

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

Rebuilding Strategy Briefing

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12 September 2013

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Agenda

- **Policy Process for Strategy**
- The Final Strategy and Recommendations
- Recommendation Deep Dive
- Implementation and Succession
- Questions

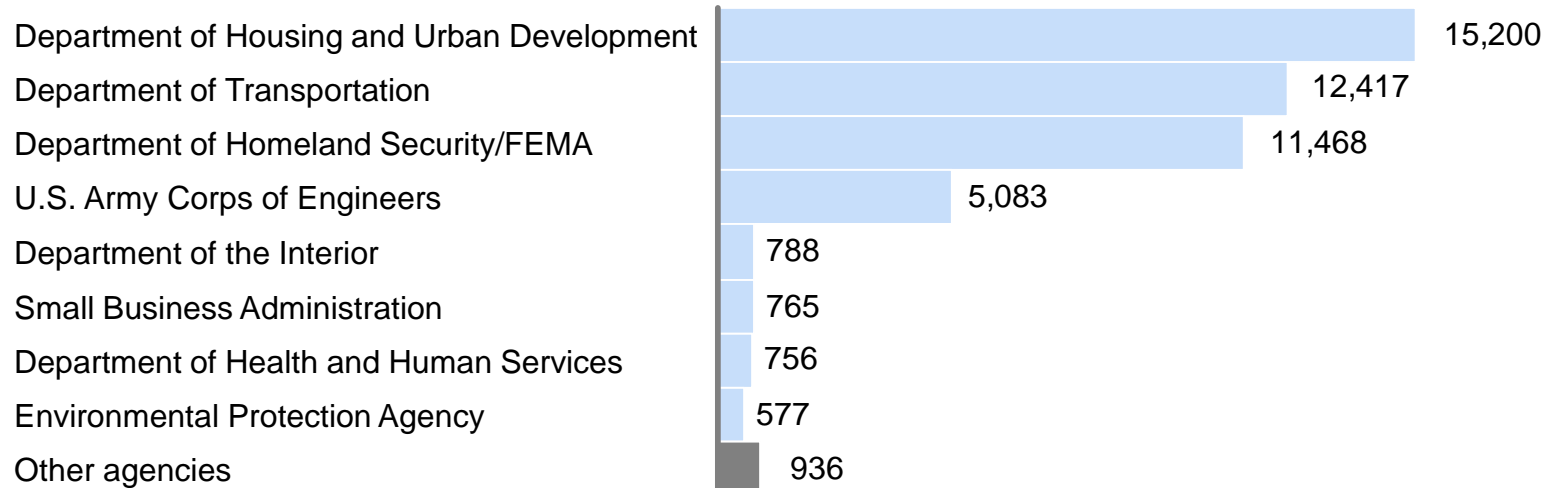
Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force was established to support federal, state, and local officials to rebuild stronger, safer, and more resilient communities

Establishment

- Created by **Executive Order 13632 on December 7, 2012** to supplement FEMA's recovery efforts in the region
- Chaired by Secretary **Shaun Donovan of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**; members consist the heads of **23 federal departments, agencies, and White House offices**
- States that a truly **coordinated effort requires Cabinet level attention**
- Seeks "to **ensure that the Federal Government continues to provide appropriate resources** to support affected State, local, and tribal communities to improve the region's resilience, health, and prosperity by building for the future"*
- Coordinates the **federal investment of \$60 billion** appropriated by Congress for the region impacted by Hurricane Sandy

Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Sandy Supplemental) ~\$48B net of sequester

Breakdown of recovery spend amounts (top-8 agencies)
\$ Millions



Spend for all other agencies

\$ Millions

Department of Commerce	308	NASA	14
Department of Veterans Affairs	236	General Services Administration	7
Department of Agriculture	217	Smithsonian Institution	2
Department of Defense	104	Social Security Administration	2
Department of Labor	24	Legal Services Corporation	1
Department of Justice	20		

Task Force had a DC and regional presence to effectively deliver national policy and region-specific rebuilding recommendations

Structure

- Consisted of **heads of each of a series of executive departments, agencies, and offices**, or their designated representatives
- Worked closely with FEMA and within the **National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)**
- Staffed by **Washington DC-based team** of policy advisors (including agency detailees), communications, legislative affairs, other support staff and **State based teams**
- **Advisory Group** - comprised of state, local, and tribal elected officials from the most impacted jurisdictions to advise the Task Force and ensure that the rebuilding and recovery effort reflected the input of the those communities.
 - Three in-person meetings (NY, NJ, DC)
 - 8 policy calls
 - Joined Task Force team for visits to affected communities

