



For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW YORK CITY-BASED NON-PROFIT, REBUILDING TOGETHER NYC, TO SPEARHEAD \$250,000 DISASTER RECOVERY WORKFORCE TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM

Developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the effort aims to provide on-the-job training and workshops for low to very low-income New Yorkers, while contributing to the long-term resiliency of the State.

New York, NY (June 24, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the selection of New York City-based non-profit, Rebuilding Together NYC, to spearhead the creation of a \$250,000 Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Pilot Program. The effort, which will primarily take place in Southern Brooklyn and Staten Island, aims to provide on-the-job training for low to very low-income New Yorkers, while contributing to the long-term resiliency of the State.

Developed by the Gravesend and Bensonhurst NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee, in conjunction with GOSR's Local Workforce Opportunities Program, the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Pilot Program will involve both classroom and on-site learning. Upon completion of a six-week course, participants will have gained technical and practical experience in the construction and demolition trades, with the potential to receive certifications from the Occupational Safety & Health & Administration (OSHA) and the Home Builders Institute (HBI).

Offering participants stipends of \$1,000 or more – and providing tools and safety gear - the program demonstrates a primary focus on serving Section 3 individuals– defined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) as public housing residents or low and very-low income persons. Striving to facilitate recovery-focused employment opportunities, the undertaking connects individuals with critically-important jobs such as those related to the salvaging and deconstruction of vacant homes as part of the NY Rising Buyout and Acquisition Program.

“The Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Program will provide excellent opportunities to low-income New Yorkers– thereby serving to engage participants in meaningful and impactful ways,” said Interim Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. “Through our new partnership with Rebuilding Together NYC, we can promote the development of valuable job skills, while continuing our efforts to build a better and stronger New York.”

Although Rebuilding Together NYC has, in the past, partnered with other workforce development organizations, many of these programs lacked significant hands-on construction opportunities.

Rebuilding Together NYC 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 April 22, 2015, sought responses from groups that had the expertise and capacity to oversee program implementation and

administration– as required by the HUD’s Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

In addition to on-the-job training within vacant State-owned homes in Staten Island, Rebuilding Together NYC will salvage the waste stream from vacant homes– including the salvaging of woodwork, appliances, cabinetry and electrical fixtures. The organizations will also conduct seminars for employed construction laborers on specialties such as mold remediation, site safety, health and safety practices, electrical work and more. Participants in the program will be provided transportation between Brooklyn and Staten Island, and the provision of all equipment, tools and safety gear.

The effort will be funded for a 12-month period with the first cohort of trainees expected to enter the program in August of this year.

“Rebuilding Together NYC is excited to pilot the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training program with GOSR,” said Executive Director of Rebuilding Together NYC, Kimberly George. “Not only will we be providing training in skills that employers seek, we will be repurposing the waste stream from Staten Island’s bought-out homes in the process. It’s a unique approach to addressing economic and environmental sustainability in the same effort.”

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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