking the nonprofit grantees to include planning and preparation in their work? Are they in a position to really serve the communities we want to have served if they do not have those plans?
 - How does private philanthropy keep great collaborations going that have come together under duress, because of the promise they hold for the future?
 - Conduct a survey - who is interested in continuing collaborations, what resources still remain and what are the areas of interest? Survey would give us a blueprint for who to talk to as needs arise?
- Funder on west coast has signed MOUs with about 50 grantees that, in the case of a disaster guarantee a set amount of funding with very little red tape - and now they also convene these grantees to build capacity and training for working together in advance of the next disaster. Philanthropies can do a better job of providing that support.
- Most organizations have provided services well beyond budgets and don't expect reimbursement, but how can we support them?

- Super Bowl - can we take that attention and direct it toward organizations and communities affected by the storm? Kathy Durante received a call from the NFL asking about organizations that might make good partners to bring the spotlight to recovery communities.
- Funders should look at ourselves too about what we did well, what we need to change and do differently

FOLLOW UP

- Some members may reach out to the NFL to put together a conference call or group and see what their plans are for highlighting Sandy communities.

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>