Deliverables by August 2013

- **Long-term rebuilding recommendations** informed by an assessment of current vulnerabilities to extreme weather events and seek to mitigate future risks
- **Signature policy initiatives**
- **Plan for monitoring progress** and **providing transparency** on how funds are spent
- Recommendations on **Federal framework for disaster recovery**
 - Recommendations will include **inputs from the NDRF and state and local plans**

Policy Process: Engaging stakeholders

Agencies and local electeds have contributed to the recommendations:

- **Policy Development:** Task Force *designees* from each agency worked directly on informing and shaping the policy recommendations, through formal meetings and smaller working group sessions.
- **Local input:** Per the Executive Order, the Task Force assembled an *Advisory Group* comprised of executive elected officials to provide feedback on the recovery process and input on the overall strategy.
 - 3 in-person meetings in NY, NJ, and DC
 - Series of policy rollout briefings for Advisory Group members via conference calls.
- **Strategy Review:** Task Force *designees* and *agencies* reviewed informal drafts of the Strategy, and then provided formal comment through formal interagency review.

Briefing key external stakeholders before release:

- **Briefing calls:** In advance of the release of the strategy document, the Task Force identified over 500 local and national third-party stakeholders that would be interested and invested in the rebuilding strategy. The Task Force hosted a series of briefing calls that had a total of **over 500 participants** and resulted in **48 statements of support** from local and national validators.

The Policy Process: Congressional Outreach

Congressional Outreach

- Provide regular email updates on policy announcements, trips, and general notifications to list of approx. 200 congressional offices & 400 staff from the 5 states eligible for FEMA individual assistance, Senate & House Appropriations, and any other office that has shown interest on Sandy to the Task Force or any other involved agency.
- Organized member briefings with the New York and New Jersey delegations hosted by Secretary Donovan.
- Held Hill staff briefings hosted by the Task Force Executive Director.
- Organized Task Force trips with congressional delegations from affected states.
- Organized working group of Federal Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs (CIR) counterparts to keep agency partners updated on the work of the Task Force and relevant hearings.

Congressional Briefings & Incoming Requests

- Participated in hearings in front of the Senate HSGAC, House THUD, and other congressional committees.
- Consistently responding to incoming congressional inquiries about policy priorities.
- Briefing calls with individual offices around specific policy initiatives of the Task Force.

Going Forward

- Continue engaging Hill staff list and transfer contacts.
- Keep Federal CIR partners working group active by transferring to another entity at the conclusion of the Task Force.

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The Strategy: The Focus

- Focuses on what will **guide the region's long term recovery**, with an emphasis on **federal actions** that will enable New York, New Jersey, and other affected states **to rebuild resiliently and mitigate** against future disasters.
- **Leverages evidence** developed over the last several months from the Sandy-impacted region to make **recommendations** that will affect **future disasters** across the country.
- Sets forth recommendations that fall into **three categories**:
 1. Recommendations related to the **Sandy supplemental appropriation** and its role in the recovery effort in the region.
 2. Recommendations related to **the recovery effort in the region that are not directly tied to the supplemental appropriation** but will have an impact on the recovery moving forward when/if implemented.
 3. Recommendations related to **recovery efforts in the Sandy region from future storms** or have national policy implications.

The Strategy: Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations
Ensuring a Regionally Coordinated Resilient Approach to Infrastructure Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Providing a forum to coordinate and discuss large-scale, regional infrastructure projects and map the connections and interdependencies between them, saving money and getting better results for all levels of government.▪ Establishing guidelines to ensure those projects are situated and built to withstand the impacts of existing risks and future climate change, in the region, and across the country.▪ Making the electrical grid smarter and more flexible, and protecting the liquid fuel supply chain to better prepare for future storms and other threats.▪ Helping to develop a resilient power strategy for telephone and internet communication systems and equipment, so that our ability to communicate when it's most necessary is less vulnerable to disaster.▪ Assessing the performance and full value of green infrastructure and using natural approaches to addressing the impacts of climate change in our coastal communities.
Promoting Resilient Rebuilding, Based on Current and Future Risk, Through Innovative Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Giving governments and residents the best available data and information on current and future risks to facilitate good decision making for recovery and planning – for example by creating and making widely available a Sea Level Rise planning tool.▪ Leveraging the Rebuild By Design competition to deliver innovative, resilient rebuilding ideas to the Sandy-impacted region.▪ Prioritizing the engagement of vulnerable populations on issues of risk and resilience.

