

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Title: Community Planner, Bronx and Westchester Counties

About Us

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) coordinates and implements State programs for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee housing and small business recovery, as well as community planning and infrastructure redevelopment.

Governor Cuomo created the Office of Storm Recovery in June 2013 to centralize recovery and rebuilding efforts in storm-affected municipalities throughout New York State. In close collaboration with local and community leaders in these areas, the Office, under the NY Rising umbrella, is working to respond to communities' most urgent rebuilding needs, while also identifying long-term and innovative solutions to strengthen the State's infrastructure and critical systems for the future. NY Rising programs include: 1) the NY Rising Housing Recovery program, which provides homeowners with assistance for home repairs/rehabilitation, mitigation and elevation, and buyouts; 2) the NY Rising Small Business program, which includes small business grants of \$50,000 or more and low-interest loans for businesses recovering from the storms; and 3) the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, which is a bottom-up planning effort to empower impacted communities to develop locally-oriented strategies to rebuild and better prepare for future extreme weather.

In Phase I of the NYRCR program, more than 102 communities across the state have been represented on 45 Planning Committees comprised of community leaders, experts, and officials who incorporate their community's unique needs into their reconstruction and resiliency strategies. Phase I of this eight month planning process will culminate in the submission of Final Reconstruction Plans to the State at the end of March 2014. Phase II of the program will include 22 new communities and begin in April 2014. Eligible projects identified in in both phases will be implemented with federal disaster recovery funds and other sources.

Position Summary

The Community Planner will play a critical role in developing and implementing the community-driven projects and programs emerging from several planning committees. She or he will work closely with both GOSR and Department of State (DOS) senior staff, planning and implementation consultants, and local and state officials. The Community Planner will report to a regionally based Policy Director, while receiving technical guidance from the DOS Lead Planner. **There are four positions available, each dedicated to specific geographic regions: Bronx/Westchester, Long Island, Mohawk Valley/Capital District and Rockland/Orange.**

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide technical guidance to several new grassroots planning committees in Bronx and Westchester Counties throughout eight-month planning process
- Support organization and execution of both planning committee meetings and large scale public engagement events, delivering presentations and leading meetings, as appropriate

- Work closely with Regional Lead and other program staff to manage planning consultant team, establish and maintain schedule for plan completion in no more than 8 months
- Assist the planning committee in reviewing products generated by consultants, ensuring that all products are consistent with State guidance, aligned with committee priorities, accurate, high quality, and submitted on time
- Provide technical guidance on a range of topics related to community planning, economic development, identification of community assets, risk reduction, and redevelopment, including local land use, zoning, and rebuilding issue
- Coordinate with State and Federal regulatory agencies throughout the planning process to ensure identified implementation projects are permissible
- Assist communities to apply for appropriate State and Federal grant and loan programs and identify other opportunities to finance projects consistent with the expressed priorities of the plan, as directed.

Minimum qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree and 6 years of full time experience or a Master's degree and 4 years of full time experience in urban or community planning, architecture or landscape architecture, or other related field
- Experience must include the preparation and implementation of plans and development projects and/or community development in waterfront areas, and the presentation of these plans to local officials, organizations, and the general public
- In-depth understanding of local government operation, planning principles, community economic principles, plan/project development and execution
- Knowledge of storm damage and flooding, risk reduction measures, and redevelopment issues
- Skills and knowledge to assist communities and state agencies in addressing post-storm reconstruction to achieve a more resilient condition and economic recovery
- Well-organized, clear, concise writing ability for both technical and non-technical audiences
- Well-organized, clear, presentation ability for both the general public and planners
- Efficient use of time and ability to manage multiple priorities and tasks in fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with diverse stakeholders in a professional manner
- Sound judgment, creativity, and initiative in project management and solving problems related to fiscal and programmatic realities
- Proficiency in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as well as programs such as InDesign and ArcGIS
- Valid driver's license is required and the successful candidate should be available for travel in New York City, Westchester County, and occasionally throughout the State

If interested:

All candidates must submit a resume, 3 references, and letter of interest to StormRecoveryJobs@stormrecovery.ny.gov. Please include the name of the position and geographic region of interest that you are applying for in the subject line. We cannot interpret omissions or vagueness in your favor. You are responsible for an accurate and clear description of your training, work experience, and how you meet the qualifications of the position you are applying for. Please set forth all relevant employment history, including the name of each employer, dates of employment and titles held. Be sure to describe the nature of the work that you personally performed for each position held. If you had supervisory responsibilities, state how many people you supervised and the nature of such supervision.

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer committed to excellence and diversity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.