



Second Summer After Sandy

The Christie Administration Continues To Build On The Successes Of Last Summer And Make Steady Progress To Deliver Assistance To Homeowners, Businesses, And Communities on the Jersey Shore

"It Is Still Our Goal To Make Sure That This Year, This Summer Is Better Than Last Summer Was...Our Shore Is Returned For Our Tourists Who Come Here From All Over The World To Enjoy The Beautiful New Jersey Shore."

– Governor Chris Christie, Seaside Heights Boardwalk Tour, April 25, 2014

More Than \$1.23 Billion of \$1.83 Billion In Federal Disaster Recovery Money From CDBG Round 1 Assistance Is Out The Door Or In The Pipeline Right Now.

- Over The Past 19 Months, New Jersey Has Stood Up Over 50 Programs And Initiatives To Address Needs Across All Recovery Sectors – Homeowners and Renters, Businesses, Communities, and Infrastructure.

The Christie Administration Anticipates HUD Approval of \$1.46 Billion in Round 2 Funding Shortly and Remains Fully Committed to Delivering Relief as Quickly as Possible to Homeowners Who Still Need Help.

PUTTING NEW JERSEYANS BACK IN THEIR HOMES

The Christie Administration has launched 17 CDBG Disaster Recovery programs at an unprecedented pace within the last year to help get the initial \$1.83 billion approved by the Obama Administration out the door. Of those funds, \$1.319 billion was targeted specifically for housing. The priority was putting those with the greatest needs and with the most limited financial resources at the front of the line.

According to FEMA statistics, Sandy severely or majorly damaged more than 40,000 owner-occupied homes. Today, with the first round of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds flowing in New Jersey, approximately 28,000 households have received or are in the process of receiving Sandy assistance, with a focus on getting help to the neediest first:

- More than 5,400 homeowners have been initially approved for grants to repair their homes through the *Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program*.
- 2,700 homeowners have signed RREM grants and 550 homes are in active construction.
- 99 percent of eligible applicants have received their grants through the *Homeowner Resettlement Program*, which provides assistance to storm-affected homeowners to help them to remain in the nine most-impacted Sandy counties. More than \$184 million of the \$215 million set aside for the program has been disbursed.
- 6,781 families (15,411 individuals) affected by Sandy have received assistance through The Sandy Working Families Living Expenses Voucher Program also known as SHRAP, a program funded by federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds.
 - \$38.2 million of the initial \$57 million allocation has been disbursed to help Sandy victims pay rent, mortgage or utility bills or replace essential household items.
 - Of that total, \$33.1 million was disbursed to benefit over 12,600 residents in just three counties: Ocean, Monmouth and Bergen.
 - The State has committed an additional \$47 million in SSBG funds to the SHRAP program.
- For the second round of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, the Christie Administration is proposing to allocate \$390 million for the *RREM Program*. The additional funding would be added to the \$710 million provided in the first round and would enable approximately 3,000 eligible homeowners to move off of the program's waitlist and begin the grant process.
- The proposed plan for the second round of funds would also provide \$100 million for the *Blue Acres* program to purchase flood-prone homes and \$40 million for the new *LMI Homeowners Rebuilding Program* to focus exclusively on low- to moderate-income families who did not previously apply to the RREM Program.

PUTTING LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES FIRST

- More than 400 units of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households have been approved through the *Landlord Incentive Program*;
- More than \$24 million has been approved in interest-free, forgivable mortgages to help low- and moderate-income people buy homes in Sandy-affected communities through the *Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program*;
- More than \$25 million in zero-interest loans have been approved to provide 170 affordable housing units in Sandy-impacted communities through the *Neighborhood Enhancement Program*;
- \$5.65 million has been provided to non-profit affordable housing developers for the revitalization of Sandy-affected areas through the *Predevelopment Loan Fund For Affordable Rental Housing*;
- More than \$162 million has been committed to repair and construct affordable multi-family rental housing units through the *Fund For Restoration Of Multi-Family Housing*.
- For the second round of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, the Christie Administration is proposing to spend \$775 million on housing assistance programs, of which \$490 million is projected to assist low- to moderate-income families. The plan calls for:
 - \$200 million for the *Fund for Restoration of Multi-Family Housing*. The funding would be added to the \$179 million allocated to the program in the first round. To date, funding has been committed to 36 affordable

housing projects to create nearly 2,500 housing units for low- to moderate-income residents.