The Strategy: Recommendations cont.

Issue

Recommendations

Providing Families Safe, Affordable Housing Options and Protecting Homeowners

- Helping disaster victims to be able to stay in their homes by allowing homeowners to quickly make emergency repairs.
- Preventing responsible homeowners from being forced out of their homes due to short-term financial hardship while recovering from disaster by creating nationally-consistent mortgage policies.
- Making housing units – both individual and multi-family – more sustainable and resilient through smart recovery steps including elevating above flood risk and increased energy efficiency.
- Communicating to state and local governments, residents, and workers consistent guidance on how to remediate indoor environmental pollutants such as mold.

Supporting Small Businesses and Revitalizing Local Economies

- Making it easier for small businesses to access federal contracts for Hurricane Sandy rebuilding.
- Creating Specialized skills training programs in the areas needed most for Sandy rebuilding including opportunities for low income individuals and other vulnerable populations.
- Developing a one-stop shop online for everything related to small businesses and recovery
- Improving the process for accessing critical disaster recovery loans and other resources; and increasing SBA's unsecured disaster loan limits and expediting the disbursement of small dollar loans.

The Strategy: Recommendations cont.

Issue

Recommendations

Addressing Insurance Challenges, Understanding, and Accessibility

- Encouraging homeowners and other policy-holders to take steps to mitigate future risks, such as elevating their homes and businesses above flood levels, which will not only protect against the next storm but also make their flood insurance premiums more affordable.
- Streamlining payouts to homeowners and other policy-holders in the wake of a disaster.
- Examining ways to address affordability challenges posed by Congressionally-mandated reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Building Local Governments' Capacity to Plan for Long-Term Rebuilding and Prepare for Future Disasters

- Supporting regional planning efforts underway in New York and New Jersey to create and implement locally-created and federally funded strategies for rebuilding and strengthening their communities against future extreme weather.
- Funding Local Disaster Recovery Manager positions in communities in the Sandy-impacted region and taking additional steps to prepare for future disasters.

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Infrastructure Resilience Guidelines

Background

- The Infrastructure Resilience Guidelines are a tool for the federal government to use when investing in infrastructure, with the dual intention of better protecting communities and ensuring wise investment of scarce public resources.
- Guidelines:
 1. Comprehensive Analysis (look forward, not backward)
 2. Transparent and Inclusive Decision Process
 3. Regional Resilience
 4. Long-Term Efficacy and Fiscal Sustainability
 5. Innovative and Environmentally Sustainable Solutions
 6. Targeted Financial Incentives
 7. Development and Attainment of Resilience Performance Standards
- The Task Force has initiated a process by which the Guidelines will ultimately be integrated into all applicable agency regulations and program guidance.
- The Guidelines are consistent with the President's Climate Action Plan.

For Discussion

- Next Steps

Regional Coordination of Infrastructure Projects

Background

- To optimize investments in mitigation and resilience, we must address the interdependencies of current and future infrastructure projects— including investments in Sandy-impacted infrastructure and those hardening non-impacted infrastructure.
- The overall goal of adopting a regional approach is better decision-making, more efficient and effective projects, and avoidance of unintended impacts.
- This process was initiated with a workshop with state, local and federal participants in July and will consist of additional meetings, workshops, and development of a database of projects and linkages.
- HUD will continue the regional coordination effort for the Sandy recovery after Task Force sunsets.

For Discussion

- Next Steps

Expedited Federal Review and Permitting

Background

- The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 provided approximately \$48B (post sequester) in recovery and mitigation funding to more than sixty programs across nineteen agencies.
- We expect \$20-\$30B will be used on infrastructure projects – many of which will require some form of permitting and or federal review.
- We have proposed that a subset of particularly complex Sandy projects leverage the project planning tools and processes developed by the Steering Committee established by Executive Order 13604 to improve Infrastructure permitting
- We are also planning to establish a Sandy Regional Infrastructure Team. This team will work to ensure that relevant Federal and State permitting officials have an open channel of communication about the permitting and review of projects once they have been selected, to facilitate early and ongoing coordination and prompt identification and resolution of issues, and to align Federal and State processes, where appropriate.

