



For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$280,000 FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS PROGRAM (COAD)**

*Staten Island community-based organizations will receive training and resources to coordinate disaster recovery and resiliency efforts.*

*COAD participants tour OEM, launching training to prepare for future disasters.*

New York, NY (June 28, 2016)—The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the selection of the Staten Island Not-for-Profit (NFP) Association to spearhead the creation of a \$280,000 Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) Program. The initiative, which was developed through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Staten Island Committee, will introduce a comprehensive training program and enhance coordination of resources among multiple community-based organizations and government agencies, to advance recovery and resiliency throughout the borough of Staten Island. The program was launched at the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), where participating organizations toured the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in South Brooklyn, and heard presentations from staff in OEM’s Communications, Health and Medical, and Human Services divisions, as well as Watch Command, and learned about the role of the EOC in facilitating coordination among agencies during activations.

“Time and time again, we have seen the value that comes from partnerships between the non-profit and government sectors,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. “Local non-profits often know their communities best, and are well-suited to aid neighbors during times of crisis. We are thrilled that the COAD Program will formalize and streamline these important efforts—ensuring that resources are being efficiently utilized to support the recovery and resiliency of Staten Island.”

“Community partners are critical to helping neighborhoods respond to and recover from emergencies,” said New York City’s Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito. “The COAD Program will help keep the Staten Island community informed and will build relationships between neighborhoods, organizations, and the emergency officials who are here to help them.”

The Staten Island NFP Association was chosen to implement the two-year program based on its submission to GOSR’s Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The formal selection process sought responses from groups with the expertise and capacity to oversee program implementation and administration—as required by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development’s (HUD)

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, which funds GOSR projects including COAD.

"We are proud and pleased to serve as the umbrella organization for the Staten Island COAD," said Mindy Duitz, Interim Executive Director of the Staten Island NFP Association. "The opportunity to have a tour of the EOC reflects the strong partnership with the New York City Office of Emergency Management, and will increase knowledge and help with coordination among the Staten Island member groups."

COAD participants include American Red Cross, Beacon Christian Community Health Center, The College of Staten Island, Community Health Action, Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Eden II, Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, Lifestyles for the Disabled, Northfield Community LDC, Office of the Borough President of Staten Island, Port Richmond CERT, Project Hospitality Richmond County Medical Society, Richmond University Medical Center, Salvation Army SCORE, Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization, Staten Island Foundation, Staten Island Mental Health Society, and Staten Island University Hospital.

In its role as the program administrator, the Staten Island NFP Association will facilitate the creation of a recovery plan and lead supplemental training to improve the capacity of member organizations– making them better equipped to provide critical services and support during future disaster events. It will also set out to:

- Determine existing assets that would be available to Staten Island in the event of a future disaster;
- Analyze the results of this updated asset assessment and identify key organizational preparedness gaps;
- Update the organizational hurricane checklist, initially produced and distributed in 2014, that represents a critical component of the community response plan;
- Engage in strategic planning with a COAD sub-committee that results in the creation of an independent primary medical response plan for Staten Island;
- Provide Ready Rating training to all interested members of the Staten Island NFP Association;
- Host training sessions for COAD members and community organizations focused on the effective assignment of staff to meet disaster responsibilities;
- Test COAD's communications existing plan with a drill that will evaluate communication between non-profits and government entities before, during, and after a disaster;
- Provide and assist COAD members in participating in other relevant trainings, as identified by the Staten Island NFP Association during project development and implementation.

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, helping them to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 locally-oriented projects. Throughout the eight-month planning process, the program has held more than 650 Planning Committee meetings and more than 250 large scale Public Engagement Events. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from HUD's CDBG-DR Program.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD's CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

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