- \$25 million for the Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund to help develop permanent supportive affordable housing for special needs populations. The funding would be added to the \$25 million provided to the program in the first round. To date, funding has been committed to 15 projects to create affordable housing opportunities for more than 190 residents with special needs.
- \$20 million for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program to help stabilize neighborhoods in the nine most-impacted counties that were previously struggling under the burden of abandoned, foreclosed and vacant properties. The funding would be added to the \$30 million provided to the program in the first round.

HELPING NEW JERSEY'S BUSINESSES

In support of the state's long-term economic recovery from Superstorm Sandy, the Christie Administration has approved more than 500 impacted businesses for grants and loans totaling \$53.7 million in federal disaster relief funds.

- To date, 475 businesses have been approved for grants totaling more than \$23.1 million from the *Stronger NJ Business Grant Program*. The program offers eligible businesses grants of up to \$50,000 for Sandy-related business losses.
- 35 businesses have received loans totaling over \$30.6 million from the Stronger NJ Business Loan Program.
- The Economic Development Authority board has approved \$17.5 million under the Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization program:
 - EDA has recommended the approval of 11 municipalities for \$10 million in Streetscape grants under the Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program, and
 - Provided \$2.5 million in grants to five Community Development Financial Institutions offering recovery loans to Sandy-impacted small businesses.
 - \$5 million has been approved for demolition and debris removal in Seaside.

PREPARING NEW JERSEY FOR FUTURE STORMS

As part of New Jersey's long-term recovery strategy, the Christie Administration is committed to building back New Jersey stronger and smarter to better withstand future storms.

- 364 buyout offers have been made to homeowners in flood-prone areas. So far, 196 offers have been accepted, and the Department of Environmental Protection has closed on 95 of those properties in South River and Sayreville through the Blue Acres program. The DEP has targeted 1,000 properties for the voluntary buyout program.
- 138 awards have been made in 28 communities to assist homeowners to elevate their primary single-family residences through the *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Elevation Program*. These elevations will help protect against future storms and flooding, while also stabilizing insurance rates by mitigating risk. The \$100 million program is expected to help 2,700 people elevate their homes. More than 800 elevation applications are currently pending with FEMA.

RESTORING OUR ROADS, BEACHES AND ICONIC BOARDWALKS

New Jersey's Waterways Are Clean and its Boardwalks are Open

- 175 ocean and 43 bay stations are monitored for recreational beach water quality.

Reconstruction of Route 35

Sandy carried away entire sections of Route 35 and completely destroyed the highway drainage system. In July 2013, 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.

- The interchange between Route 37 and Route 35, which is the main access point onto the peninsula, is being reconstructed and is expected to be complete the week of May 26.
- Construction will halt for the holiday weekend, leaving nearly all travel lanes in the 12.5-mile long reconstruction project available from 6 a.m. Friday, May 23 through noon, Tuesday, May 27.
- The Department will not be able to restore the normal complement of two Route 35 southbound travel lanes in the middle section of the project this coming weekend. Motorists will have a single lane available to them from Curtis Point Drive in Brick to Strickland Avenue in Toms River.

Route 35 will be completely rebuilt. The new stone-and-asphalt roadway will be two feet thick, providing a more stable road and smoother driving surface. A new storm-water drainage system for Route 35 has been designed to handle 25-year storms and will feature nine pump stations and treatment facilities to filter and purify the storm water prior to discharge into Barnegat Bay. The Federal Highway Administration has committed to pay 80 percent of the cost of the project from its Sandy Emergency Relief funds.

HELPING NEW JERSEYANS CUT THROUGH INSURANCE RED TAPE

- Over 99 percent of the 469,855 non-flood, state-regulated private insurance claims, totaling close to \$4.2 billion, filed for homes, businesses and automobiles after Sandy have been closed;
- More than \$3.8 billion in flood insurance settlements have been paid to New Jersey residents and businesses, after the Christie Administration pressed federal leadership from the Flood Insurance and Mitigation Administration to pay out;
- 67.3 percent – or 427 of 634 mediation sessions held – have been settled as part of the Christie Administration's mediation program to help residents cut through red tape.