

## Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

**Funder Briefing:** #9

**Date:** January 14, 2013

**Topic:** 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

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### **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 units 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)

<a href="#">Coordinated Assistance Network</a> (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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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>