



## Rebuilding The Shore Board By Board

*Governor Christie Is Committed To Rebuilding The Jersey Shore And Restoring Its Iconic Communities*

Governor Christie is committed to rebuilding New Jersey and the Jersey Shore in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. As a major tourism destination for people across the country, it is essential to the economic vitality of our state. Through Administration efforts, the Jersey Shore will be rebuilt and enjoyed by generations to come.

### **Rebuilding Our Boardwalks:**

Many of New Jersey's iconic boardwalks were damaged or destroyed by Sandy. Each boardwalk is an integral part of its community's character and essential to its economic vitality. Governor Christie is committed to making sure they are rebuilt in a timely and efficient manner so they can be enjoyed by New Jerseyans this summer.

- Just this Saturday, the boardwalk in Asbury Park was officially re-opened after sustaining more than \$3 million in damage;
- Spring Lake and Seaside Park boardwalks—both badly damaged by Sandy—are open;
- The boardwalk in Lavallette reopens today;
- Boardwalks in Avon, Belmar, Bradley Beach, Point Pleasant, Seaside Heights and the pavilion in Monmouth Beach are all reopening this week.

### **Putting New Jerseyans Back To Work:**

Administration efforts to put New Jerseyans back to work to rebuild the Shore are helping Sandy-impacted businesses and workers, as well as investing in future economic growth:

- The Christie Administration has secured a \$15.6 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) to hire workers to repair town beachfront areas:
  - To date, these funds have placed more than 775 unemployed New Jersey residents into temporary jobs in 16 counties helping towns, counties and state agencies in sorely needed clean-up and repair efforts. This includes 25 workers, 11 of whom are veterans, hired by the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, to clean up and repair the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt.
- The Administration has launched a Hire New Jersey recovery plan, making \$26 million available in employer-focused grants designed to help businesses and job-seekers overcome the setbacks brought on by Super Storm Sandy. More than \$15 million of those funds have been made available to date.
- The Administration has created two new Talent Networks: a Sandy Recovery Talent Network and a Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network:
  - The Sandy Recovery Network will allow employers to report the hurdles, needs and demands they face in trying to rebuild and hire new workers;

- The Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network will represent a key industry cluster in New Jersey that, before the storm, accounted for about 24 percent of all private sector workers and paid more than \$20 billion in annual wages.
- The Administration secured federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance, a unique benefit that helped the self-employed in New Jersey who are not normally eligible for unemployment insurance—the men and women who lost their businesses and livelihoods in the storm or who were temporarily unable to conduct their normal course of business. Nearly 3,500 people have taken advantage of that assistance.

### **Helping Small Businesses Get Back On Their Feet:**

Governor Christie announced the implementation of a business impact assessment for small businesses affected by Super Storm Sandy. The survey, created in partnership with statewide business groups, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA), the State Chamber of Commerce, Commerce and Industry Association of NJ (CIANJ) and National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) will help inform the Administration and industry leaders about the most pressing needs of those small businesses affected by Super Storm Sandy.

In the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, the Christie Administration has worked expeditiously to get programs and direct assistance to small businesses. More than \$756 million in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans have been approved, representing more than 11,480 low interest loans going to homeowners, renters and businesses to aid in their recovery.

### **Recovery Assistance Services For New Jersey Businesses:**

To support the recovery of New Jersey's businesses and protect the overall economic interests of New Jersey in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, the Christie Administration announced a series of business assistance services for those affected by the storm:

- Grants of up to \$50,000 through the Stronger NJ Business Grant program, the first of several business recovery initiatives to be launched utilizing the \$460 million set aside for impacted businesses through New Jersey's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Action Plan.
  - For questions about the grant program or the application process, call 1-855-SANDY-BZ or email [strongernjbusiness@njeda.com](mailto:strongernjbusiness@njeda.com)
- Financing to boost the lending capacity of Community Development Financial Institutions supporting impacted businesses, including New Jersey Community Capital's REBUILD New Jersey Loan Fund.

In addition, the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC) proactively reached out to business constituents and organizations throughout the state:

- A series of conference calls were organized in the first month which reached over 1,700 participants. The conference calls were designed to provide stakeholders in New Jersey's business community with real-time direction and assistance, including fact sheets on loans and office resources for displaced businesses;
- E-mail blasts with resource updates were sent to 270 economic development stakeholder organizations with up-to-date information on sources for support and aid. Also, the state's business portal was constantly updated to provide links to Sandy-related information;
- BAC staff developed and fully coordinated the Governor's Business Impact Survey, which was distributed statewide in partnership with the New Jersey Business Association (NJBIA), the State Chamber of Commerce, the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and the National Federation of Independent Businesses ((NFIB). The Survey was distributed to businesses in Belmar, Sea Bright, Stafford and North Middleton and garnered 1,754 responses;

- BAC staff manned phones in the early days following the storm and ultimately processed 7,000 intake calls from prospective volunteers from around the state, region and nation. This information was provided to the NJ Office of Volunteerism which then identified potential locations for volunteer service.

### **Expediting Storm-Related Insurance Claims And Disputes:**

Taking further action to help New Jersey residents rebuild and restore their properties after Super Storm Sandy, Governor Chris Christie has requested changes to provide for a swifter and fairer conclusion of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims process for residents:

- The Department of Banking and Insurance will issue an order requiring state regulated insurance companies to respond to the Department within five business days when a consumer files a request for assistance;
- Governor Christie is requesting assistance from New Jersey's Congressional delegation to break down barriers for residents who have not been promptly compensated by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):
  - Approximately 453,741 insurance claims, including those related to homeowners, commercial property, personal and commercial auto and business interruption have been filed in the State related to Super Storm Sandy;
  - Roughly 483,002 of those claims, 93 percent, have been closed, or settled;
  - 78 percent of the flood claims have been closed.