

HURRICANE SANDY REBUILDING STRATEGY

Progress Update — Program Management Office (PMO)



Spring 2014



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BACKGROUND

On August 19, 2013, the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force released its [Rebuilding Strategy](#) for the Sandy impacted region. The Rebuilding Strategy included a long-term plan for rebuilding that guides Sandy Supplemental spending to drive regional coordination and make communities more resilient to future disasters. The Rebuilding Strategy also aligns federal, state and local policies to achieve seven goals that are important to the long-term rebuilding of the region in the most economically efficient, ecologically robust and innovative ways possible. These goals are:

- Promoting Resilient Rebuilding through Innovative Ideas and a Thorough Understanding of Current and Future Risk
- Ensuring a Regionally Coordinated, Resilient Approach to Infrastructure Investment
- Restoring and Strengthening Homes and Providing Families with Safe, Affordable Housing Options
- Supporting Small Businesses and Revitalizing Local Economies
- Addressing Insurance Challenges, Understanding, and Affordability
- Building State and Local Capacity to Plan for and Implement Long-Term Recovery and Rebuilding
- Improving Data Sharing Between Federal, State, and Local Officials

The Rebuilding Strategy identified 69 specific recommendations across these broad goals as well as specific member agencies¹ to lead the implementation of each of them. Since the publication of the Rebuilding Strategy, these agencies have continued to work closely together to move the recommendations forward and deliver on their commitments to the region and the President.

This report includes an update on the internal efforts to improve data sharing and accountability through the Sandy Program Management Office (PMO). This report is one section of a larger report that includes each of the seven Rebuilding Strategy goals and the PMO; recommendations are grouped according to these goals. This shorter report includes background information from the original Rebuilding Strategy, identifies the relevant leading agencies¹, and includes brief updates on highlighted areas of progress made since the publication of the Rebuilding Strategy through the spring of 2014. Additional Rebuilding Strategy goal reports can be downloaded individually or can all be downloaded in the full report. A full list of the Rebuilding Strategy recommendations is included in the full report as an appendix to the report. To learn more about the Task Force or the Sandy Supplemental, to read the original Rebuilding Strategy, or to see the status of the Sandy Supplemental funding, please visit the following websites:

¹ While the Rebuilding Strategy identified specific agencies (such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development) to lead implementation, in some cases these leads have changed, or more specific subcomponents of or offices within an agency (such as the Office of Community Planning and Development) have been identified. Further, for some recommendations, the Rebuilding Strategy also identified contributing or supporting agencies. This progress report reflects the latest lead agencies only, and does not include contributing agencies, which in some cases have played a significant role to support implementation.

- Executive Order 13632, establishing the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/DCPD-201200936/pdf/DCPD-201200936.pdf>
- Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, or “Sandy Supplemental,” which provided \$50 billion in disaster relief funding to Federal agencies: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-113publ2/pdf/PLAW-113publ2.pdf>
- The Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy, published by the Task Force on August 19, 2013: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=HSRebuildingStrategy.pdf>
- Recovery.gov Hurricane Sandy maps, for the latest status of Sandy Supplemental funds by state: <http://www.recovery.gov/Sandy/wherethemoneygoing/maps/Pages/HudPmo.aspx>

DATA SHARING AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH THE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)

The Program Management Office (PMO) provides a concrete example of the ways in which open and transparent data sharing practices between agencies can encourage smarter and more effective decision making in recovery and rebuilding efforts. The size, complexity, and urgency of the funding for Hurricane Sandy recovery made it clear -- even before the Sandy Supplemental was enacted -- that the Task Force needed a central coordinating office that would work closely with agencies, OMB, and the oversight community, such as the agency Inspectors General and the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (RATB). PMO was also established to leverage lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, as well as best practices from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Lead Agencies

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Progress Update

Since the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and its Program Management Office (PMO) disbanded on time and under budget on September 30, 2013, the PMO function has successfully continued through the Sandy PMO within HUD. In partnership with FEMA, the Sandy PMO has completed its two recommendations.

The Sandy PMO continued and expanded upon the role of the Task Force PMO, by growing its monitoring system beyond the supplemental funding and performance data to include implementation tracking for the 69 recommendations of the Rebuilding Strategy. The Sandy PMO has also organized and provided data for three Sandy Principals' meetings, co-chaired by the Secretaries of HUD and the FEMA Administrator, ensuring continued cabinet-level engagement in this important work, even after the sunset of the Task Force.

The PMO has partnered with the RATB to improve transparency of the supplemental funding by providing [regular data to the public](#) in the form of maps and downloadable files. Finally, the PMO created a new resource for federal agencies - a PMO Toolkit - which documents and compiles key lessons, tools, and tips for the development of a PMO so that they may be replicated in the event of a future disaster, or in response to other large, cross-agency Supplemental appropriations.

