



For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW YORK CITY-BASED NON-PROFIT, THE CENTER FOR NYC NEIGHBORHOODS, TO SPEARHEAD \$7.5 MILLION RESIDENTIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM

Developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the effort will provide seven storm-impacted communities with technical assistance to make homes more resilient.

New York, NY (August 20, 2015)—The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the selection of a New York City-based non-profit, the Center for NYC Neighborhoods, to spearhead the creation of a \$7.5 million Residential Technical Assistance Pilot Program (RTAPP). The program will provide a range of technical assistance related to residential property resiliency in seven NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) communities in New York City: Canarsie, Gravesend and Bensonhurst, Howard Beach, Lower Manhattan, Red Hook, Rockaway East, and the Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront. RTAPP will fund residential resiliency audits, offer retrofitting advice, and provide financial counseling for qualified homeowners. The project will also develop an online tool that can be utilized by the general public to learn about residential resiliency measures.

"We are excited to announce this brand new partnership with the Center for NYC Neighborhoods as we work to prepare the City's residents for future storms," said Interim Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. "In addition to providing direct technical assistance to homeowners, we hope that this effort will have a larger ripple effect—consequently increasing the resiliency of entire blocks, neighborhoods, and the City as a whole."

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods was chosen to implement the program based on its submission to GOSR's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The formal selection process, which opened on June 30, 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 RTAPP.

In its role as the program administrator, the Center for NYC Neighborhoods will oversee the delivery of services, including the completion of residential audits for qualified low-and-moderate income homeowners in the 100-year or 500-year floodplains. This service will outline key short-, medium-, and long-term measures that New Yorkers can pursue to increase the resiliency of their homes.

Additionally, the organization will provide one-on-one counseling and homeowner assistance in an effort to guide participants through the audit-report process and to help them garner a better understanding of general resiliency measures, flood insurance, and financing. The Center will also be responsible for the design and development of an online tool to be utilized by the general public that will promote knowledge of flood risk, insurance, and best practices in resiliency.

"Hundreds of families living in our City's coastal communities are facing the ongoing challenge of how to make their homes more resilient while struggling with rising flood insurance costs," said Christie Peale, Executive Director of the Center for NYC Neighborhoods. "The Center for NYC Neighborhoods looks forward to working with the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to help homeowners impacted by Sandy on these critical issues, so they can protect their homes from future storms and become financially resilient."

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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