



For Immediate Release

**CONTACT: BARBARA BRANCACCIO
212-480-2321**

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY SEEKS NON-PROFIT PARTNER TO
CREATE A DISASTER RECOVERY WORKFORCE TRAINING 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 (April 22, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the allotment of up to \$200,000 to fund the creation of the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Program. The program, which would be based in New York City, 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 Division of Monitoring and Compliance, the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Program demonstrates a primary focus on serving Section 3 individuals. These individuals are defined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) as public housing residents or low and very-low income persons. Low-income is defined as 80 percent or below the median income of that area and very low-income is defined as 50 percent or below the median income of that area. Striving to facilitate recovery-focused employment opportunities, the undertaking connects individuals, primarily from Southern Brooklyn and Staten Island, 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 not only provide opportunities for low-income New Yorkers, but will also play a substantial role in helping the State execute impactful workforce development programs,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “Through this effort, we strive to engage Section 3 residents and help them to become actively involved in New York's recovery. This undertaking is not only beneficial to participants who will be developing essential job skills, but also to the State as a whole.”

GOSR is currently requesting applications from existing non-profit organizations through a competitive process as a first step in executing the training program. Respondents should be groups who have the expertise and capacity to oversee the program implementation and administration required by the HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

Once selected, the program administrator(s) will be expected to conduct disaster recovery training workshops in Gravesend and Bensonhurst, as well as on-the-job training pertaining to the salvaging of salable appliances, fixtures, woodwork, cabinetry and other items within vacant State-owned homes. The organization will also be responsible for providing transportation for program participants between Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Training opportunities will include those pertaining to health and safety practices, mold remediation, sump pump operation and maintenance, trap cleanout, electrical work and deconstruction.

Non-profit organizations interested in administering these funds and developing the program are directed to the Procurement Opportunities page of the GOSR Web site at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>. Respondents have until Tuesday, May 19, 2015 to formally respond to GOSR's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). An organization or organizations will be selected to administer the program following GOSR's review of submissions.

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.

###