



**For Immediate Release**

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$40 MILLION TO CREATE  
NETWORK OF RESILIENT COMMUNITY CENTERS**

*The NY Rising Community Center Program launched, with dozens of neighborhood-based facilities in 10  
New York City communities*

New York, NY (February 10, 2015) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced \$40 million to establish a network of resilient community-run, neighborhood-based recovery centers where local residents may access ongoing services, as well as gather and obtain information post-disaster.

GOSR will make on-site capital improvements to harden existing community facilities, and fund community-based organizations to expand recovery services. The program, which will be piloted at approximately 36 facilities in 10 New York City communities, is the result of extensive community engagement and planning as completed through GOSR's grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program.

"In the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, we witnessed tremendous examples of neighbors helping neighbors," said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. "Through the NY Rising Community Center Program, we not only aim to formalize these community-based networks of support, but also to demonstrate the positive change being initiated through our Community Reconstruction Program. Time and time again, throughout the eight-month planning process, we heard that these centers were a priority for many storm-impacted neighborhoods. Now, we are moving forward with making them a reality."

As the first step in executing the program, GOSR is currently requesting applications from existing facilities and community-based organizations, through a competitive process. Respondents should be groups and facilities who already serve their neighborhoods on a regular basis, and who would formally accept the responsibility of acting as a NY Rising Community Center.

NY Rising Community Centers are not evacuation shelters, nor are they designed to take the place of municipal emergency management response. Community capacity will be built through the NY Rising Community Center Program, to enable neighborhood-based plans and preparedness, which complements official emergency management protocol, at the City, State, and federal levels.

The NYRCR Communities participating in the pilot NY Rising Community Center Program include:

- Bergen Beach, Georgetown, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Mill Island (Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront);
- Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Manhattan Beach, Sea Gate (Southern Brooklyn Peninsula);
- Canarsie;
- Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay;
- Howard Beach;
- Lower Manhattan;
- Red Hook;
- Rockaway East;
- Rockaway West; and
- Staten Island.

Final allotments and specific center locations will be determined following GOSR's review of any submissions. Interested facility operators and community-based organizations have until March 11, 2015, to formally respond to GOSR's NY Rising Community Center Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA). Organizations and facilities will be selected based on the specific and unique needs of each participating community, as identified in the individual NYRCR Plans, which are available online at:

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

“The vision for the Lower Manhattan NY Rising Community aims to improve the capacity and readiness of all community members to prepare for, respond to, and quickly recover from severe events,” said Lower Manhattan NYRCR Committee Co-Chairs, Catherine McVay-Hughes and Dan Ackerman. “We are encouraged that the NY Rising Community Center Program will help build more resilient communities in neighborhoods throughout NYC. Thank you to the Governor and the Office of Storm Recovery for your continued efforts and focus on the most vulnerable populations in Lower Manhattan.”

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 approximately 600 projects with an aggregate cost of more than \$800 million. 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.

In summer 2014, New York State launched Round 2 of the program, extending the opportunity to 16 new communities and bringing the grand total of committees to 66 (representing more than 100 localities).

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 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.

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