

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Funder Briefing: #8

Date: January 7, 2013

Topic: Federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and HUD's role in recovery efforts

Speaker: **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

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>