



## NY Rising Community Center Program FAQs

February 2015

### **Q: What is the NY Rising Community Center Program?**

A: The overall purpose of the NY Rising Community Center Program is to create a network of resilient facilities in select storm-impacted NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program Communities where community-based organizations can provide critical recovery and social services. In the immediate days following Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee, many community members and nonprofit organizations lacked the supplies and information necessary to respond to recovery needs. Without formal assistance, they organically devised their own systems to take in and distribute donations, and provide the community with the most up to date recovery information. Across NYRCR Communities, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) heard a resounding call for the formal identification of facilities and organizations to serve the recovery needs of the community, especially should another event occur. GOSR is responding to this need and community vision with the creation of recovery centers, to be referred to as NY Rising Community Centers (Center).

### **Q: What is a NY Rising Community Center?**

A: A NY Rising Community Center is a large and currently operating community space that will coordinate with other service locations throughout the community, borough, and City, to create a comprehensive network of expanded and ongoing community-focused services to respond to existing longer-term recovery needs, and to new recovery needs in the event of another disaster. These centers are not evacuation centers, nor shelters.

### **Q: Where will NY Rising Community Centers be located?**

A: Funding for building retrofits to increase resiliency will be available for the NY Rising Community Center Program as a pilot in the following New York City NYRCR Communities (Community): Bergen Beach, Georgetown, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Mill Island; Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Manhattan Beach, Sea Gate; Canarsie; Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay; Howard Beach; Lower Manhattan; Red Hook; Rockaway East; Rockaway West; and Staten Island. NYRCR Planning Committees (Committees) representing these Communities proposed to fund these services in their NYRCR Plans. Centers will be selected based on the specific and unique needs of each of these participating Communities, as identified in individual NYRCR Plans. NYRCR Plans are available online at: <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>

### **Q: If a facility located outside the aforementioned Communities is interested, can they apply?**

A: Currently, only facilities located within the Planning Areas of the aforementioned NYRCR Communities may apply for the NY Rising Community Center Program.

### **Q: Who will operate NY Rising Community Centers?**

A: Selected community-based organizations will serve as the primary operator of NY Rising Community Centers, in coordination with facility owner/operators and other Centers.

### **Q: How will NY Rising Community Centers be selected?**

A: GOSR is first piloting the following implementation strategy in the New York City NYRCR region. Through a competitive, two tier process, GOSR is soliciting operators of existing facilities and community-based organizations who serve their neighborhood on a regular basis, to formally accept the responsibility of collectively serving as a NY Rising Community Center.



## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

James Rubin  
Executive Director



### **Q: What is the NY Rising Community Center Program implementation timeline and evaluation process?**

A: The selection of facilities as NY Rising Community Centers and nonprofit organizations to provide public services will be conducted through a two-tier process. In the first tier, GOSR is releasing two (2) Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) to seek Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from; (1) owners/operators of existing buildings to be retrofitted and designated as a NY Rising Community Center (Center), and (2) eligible organizations wishing to provide public services at the Centers. NOFA responses will be due roughly 30 days after public announcement. Using criteria detailed in the NOFAs, GOSR will evaluate SOQs, determining which facilities and organizations will be invited to participate in second tier of the selection process. The volume and quality of Tier 1 responses will determine the Tier 2 timeline. The Tier 2 selection phase includes on-site assessments of qualified facilities, and consultation with qualified organizations who've applied to provide public services at Centers. To be considered for selection, all potential Center sites will be inspected by GOSR and its representatives to determine compliance with the threshold eligibility requirements. Based on the evaluation criteria disseminated through the NY Rising Community Center NOFAs, GOSR will review applications and determine which applications are best qualified for participation in the NY Rising Community Center Program. GOSR will fund and directly manage a retrofit of selected Centers, and will enter into subrecipient agreement(s) with selected nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization(s), to provide the CDBG-DR funding required in the delivery of the proposed services within an assigned Center.

