



For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$600,000 TO CREATE THE
EAST SHORE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Developed through the grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, the effort aims to support commercial corridors and spur the growth of East Shore business districts as part of the borough's long-term recovery and resiliency.

New York, NY (March 20, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced \$600,000 to establish the East Shore Local Development Corporation (ESLDC) Program– an effort to revitalize commercial corridors and spur economic development on the East Shore of Staten Island.

The East Shore of Staten Island was severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy in October of 2012, devastating both residential and commercial properties in its wake. Proposed by the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program's Staten Island Planning Committee, the ESLDC would actively promote the local commercial corridors to potential businesses and consumers, working to transform vacant storefronts into bustling retail hubs.

“More than two years after Superstorm Sandy, we cannot understate the significant role that economic development plays in our State's larger recovery,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “Through the ESLDC Program, we strive to not only fill the space, but to identify enduring ways to bring social, physical, and economic resiliency to Staten Island. We hope that, as a result, the East Shore becomes a destination retail center that will be frequented by generations to come.”

GOSR is currently requesting applications from existing non-profit organizations through a competitive process, as a first step in executing the program. Respondents should be groups who have the expertise and capacity to oversee program implementation and administration, and who would formally spearhead the creation and execution of the ESLDC.

Once up-and-running, the ESLDC– seeded with funding from the State's storm recovery allotment – will be tasked with enhancing local commercial corridors by providing marketing for businesses, formulating a cohesive retail strategy for the area, acquiring properties to be redeveloped, helping to obtain financing, advocating for small businesses, and/ or facilitating streetscape improvements to beautify surroundings.

Non-profit organizations interested in administering these funds and developing the ESLDC are directed to the Procurement Opportunities page of the GOSR Web site at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>. Respondents have until Monday, April 20, 2015 to formally respond to GOSR's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). An organization will be selected to administer the program following GOSR's review of any submissions. During the selection process, GOSR will carefully consider the specific and unique needs of the corridors, as identified in the NYRCR Staten Island Plan, which is available online: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/community/staten-island>.

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-driven 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 the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (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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