



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GOSR Press Office: 212-480-2318
GOSRpress@stormrecovery.ny.gov

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES SELECTIONS FOR NY RISING COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAM

Resilient network of community-based recovery centers takes shape with designation of 26 facilities and 19 service providers.

New York, NY (November 3, 2016) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the selection of the 26 facilities and 19 service providers that will come together to form the NY Rising Community Center Program– a formalized network of resilient, community-run, neighborhood-based recovery centers that will serve New Yorkers in the case of future extreme weather events.

The effort, which was developed through GOSR's bottom-up NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, will provide qualified non-profit partners with the tools needed to serve New Yorkers in the aftermath of a storm. In doing so, it will enable local residents to access ongoing services and gather real-time information following the occurrence of an emergency.

“Our work at GOSR is based on Governor Cuomo's belief that top-down solutions must be balanced by bottom-up strategies, understanding that local residents often know their communities best,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. “The NY Rising Community Center Program underscores this approach, and will better serve New Yorkers in need following future weather events. We are incredibly grateful to our partners in this effort, who are helping us to apply lessons learned from recent storms and build back in a better and stronger way.”

NY Rising Community Centers are not evacuation shelters, nor are they designed to take the place of municipal emergency management and response procedures. Instead, the NY Rising

Community Center Program concentrates on building community capacity and promoting neighborhood-based planning and preparedness that will complement official response protocols at the City, State, and federal levels.

The services provided at these sites are in the process of being launched and scheduled to span approximately two years, falling into four categories: Response and Recovery Workshops to Address Gaps in Services; Case Management Services; Housing Counseling Services; and Educational and Counseling Services.

In partnership with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), GOSR will directly fund and manage resiliency improvements at the selected sites, such as back-up power sources, enhanced accessibility and flood-proofing. It also will provide capacity-building funds to the service providers, as a reimbursement for program expenses, to ensure the centers remain connected and respond when necessary.

The following selections were made through a competitive Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process, based on the specific and unique needs of each participating community as identified in the individual NYRCR Plans, available online at:

<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>.

The New York City relief centers are:

Howard Beach: Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens selected for facility upgrades and a service grant. NYFAC, STARS Community Center, and Howard Beach Queens Borough Public Library branch selected for facility upgrades.

Lower Manhattan: Henry Street Settlement, Grand Street Settlement and Two Bridges Senior Center, University Settlement, and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York selected for facility upgrades, with GOLES, Henry Street Settlement, University Settlement, Cooper Square Committee, and Nazareth Housing, Inc. receiving service grants.

Red Hook: Good Shepherd Services and Miccio Community Center sites selected for facility upgrades, with a service grant awarded to Good Shepherd Services in partnership with Red Hook Initiative.

Rockaway Peninsula: Far Rockaway, Peninsula, and Seaside Queens Borough Public Library sites selected for facility upgrades, receiving service grants in partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica and Margert Community Corporation. St Francis De Sales Catholic Academy selected for facility upgrades. Young Israel of Wavecrest & Bayswater, Congregation Kneseth Israel, and Congregation Darchei Torah selected for facility upgrades, with a service

grant awarded to the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula. Arverne Church of God and Rockaway Waterfront Alliance selected for both facility upgrades and service grants.

Sheepshead Bay: Kings Bay YM-YWHA selected for facility upgrades and a service grant.

Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront: Saint Bernard Parish selected for facility upgrades.

Southern Brooklyn Peninsula: Shorefront YM-YWHA and the Jewish Community Council of Coney Island both selected for facility upgrades and service grants.

Staten Island: Jewish Community Center of Staten Island designated as a facility and awarded a service grant.

“University Settlement commends GOSR for recognizing the importance and expertise of local residents and community-based organizations in recovery and resiliency work,” said Melissa Aase, Executive Director of University Settlement. “University Settlement has been a neighborhood anchor, strengthening our resilient community for over 130 years, so we are thrilled to further improve our historic headquarters into a NY Rising Community Center in collaboration GOSR and with our many local partners in the LES Ready long term recovery group. Our center will be a place of practical information, neighborhood coordination, emotional safety, cultural inclusivity, and great grassroots solutions.”

“Staten Island's experience with Superstorm Sandy made us all keenly aware of the need to have better preparedness on multiple fronts,” said David Sorkin, Executive Director of the JCC of Staten Island. “By working cooperatively with first responders, the not-for-profit sector, local government and faith-based organizations through our NY Rising programs and services, we will be able to help residents continue to recover and prepare for and deal with future manmade or natural emergencies.”

"Rockaway Waterfront Alliance is very excited to be part of the NY Rising Community Center Program," said Jeanne DuPont, Executive Director of Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. "This innovative funding mechanism will help RWA support its work in creating a more equitable and resilient Peninsula through programming at the Rockaway Institute for a Sustainable Environment. Supporting the continued recovery of the community, the funding will help us install a new public wi-fi network in the surrounding area, improve connectivity among our seniors, grow knowledge about emergency preparedness resources and climate change, support hands-on programs with local K-12 youth, and spur stronger inter-organization coordination on the Rockaway Peninsula."

“Arverne Church of God is excited about the NY Rising Community Center Program in that it enhances the capacity of organizations, like ours, that are here and already committed to serving during times of calm as well as storm,” said Denean Ferguson, representing the Arverne Church

of God. "Community residents have expressed jubilant appreciation for the workshops we've been able to provide."

NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, and help them to develop recovery and resiliency plans that incorporate local assets and needs. Altogether, more than 600 participants serve on NYRCR Committees throughout the State, having proposed more than 700 projects with an aggregate cost of more than \$1 billion. Each participating community was allotted between \$3 million and \$25 million to implement eligible projects that incorporate and capitalize on local needs, strengths, and challenges.

About GOSR

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, Infrastructure, and Rebuild By Design programs—GOSR invests more than \$4 billion made available through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

###