

Third Summer After Sandy

At The Start Of The Summer Season, The Christie Administration Looks To Build On The Progress Made Last Summer With Continued Efforts To Deliver Recovery Resources To Communities Impacted By Sandy

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER START AT THE SHORE

Today Governor Christie kicks off another summer at the Jersey Shore with stops in Belmar and Point Pleasant highlighting the significant progress that's been made through the Administration's work since Superstorm Sandy. For the second year in a row, all boardwalks and beaches along the shore are open for business. With the first weekend of Summer 2015 already in the books, the Christie Administration is committed to building on the tourism success of last year.

- In 2014, New Jersey saw a record-breaking \$42.1 billion generated by tourism-related demand, a 3.8 percent increase over 2013.
- Visitation in New Jersey also rose to 93.2 million in 2014, a 4.4 percent increase compared to 2013.
- Favorable weather helped to drive strong growth in bed tax receipts for the shore counties in the summer months, approaching 10% above year-ago levels.

Over the past two and a half years, the Christie Administration has worked to deliver assistance to residents, businesses and communities at the Jersey Shore as they build back stronger and more resilient to withstand future storms. As part of this continued effort, Governor Christie announced that Belmar is one of the first municipalities to receive funding from the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Flood Hazard Risk Reduction grant program.

- The nearly \$6.2 million grant is for the construction of a discharge piping system for Lake Como, which regularly floods significant portions of the borough during storms.
- The Flood Hazard Risk Reduction program is funded by a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program to help municipalities pay for critical storm resiliency projects.
- Little Ferry and Brigantine also are receiving funding. Brigantine is receiving \$1.4 million for construction of three pump stations to protect roadways that are part of evacuation routes; Little Ferry is receiving nearly \$653,000 for upgrades to a tide gate and pump station for this low-lying area along the Hackensack River.

REBUILDING A STRONGER JERSEY SHORE

Over \$1 Billion In Housing Assistance Out The Door Or In The Pipeline:

Two and a half years after Superstorm Sandy struck New Jersey, thousands of families across the state are making progress towards rebuilding and returning to their homes with the assistance of federal grants administered by the Christie Administration.

- Today, more than ***\$1.3 Billion*** in federal housing assistance is out the door or in the pipeline to Sandy-impacted families.
- Approximately 8,300 homeowners are actively participating in the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program to repair their homes;
 - Of the 6,900 homeowners who already signed a grant award ***6,700 are in the construction process*** from pulling permits and repairing damage to elevating structures and obtaining temporary and final certificates of occupancy.
 - More than \$500 million has been disbursed to homeowners, meaning nearly half of all the dollars expected to be disbursed in the RREM Program have made it to homeowners.
- With a third round of federal CDBG funds approved in April 2015, the State expects to award grants to ***all eligible homeowners currently participating in RREM.***
- New Jersey has committed funds to create more than 5,700 affordable housing units using Sandy dollars to replenish housing stock damaged or destroyed by the storm.

Giving Homeowners The Option To Sell Sandy-Damaged Property:

Through New Jersey's Blue Acres Program, the Christie Administration is giving homeowners the option of selling their properties damaged by Superstorm Sandy in tidal areas of New Jersey. The program is designed to give homeowners the ability to choose the best option for their individual situation.

- ***673*** voluntary buyout offers have been made, and 468 willing sellers have accepted.
- The State has been evaluating more than 1,000 homes in repetitive flooding communities and over ***716*** applicants have already been approved in 10 municipalities across six counties.
 - ***So far, 309 homes have been purchased.***
 - 207 homes have been demolished.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has approved more than \$100 million in federal funds for the Blue Acres program, which have been processed through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

Assisting Individuals With Storm Related Expenses:

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

Homeowner Resettlement Program	Nearly \$186 million To 18,589 Households
Sandy Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP)	\$98.5 million To More Than 11,000 Households
Rental Assistance Program	\$9.5 million

- 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.
- 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.

HELPING NEW JERSEY'S BUSINESSES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET

The Christie Administration has remained committed to helping the businesses in New Jersey affected by Superstorm Sandy get back on their feet.

- The New Jersey Economic Development Authority has awarded **\$170 million** to support small businesses and communities through the Stronger NJ Business programs.
 - More than \$105 million in recovery grants and loans has been approved for over 1,100 small businesses since the Stronger NJ Business Grant and Loan programs launched in May and July of 2013 respectively.
 - Under the Stronger NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization Program, which provides funding for long-term economic revitalization priorities in Sandy-impacted communities, \$65 million has been approved to date.

Cutting Through Insurance Red Tape:

One of the biggest frustrations many New Jerseyans have faced throughout the recovery process is delays and hassles over their claims with private insurance companies. The Christie Administration has fought for residents to cut red tape and speed up the process to get residents the help they need.

- **Over 99 Percent** of the 472,242 non-flood, state-regulated private insurance claims filed for homes, businesses and automobiles after Sandy have been closed with payments totaling more than \$4.41 billion to New Jersey policy holders.
- **Almost \$3.9 billion** in flood insurance settlements have been paid to New Jersey residents and businesses.

