

## Rebuilding Stronger And More Resilient

### *Governor Christie Announces Changes to Match Program to Sustain Sandy Relief For Local Governments*

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Governor Christie today will travel to Toms River to announce the availability of **\$42 million** in FEMA Non-Federal Cost Share ("Match") Program funding to local government entities impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Starting Monday, August 29, 2016, the State will begin accepting applications from local government entities in its nine counties most impacted by Superstorm Sandy to pay the FEMA cost share for certain eligible storm recovery activities through the existing Match Program. Potentially, 405 local government entities may be eligible through the Match Program for reimbursement of their 10 percent local cost share of 1,055 Sandy recovery projects. All of these 1,055 projects either involved debris removal or emergency protective measures. The table below lists the government entities that could benefit most from the Match Program funding allocation:

<b>Government Entity</b>	<b>Eligible Reimbursement</b>
<b>Ocean County</b>	\$10M
<b>Toms River</b>	\$2M
<b>Middletown Township</b>	\$1.5M
<b>Brick</b>	\$1.2M
<b>Belmar</b>	\$808,000
<b>Little Egg Harbor</b>	\$719,000
<b>Long Beach Township</b>	\$634,000
<b>Union Beach</b>	\$618,000
<b>Monmouth County Public Works</b>	\$615,000
<b>Manasquan Borough</b>	\$580,000

The announcement comes in the wake of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) decision not to approve a fourth round of the Essential Services Grants (ESG) Program for municipalities hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy. Without HUD's approval, the State cannot provide a 2016 ESG funding round to local entities that could have helped offset some of the financial impact of Sandy. Local Match, however, is a component of the State's Action Plan, which allows for the \$42 million to be distributed without any further approvals from HUD.

The Match Program for local entities will come as welcome news to Sandy-impacted municipalities that will not have to use local taxpayer dollars to cover the local costs of Sandy debris removal and emergency protective measures. As a result, the local match funding will help these municipalities keep property taxes down for homeowners and business owners.

#### **Helping Communities Cope With Storm Expenses And Rebuild Smarter:**

Almost four years after Superstorm Sandy struck New Jersey, communities across the state are making progress towards rebuilding their municipalities with the assistance of programs designed to help cope with storm expenses. As part of the long-term recovery strategy, the Christie Administration is committed to

rebuilding stronger and smarter, and ensuring New Jersey's communities and infrastructure are more prepared to withstand future storms.

**FEMA Community Disaster Loan Program:** Provides funds to eligible communities to assist with governmental functions. To date over \$109 million in loan proceeds have been distributed to communities impacted by Sandy.

**Essential Services Grants:** Assists Sandy-impacted local governments in funding essential services such as police, public works and education. More than \$133 million in Essential Services Grant awards have been approved for 20 local governmental entities in the program's three rounds. The local governments include Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Brick, Brigantine Board of Education, Downe, Highlands, Keansburg, Keansburg Board of Education, Lavallette, Lavallette Board of Education, Little Egg Harbor Board of Education, Moonachie, Ocean County, Pinelands Regional Board of Education, Sea Bright, Seaside Heights, Seaside Heights Board of Education, Seaside Park, Toms River Township, and the Toms River Board of Education.

**FEMA Technical Assistance Program:** In order to assist communities with the PA process, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management established the Disaster Recovery Bureau (DRB), a grants management organization, to provide technical assistance to county and local governments as well as other eligible private non-profits. This assistance has included assigning State Applicant Liaisons (SALs) to provide face-to-face guidance through the FEMA process.

**Planning Initiatives:** Helps Sandy-impacted local governments plan rebuilding efforts that promote resilience and encourage economic growth. Planning grants for 49 local governments have been approved, with nearly \$12 million in grants committed.