### **Q: Will the NOFA only be available for nonprofit applicants or can government apply as well?**

A: The NOFA will provide funding opportunities to qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Government agencies are not eligible for this program.

### **Q: What types of public services are envisioned at NY Rising Community Centers?**

A: Programs and/or public service activities to be offered through the NY Rising Community Centers will be determined by the specific and unique needs of each participating Community as identified in the individual NYRCR Plans, and can include, but are not limited to:

- Case management services for, but not limited to homeowners, tenants, senior citizens and homeless persons;
- Crime prevention and public safety;
- Educational programs (to include resiliency education);
- Emergency planning/preparedness;
- Employment/small business services (e.g., job training/technical assistance);
- Energy conservation;
- Fair housing counseling;
- Health services;
- Recovery services; and
- Youth engagement.

Special emphasis is given to the fact that the services to be provided must be either a new service or an expansion of existing services currently being provided in the Community.

### **Q: How was the budget determined for the NY Rising Community Center Program?**

A: Participating Committees have proposed funding NY Rising Community Centers to varying degrees, depending on community needs. Cost estimates to harden buildings, as well the capacity-building needs of community-based organizations were determined through the NYRCR planning process.



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**Q: Will funds be provided to NY Rising Community Centers for ongoing maintenance and operations expenses, such as fuel for a back-up generator?**

A: GOSR will be funding physical improvements to facilities, to support the ability to function post-disaster. Ongoing maintenance and operation funds, such as fuel for a generator, will not be provided to selected facilities. Nonprofit organizations selected to provide NY Rising Community Center services, will be eligible for capacity-building funds to enhance their ability to respond to Community recovery needs.

**Q: How will NYRCR Committees be involved in the NY Rising Community Center Program?**

GOSR has worked to develop a NY Rising Community Center Program implementation strategy which reflects NYRCR Committee intent to create recovery centers and programing dollars for nonprofit services. Committees are asked to identify organizations that could apply to the NY Rising Community Center Program and develop an outreach strategy to ensure full participation across the community. Since members of the public will have the ability to participate in the NOFA procurement process, including Committee members, Committees have not reviewed the NOFA prior to public release and will not have a direct role in evaluation.

**Q: How can interested facility operators and service providers learn more about the NY Rising Community Center Program, before submitting a proposal?**

A: GOSR plans to facilitate a respondents' webinar to further clarify the NY Rising Community Center vision and answer questions. GOSR is in the process of finalizing details for the webinar and will post updates to the GOSR Procurement Opportunities webpage: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>. Respondents may also submit questions outside of the conference by e-mail to [NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov). Answers to all substantive questions, including any substantive questions arising from the respondents' webinar, will be posted on the GOSR Procurement Opportunities webpage as soon as practical following the deadline for question submission. All questions and correspondence must be sent to [NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov).

**Q: Once Centers are selected, how will GOSR guarantee their compliance, in times of need?**

A: GOSR expects to enter into official agreements with selected facilities and service providers. Agreements will require that during disaster recovery, a selected facility will be open to the general public, enabling selected organizations to provide recovery services, as needed. It is important to note NY Rising Community Centers will not be managed, nor staffed by New York State representatives, but rather by community-based organizations, who have built capacity with New York State resources.

**Q: Who determines what qualifies as an "emergency?"**

A: As the NY Rising Community Center Program has been developed in response to NYRCR Community need, the determination of what dictates an "emergency," and in turn, the activation of a NY Rising Community Center, is to be further determined in consultation with applicable NYRCR Communities, in coordination with other emergency management agencies.

**Q: How will NY Rising Community Centers remain coordinated with official government-managed emergency response efforts and other nonprofit-driven recovery efforts?**

A: Specific coordination requirements are to be further detailed in NY Rising Community Center Memorandums of Understanding (MOU); however, it is GOSR's intent to facilitate initial and ongoing mandatory coordination efforts between all NY Rising Community Centers, as well as local government first responders, and other community-based disaster recovery groups.