HELPING COMMUNITIES COPE WITH STORM EXPENSES AND IMPACTS

FEMA Community Disaster Loan Program: Provides funds to eligible communities to assist with governmental functions. To date over \$102 million in loans 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. Nearly \$88M in Essential Services Grant awards have been approved for 14 local governmental entities in the first and second rounds of the program. The local governments include Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Brick, Brigantine, Keansburg, Lavallette, Little Egg Harbor, Ocean County, Pinelands Regional, Sea Bright, Seaside Heights, Seaside Park, Toms River Township, and the Toms River Board of Education. A third round of Essential Services grants will be awarded later this year.

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: Assists Sandy-impacted local governments plan rebuilding efforts that promote resilience and encourage economic growth. Planning grants for 50 local governments have been approved, with approximately \$6 million in grants awarded.

Zoning And Code Enforcement Support: Helps local governments respond to the 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, Lavallette, Little Egg Harbor, Seaside Park, Toms River, and Union Beach.

PREPARING NEW JERSEY FOR FUTURE STORMS

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.

Strengthening Communities Against Flooding:

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.

- The Army Corps completed the repair and restoration of 21 miles of previously constructed beaches along the Monmouth County coastline at a cost of \$345 million. Approximately 8 million cubic yards of sand was replaced to restore beaches from Sandy Hook to Manasquan to their original design standard.
- DEP is working with the Army Corps to build 11 new coastal and flood protection projects statewide. These projects, which will cost more than \$1 billion, will help create an engineered, comprehensive shore protection system along the Atlantic coast, while also bolstering protections on the Delaware Bay coast, Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay and tidal portions of the South River and the Passaic River.
- The Army Corps and DEP also are advancing studies of other flood-prone areas throughout the State, including South River, Leonardo, Shrewsbury River and the Highlands.

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.

- The massive flood control project – funded by federal, state and local contributions – will consist of construction of levees, floodwalls, tide gates and pump stations.
- The project will also rebuild beaches, dunes, and groins, which are jetty-like structures that are designed to slow loss of sand from beaches.
- In addition, more than 25 acres of degraded wetlands will be restored to help better absorb flood waters.

Easements To Ensure Shore Protection: Through an aggressive easement acquisition strategy, the State has now obtained more than 80 percent of the property easements needed to enable construction of shore protection and flood mitigation projects along the State's 127 miles of shoreline. The Army Corps has signed off on all major Shore protection projects and construction on three of those projects will begin this month.

Flood Hazard Risk Reduction: As part of the rebuilding process, the State has prioritized projects that will reduce the risk of flooding from future storm events. Completed and ongoing projects across the State include:

- [Sea Bright Sea Wall](#)
- [Mantoloking and Brick Steel Sheet Piling](#)
- [Coastal Resiliency Projects](#)

- Reusing Dredged Material to Restore Salt Marshes and Protect Communities
- Building Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards
- Enhancing Liberty State Park's Marshes and Upland Habitats
- [Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Projects Along The Hackensack & Hudson Rivers](#)
- [Local Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program](#)

Hardening The State's Critical Infrastructure:

FEMA Public Assistance: The Public Assistance program provides grants to address storm-related repairs, but also allows an applicant to seek funding to incorporate mitigation measures into a repair project. The State has successfully incorporated this mitigation funding into 87 percent of all large projects (i.e., projects over \$500,000) funded by the program -- an unprecedented figure.

New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank: As part of the Christie Administration's continuing efforts to minimize the impact of future major power outages and increase energy resiliency, the State established New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank (ERB), the first public infrastructure bank in the nation to focus on energy resilience. Using \$200 million of CDBG funds, the ERB will support the development of distributed energy resources at critical facilities throughout the State. This builds on other initiatives the State launched after Sandy to enhance energy resilience at critical facilities.

NJ TRANSIT: In 2014, NJ TRANSIT was awarded \$1.276 billion in federal resources to fund five projects designed to strengthen the agency's infrastructure. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded the grants as part of a highly competitive regional competition that included 13 states vying for \$3 billion in total available funding. Projects to better safeguard this critical component of New Jersey's infrastructure include:

- [NJ TRANSITGRID](#)
- [Raritan River Drawbridge Replacement](#)
- [Hoboken Long Slip Flood Protection](#)
- [Train Storage And Service Restoration Project](#)
- [Train Control & Communication Resiliency Project](#)

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 \$341 million construction project to rebuild Route 35, the gateway to many of the barrier islands that make up the Jersey Shore. All lanes on Route 35 will be open and available this summer as the reconstruction project nears completion.

Wastewater Treatment: To address the impacts of Sandy on water and wastewater infrastructure, the State focused efforts to leverage funding for these critical facilities around New Jersey. Last summer, New Jersey received a \$260 million Public Assistance grant to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), *the largest mitigation grant FEMA* has ever issued through the Public Assistance Program. Funding will be used to build a comprehensive flood protection system at the wastewater treatment facility in Newark and incorporate microgrid technology to allow the facility to continue to operate when the larger electric grid fails.

Liquid Fuels Grant Program: To address the liquid fuel shortages experienced during Sandy, the State established a \$7 million initiative whereby targeted retail fuel stations along key evacuation routes across New Jersey will receive grants for backup generators or quick connect devices that allow the station to quickly connect to a portable generator.