**Zoning And Code Enforcement Support:** Helps local governments respond to increasing zoning approval needs in support of construction and the overall recovery effort. To date the program has assisted such Sandy-impacted towns as Brick, Highlands, Keansburg, Lavallette, Little Egg Harbor, Little Silver, Oceanport, Sea Bright, Seaside Park, Toms River, Union Beach, and West Wildwood.

**Local Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program:** In November 2014, DEP announced a \$50 million grant program open to Sandy-impacted communities to address the flood risks posed by coastal lakes, the need for flood risk reduction infrastructure, storm water management and the beneficial use of dredge material.

**Long Term Flood Relief:** In April 2015, Governor Christie announced a \$202 million resiliency project that will bolster storm protection for Union Beach, which is located along the Raritan Bay, and was one of the communities hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy.

**Comprehensive Flood Mitigation:** In June 2014, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that New Jersey will receive \$380 million to implement two flood mitigation projects designed and selected through a HUD-sponsored design competition, Rebuild by Design. Since then, DEP has been working closely with the towns within the project areas along with a diverse array of stakeholders to advance the design and development of these projects. The projects are:

- "New Meadowlands": This flood risk reduction project consists of a large natural reserve along the Hackensack River, designed to help reduce flooding in Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro and South Hackensack. The design envisions using an intricate system of green infrastructure, including berms and marshes, to protect against ocean surges and help reduce sewer overflows in adjacent towns.
- "Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge": This flood risk reduction project is a comprehensive urban water strategy that will use hard infrastructure and soft landscape for coastal defense, while also addressing systemic drainage issues. It includes a variety of flood risk reduction infrastructure that

will be built along the Hudson River, stopping flood waters from intruding into Hoboken and parts of Weehawken and Jersey City. This new infrastructure will complement resilience measures undertaken in the area by New Jersey Transit.

**Sea Bright Sea Wall:** In August 2014, the Christie Administration announced that Sea Bright will receive \$8.5 million in state funding to repair and extend the borough's sea wall, which is vital to the protection of this northern Monmouth County town from future storms.

**Beach Restoration and Dunes:** Since Superstorm Sandy, the State has been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a massive undertaking to repair and improve beaches, and to build the most comprehensive and continuous coastal protection system it has ever had.

**Assisting Individuals With Storm Related Expenses:**

While thousands of homes and rental units are repaired, many of those impacted by Superstorm Sandy have had to juggle mortgage payments, rent, and repair costs. In addition to \$190 million disbursed by FEMA for rental assistance, the State implemented critical recovery programs to address this need.

Homeowner Resettlement Program	\$203 million To 18,589 Households
Sandy Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP)	\$104.1 million To More Than 11,000 Households
Rental Assistance Program *Additional \$12.5 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster (CDBG) Recovery funding available for Rental Assistance Program	\$15.9 million

**Landlord Incentive Program:** The Landlord Incentive Program, which makes grants available to rental property owners allowing them to expand the State's inventory of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households, will assist at least 600 families.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program:** The Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program provides short-term, temporary tenant-based rental assistance in the form of a voucher to assist eligible low- and moderate-income households with their rent in the nine counties most impacted by Superstorm Sandy, which are Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union. DCA is projecting that the \$32 million program will provide rental assistance to 1,100 households.

**Federal Housing Assistance:** Today, more than **\$2 Billion** in federal housing assistance is out the door or in the pipeline to Sandy-impacted families.

**Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program:** Approximately 7,700 homeowners are actively participating in the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program to repair their homes;

- Of the approximately 7,700 homeowners who already signed a grant award, nearly 4,000 have completed construction and approximately 3,700 are in the construction process from pulling permits and repairing damage to elevating structures and obtaining temporary and final certificates of occupancy.
- \$830 million has been disbursed to homeowners, meaning greater than 80 percent of all the dollars expected to be disbursed in the RREM Program have made it to homeowners.

**Affordable Housing:** New Jersey has committed funds to create more than 6,500 affordable housing units using Sandy dollars to replenish housing stock damaged or destroyed by the storm.