

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Funder Briefing: #17

Date: March 25, 2013

Topic: 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;

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 little 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 – Laurel Blatchford & Michael Passante

- 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 performance and spending of agencies 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's office to ensure we're building on the 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](#)

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>