The PMO has ensured that longer-term recovery continues by monitoring implementation of the Sandy recommendations and the Sandy Supplemental funding progress by supporting cabinet-level engagement through quarterly Principals meetings.

What this means for communities

The PMO provides **transparency for the public on the progress of recovery**, and **accountability for Federal agency partners**, by providing detailed information on the progress of the Supplemental funding, and quarterly reports on the implementation of the Rebuilding Strategy recommendations.

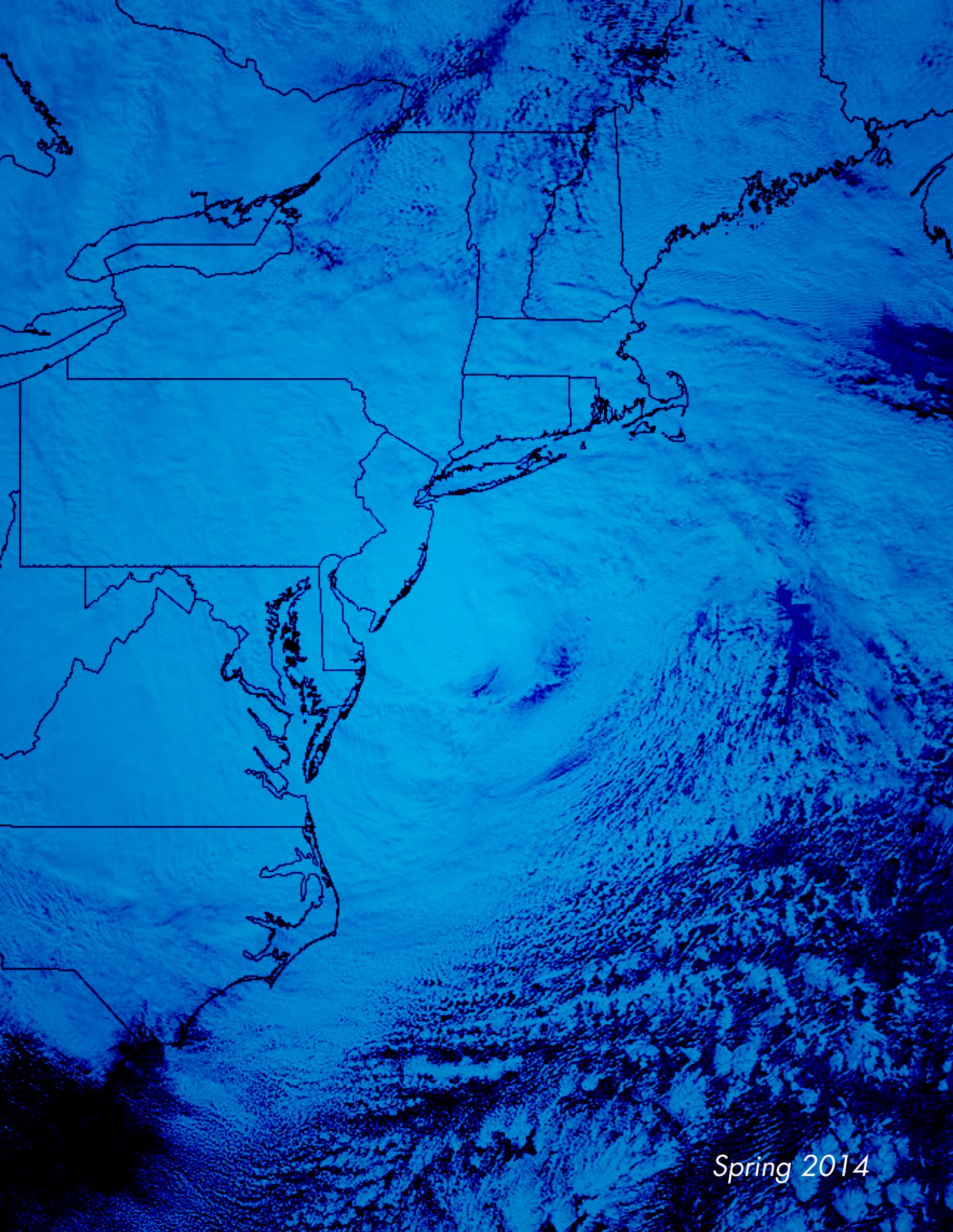
For More Information

- State level Sandy Supplemental Financial Data: <http://www.recovery.gov/Sandy/whereisthemoneygoing/maps/Pages/HudPmo.aspx>

PMO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HURRICANE SANDY REBUILDING STRATEGY

Program Management Office (PMO): Data Sharing and Accountability

1. Continue functions of PMO to track the progress of the Sandy supplemental funding and performance.
2. Document the functions and processes used by the Task Force recovery in a “PMO toolkit” which could be quickly deployed in the event of future supplemental funding.



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