



For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY SEEKS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION TO IMPLEMENT \$7.5 MILLION HOME ELEVATION PILOT PROGRAM

Developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the effort aims to mitigate the risks of future storms and increase resiliency in Southern Staten Island and Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.

New York, NY (April 22, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced a \$7.5 million Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to establish the Home Elevation Pilot Program, an effort to mitigate the impacts of future storms and promote the resiliency of storm-impacted homes in several New York City neighborhoods.

Developed by NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program's Staten Island and Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay Planning Committees, the pilot program seeks to fund elevation costs for eligible low-to-moderate income homeowners in the 100-year floodplain, who suffered damage during Superstorm Sandy and are not currently eligible for elevation assistance through other programs. As outlined in the communities' respective NYRCR Plans, up to \$4 million has been allotted to pilot the program in Southern Staten Island and up to \$3.5 million to pilot the program in Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay.

In October 2012, areas of Staten Island and Brooklyn were severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy– an event that devastated thousands of housing units in its wake. The community-driven Home Elevation Pilot Program will complement other State and City undertakings that aim to build a better, stronger New York.

“Home elevation is another tool that communities can use to be more resilient,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “Through this Home Elevation Pilot Program, we strive to promote this important measure by partnering with a non-profit organization that will protect life and property against the dangers of future storms, while stabilizing insurance premiums for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.”

GOSR is currently requesting statements of qualifications from existing non-profit organizations through a competitive process as a first step in executing the pilot program. Respondents should be groups who have the expertise and capacity to oversee program implementation, case management and construction management.

The program will be implemented as a pilot, with the intent to prove concept and support program evolution, encouraging the selected non-profit to leverage funds and/or partner with other entities on a broader initiative, covering additional areas.

Participation in the Home Elevation Pilot Program is strictly voluntary. Neither application to the program nor on-site assessment guarantees acceptance and participation.

“By providing for the elevation of these homes – which is the only reasonable option – the Governor and the Committee are enabling those individuals and families who live in these homes to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives,” said David Sorkin, Co-Chair of the Staten Island NYRCR Planning Committee.

“Over the past two years, we as a community have learned many lessons when it comes to the overall recovery of our neighborhood,” said Doreen Garson, Co-Chair of the Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay NYRCR Committee. “Since Sandy, local residents and community based organizations have pitched into problem solve and find the best solutions for residents in this unique community. We thank the Governor and his Office of Storm Recovery for furthering this important pilot program, leveraging local non-profit efforts and knowledge.”

Non-profit organizations interested in administering these funds and developing the pilot are directed to the Procurement Opportunities page of the GOSR Web site at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities> under the Notice of Funding Availability section. Respondents have until 6 p.m. on Monday, June 1 2015 to formally respond to the NOFA. An organization will be selected to administer the program following GOSR’s review of any submissions. During the selection process, GOSR will carefully consider the specific and unique needs of each community, as identified in the NYRCR Staten Island and Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay Plans, which are available online: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>.

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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