For Discussion

- Next Steps

Rebuild By Design

Background

- Rebuild by Design is a multi-stage regional design competition which aims to promote innovation while developing and implementing regionally-scalable but locally-contextual solutions that increase resilience in the region. The Task Force has been working closely with state and local jurisdictions, as well as philanthropic organizations to develop this process
- The competition centers on four focus areas:
 - Coastal communities
 - High-density urban environments
 - Ecological and water body networks
 - A catchall “other areas” category
- The competition has four stages:
 - **Stage 1: Call for concept proposals and selection of 5-10 teams** (*Launched June 2013 – July 2013*)
 - **Stage 2: Analysis of the region through collaborative process** (*August 2013 – October 2013*)
 - **Stage 3: Development of design solutions and selection of key projects** (*November 2013 – February 2014*)
 - **Stage 4: Implementation of winning designs and projects** (*Will commence March 2014*)

For Discussion

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Federal Funds are Flowing to Individuals, Businesses, and Communities*

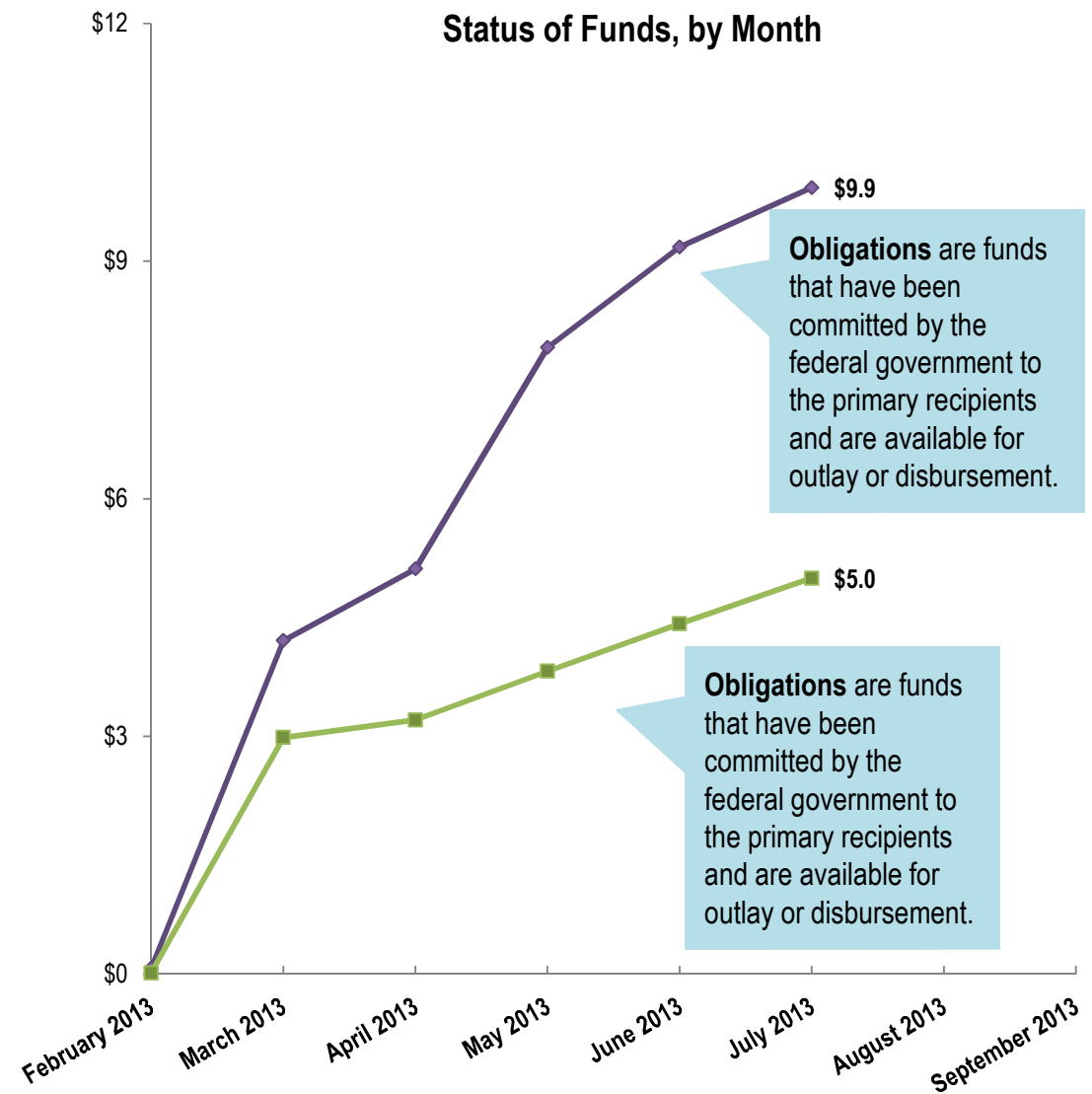
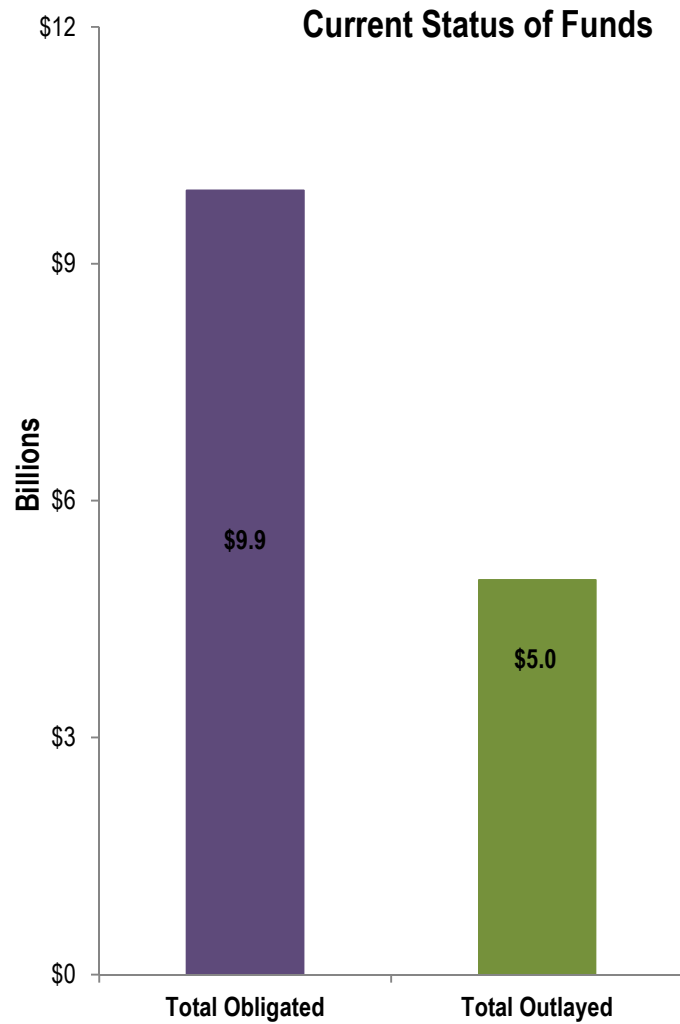
The Administration has served nearly 255,000 people thousands of businesses.

