

Governor Christie Announces Increase In Federal Disaster Aid To Help New Jersey Rebuild From Superstorm Sandy

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Federal Cost-Share for Sandy Recovery and Rebuilding Projects Increased from 75 Percent to 90 Percent

Trenton, NJ – At the request of Governor Chris Christie, President Obama has authorized a federal cost-share increase for recovery projects funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance grant program from 75 percent to 90 percent. This decision is expected to save the state an estimated \$240 million in Sandy cleanup and recovery costs.

“This is great news for New Jersey and something we’ve been aggressively working to achieve over the last eight months,” said Governor Christie. “This increased funding from the federal government will go a long way as our residents and communities continue rebuilding from Sandy. I am grateful for the continued bipartisan cooperation from the White House and our congressional delegation, and will continue working across the aisle with leaders on all levels of government until our state is fully restored.”

The increase in federal funding allows FEMA to reimburse state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations 90 percent of eligible costs of emergency expenses, debris removal and infrastructure repair. The remaining ten percent is provided by non-federal funds. FEMA generally reimburses state and local governments for 75 percent of costs incurred while responding to a natural disaster.

After Superstorm Sandy struck, President Obama authorized 100 percent federal funding for 15 days for emergency power restoration assistance and emergency public transportation assistance, including direct federal assistance, for those areas within New Jersey counties designated for Public Assistance. Under the President’s authorization to increase the cost-share to 90 percent, the federal share for Public Assistance, including direct federal assistance, has been increased to 90 percent of the total eligible costs, except for the assistance previously authorized at 100 percent federal funding.

To date, FEMA has approved more than \$550 million in Public Assistance grants to help New Jersey communities recover and rebuild.

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Transcript From September 21, 2010:

Governor Christie: I'm happy to be able to stand here today after having worked with all of these people who are standing with me today that we've met one of New Jersey's great economic challenges for our future and I know the people who are employed today are grateful and even more importantly for all of you, you know there are going to be people coming behind you, additional people working in our ports, additional people working not only with you but that this industry will continue to remain a vital part of New Jersey's economy and this region's economy now for the foreseeable future with our ability now to repair this bridge and to make sure that commerce continues to move from all over the world right here into New Jersey. So there couldn't be a higher priority for me than to get this done.

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