



## A Shore Thing: Another Great Summer

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As we enter Labor Day weekend, it's worth looking back at how much progress New Jersey has made since Superstorm Sandy came ashore 10 months ago. During his weeklong series of stops up and down the Shore this week, Governor Christie has been clear that things are a lot better than they were last November, though much work remains to be done.

### **PROVIDING THE NECESSARY PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES TO REBUILD:**

Federally-funded programs launched this summer to help homeowners, renters and homebuyers include:

- \$600 million for the Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) program which provides grants to eligible Homeowners of up to \$150,000.
- \$180 million to support a Homeowner Resettlement Program designed to encourage Homeowners to remain in the nine (9) most Sandy-impacted counties.
- \$100 million Elevation Program for eligible homeowners to elevate their primary single-family residences in the nine hardest-hit counties providing up to \$30,000 of reimbursement.
- \$25 million for the Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program, administered through New Jersey's Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, helps eligible applicants buy a home in Sandy-affected communities by reducing the purchase price of a home.
- More than \$44 million in Disaster Recovery Essential Services Grants that are helping the hardest-hit communities across the state provide critical services as they rebuild from Superstorm Sandy. The grants are used to fund police, public works, education and emergency first aid squads.
- \$379 million to help create affordable rental units and assist with repairs.
- \$300 million buyout program to purchase homes in flood-prone areas from willing sellers, taking people out of harm's way and creating land to mitigate future flooding. To date, more than \$41 million has been awarded to homeowners in South River and Sayreville through the program.

### **KEEPING OUR WATER AND BEACHES CLEAN:**

In the aftermath of Sandy, the Department of Environmental Protection coordinated one of the largest and most complex disaster cleanups ever undertaken, removing approximately eight million cubic yards of debris from roadways and more than 80,000 cubic yards of debris from New Jersey's waterways.

### **CLEARING TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS:**

In July, The Christie Administration officially broke ground on the \$265 million construction project to rebuild Route 35, the gateway to many of the barrier islands that make up the Jersey Shore:

- Heavily damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Route 35 runs through nine municipalities along the Barnegat Peninsula;

- Sandy carried away entire sections of the highway and completely destroyed the highway drainage system;
- The Federal Highway Administration has committed to pay 80 percent of the cost of the project from its Sandy Emergency Relief funds; and
- During the immediate clean-up, 80 sink holes were repaired, 1,100 traffic signals fixed and 1,250 traffic signs erected across New Jersey.

### **PROMOTING TOURISM AND HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES:**

New Jersey's Economic Development Authority has launched three Stronger NJ Business programs to support the recovery of New Jersey's businesses and communities, especially tourism regions impacted by Sandy:

- The \$260 million Stronger NJ Business Grant Program is available to help small businesses and non-profits that have been damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Under this program, grants and forgivable loans of up to \$50,000 per impacted location are available.
- The \$100 million Stronger NJ Business Loan Program is available to help small businesses and non-profits that were impacted by Superstorm Sandy, as well as businesses looking to expand within storm-impacted communities. Low-cost loans up to \$5 million per eligible location are available for renovation, new construction, or equipment. Loans up to \$500,000 are available to support working capital needs for eligible businesses.
- Beginning September 4, the Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization Program will offer financial assistance to support 1) development and public improvement projects; 2) main street revitalization; and, 3) Community Development Financial Institutions providing loans to small businesses.

## ***By The Numbers: A Summer Down The Shore***

<b>Nearly \$40,000,000,000</b>	Tourism revenue generated In New Jersey.
<b>\$5,570,000,000</b>	Total Federal assistance to New Jersey.
<b>\$1,829,520,000</b>	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
<b>\$1,000,000,000</b>	Federal money set aside for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection Projects.
<b>\$817,700,000</b>	SBA Disaster Loans approved for homeowners, renters and businesses.
<b>\$38,000,000</b>	Financial commitments to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund.
<b>\$2,660,000</b>	Funds approved by the Stronger New Jersey Business Grants.
<b>500,000</b>	Jobs supported by New Jersey's tourism economy
<b>126,953</b>	Housing inspections completed.
<b>96%</b>	Total insured claims closed including: homeowners, commercial property, personal auto, commercial auto, and business interruption, and others.
<b>90%</b>	Federal cost-share for projects funded by FEMA's Public Assistance grant program.
<b>51</b>	Stronger New Jersey Business Grants approved.
<b>50</b>	Years that Barnacle Bill's Amusements has been welcoming patrons to their

arcade

19

Days down the shore for Governor Christie since May 1<sup>st</sup>

13

Autographs caught on [camera](#)

1

Record for [World's Longest Ribbon Cutting](#)

# *Still Only **1** Jersey Shore*