- SBA's Disaster Loan Program has approved \$1.3 billion in Sandy loans to 17,943 households and 3,236 businesses since January 2013
- FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund has approved 236,375 registrations for individuals and households with Sandy funds since October 2012
- Over 99% of Sandy-related NFIP claims totaling \$7,778,529,803 in payments paid out.
- Worked with State and local governments to reopen 97% of public beaches from New Jersey through Connecticut before Memorial Day 2013.

Status of Sandy Supplement Funds, Monthly Progress as of July 31, 2013

As of July 31, 2013, agencies have **obligated** \$9.9 billion and have **outlayed** \$5.0 billion.

Total Obligated: \$9.9 Billion (21% of total appropriated)
Total Outlayed: \$5.0 Billion (10% of appropriated; 50% of obligated)



Next Steps: Task Force Succession

The Task Force winds down on September 30, 2013. We are building a succession plan to ensure the Administration and the participating agencies of the Task Force implement our recommendations over the longer term.

Succession Goals:

- Ensure that recommendations have **post-Task Force owners** and are **implemented** after the rollout
- Ensure that **grantee needs are addressed**, and **effectively coordinated across agencies and funding streams**
- Ensure that **the federal family remains responsive to your concerns** over the course of the rebuilding process

Next Steps: Task Force Succession cont.

We will accomplish these goals by having Cabinet-level participation in the implementation of these recommendations and by monitoring their progress

- Ongoing management of recommendations will take place through **existing interagency coordination efforts** (e.g., Recovery Support Function Leadership Group)
- Regular **monitoring of implementation plans**, with focus on key **milestones**; goal is to ensure **transparency** and **accountability**
- **Priority interagency projects** will receive additional attention and resources
- Ongoing **engagement by Secretary Donovan, DHS Secretary, and Administrator Fugate**
- Consistent reporting into **White House policy councils**

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