

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014
AGENDA SETTING MEETING AGENDA

Vice Chairman Jalloh presided and called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Roll call showed Freeholder Bruce Bergen, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance. Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Chairman Christopher Hudak were absent.

Also present were County Manager Alfred Faella, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq. and Clerk of the Board James Pelletiere.

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was led by the Clerk of the Board.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office Advisory Board on the Disabled Claire Schuster, Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Board Stelio Papadopoulos

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

A presentation was made to the Board by Stan Slachetka, PP, AICP, T&M Associates relative to the Union County Strategic Recovery Planning Report relative to potential Post Sandy Grant funds.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY CLERK

Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk

Nicole Dirado, Deputy County Clerk represented the Office.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Purple Forge, Ontario, Canada, to develop, maintain and support an election application for smart phones as a way of imparting important election information to voters for the contract period August 15, 2014 through August 14, 2016 in the amount not to exceed \$45,000. (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)

Freeholder Estrada asked Deputy County Clerk DiRado how the vendor was chosen.

Deputy County Clerk DiRado said the vendor was recommended by Robert Charkowsky, County Website and Social Media Manager while he was attending an Information Technology Trade Show.

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked Deputy County Clerk DiRado to elaborate on some of the details of the Election Application.

Deputy County Clerk DiRado stated among other things it will help residents register to vote, provide the perspective voters the calendar of deadlines, provide polling places, sample ballots and directions to polling places. She indicated that there will also be a candidate section.

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked if the Application is free.

Deputy County Clerk DiRado said it will be a free Application to the user. She stated that the initial cost to the County was \$30,000 for set up and software. She stated there will be a \$5,000 cost for maintenance, which will cover registration and licensing fees for Apple and the Google store.

Freeholder Granados asked how many other Counties are using this Application.

Deputy County Clerk DiRado stated that we are the first in New Jersey to use the Election Application. This particular company has done work for Sonoma County, Long Beach, California, Denver, Colorado, US House of Representative, Pay-Pal and AT&T.

Freeholder Estrada asked if one must register to use the Application.

Deputy County Clerk DiRado replied no. She indicated the residents would only have to download the Application and explain there will be a disclaimer to accept the Application.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Norman W. Albert, Esq., Director

There were no questions.

1. Renewing the following Public Officials Bonds as follows (New Bond) Patient Trust Account Bond with RLI Insurance Company from July 28, 2014 through July 28, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$1,250.00. Erick Mesias, Comptroller Bond with The Hartford Fire Insurance Company from August 1, 2014 through August 1, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$274.00, Arlene Verniero, Deputy Surrogate Bond with the Hartford Fire Insurance Company from July 20, 2014 through July 20, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$100.00, Joseph Cryan, Acting Sheriff Bond with the Hartford Fire Insurance from July 21, 2014 through July 21, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$520.00. **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Brian Riordan, Director

Director Riordan stated that this the extension mentioned in item #1 will be the final extension request for the Agreement. He stated his office is reviewing four proposals and is almost ready to make a recommendation to the Board to award a contract for inmate telephone use and other services.

There were no questions.

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to extend the agreement between the County of Union and Global Tel Link, Mobile, Alabama, pursuant to state contract #A61618 for the purpose of providing, at no cost to the County, an on premise based inmate telephone system that will create revenue for the County of Union for the contract period of March 4, 2014 through September 3, 2014 **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

William Reyes, Deputy County Manager / Director

Deputy County Manager Reyes stated he will have two additional Resolutions for the next meeting, one Resolution accepting the T&M Strategic Planning Report and the second to apply and accept funding for Phase 2

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to award a professional engineering service contract to CME Associates, Howell, New Jersey, to provide professional planning and design services for the preparation and development of the Watchung Reservation Trails Plan in an amount not to exceed \$43,000 00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2014-024) **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 2 Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A 11-1 et seq Department of Economic Development, Division of Engineering Rich Picerno Builders, LLC of Kenilworth, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Briant Park Improvements, in the amount of \$308,294 00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2013-021) **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 3 Concurring with the City of Summit's Ordinance No 14-3051 adopted on June 4, 2014, Section 7-15, Bus Stops (between Iris Road and State Highway 24 Exit Ramp - Mid-Block) - designating Bus Stops on River Road, Eastbound, on the southerly side and River Road, Westbound, on the northerly side, a County Road **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 4 Concurring with the City of Summit's Ordinance Number 14-3054 adopted on July 8, 2014, Subsection, 7-13 1, Turn Prohibitions (First Aid Squad - Cut - Through at Island Across from 233 Broad Street) prohibiting Left and U-turn, except for emergency use, at the Intersection of Broad Street Island, a County road Summit's Ordinance Number 14-3054 shall sunset upon notification from the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad that it is no longer operating out of the 233 Broad Street address **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 5 Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Architectural/Engineering Service Contract to Netta Architects, Mountainside, New Jersey, to provide architectural and engineering design services and construction administration and inspection services for the Warnanco Park Ice Rink - New Clubhouse Improvement Project, Roselle, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$381,000 00 (Union County Engineering Project No 2014-021) **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

- 6 Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the John J Heldrich Center, New Brunswick, New Jersey, for Workforce Development at Rutgers University to work with the Union County Workforce Investment Board to conduct a qualitative evaluation of the Union County public workforce system, including the primary One-Stop Career Centers in Elizabeth and Plainfield, in the amount of \$23,103 00 (Federal & State Grant Funded) **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 7 Amending Resolution Number 2014-71, to extend the Workforce Advantage Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth for the contract of December 31, 2014 through May 1, 2015 to provide additional time for the provision of youth services to WIA eligible In-School-Youth aged 16 – 21 **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 8 Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the Plainfield Board of Education for the twelve (12) month period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 under the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program to provide comprehensive year-round youth programs that may include a paid summer work experience component in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 00 **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

Freeholder Granados asked how many youths will benefit from the programs mentioned in items 7 and 8

Director Antonio Rivera of the Workforce Investment Board explained that there are 40 youths in the program mentioned in item #7 and 30 in item #8

- 9 Authorizing the County Manager to utilize \$1,300,000 00 in Federal Workforce Investment Act Grant funding from the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development in the form of Individual Training Contracts, as stipulated in the grant agreement, for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 The training providers will be taken from the NJ Eligible Training Provider List The One-Stop Career Center will determine participant eligibility for training services and execute Individual Training Contracts as appropriate for eligible individuals **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked about training and licensing for individuals relative to item #9

Director Rivera stated that the training involves commercial driver licenses, hair dressers, and environmental technicians He said there are 40-50 schools and 400 programs monitored by the State of New Jersey

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked if the participants will receive a license

Director Rivera replied yes, the participants will receive the various licenses for employment

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCEBibi Taylor, Director

There were no questions

- 1 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$121,025 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled Sandy SSBG/CHIP (LINCS) **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 2 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$151,932 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled Gang, Guns and Narcotics Task Forces **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 3 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$58,630 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services for a program entitled Older Americans Act **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 4 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$240,000 as a result of notification received from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) for a program entitled Union County Transportation Plan (NJIT) **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 5 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$105,155 as a result of notification received from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) for a program entitled Subregional Transportation Planning Grant **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 6 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$2,625 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 7 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$300,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for a program entitled State Flood Control Project - Passaic River Project " **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 8 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$39,830 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health through Middlesex County for a program entitled Cancer and Chronic Disease Coalition Grant **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 9 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$94,711 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for a program entitled Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 10 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the amount of \$130,500 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled State Facilities Education Act **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**

- 11 Resolution modifying the 2014 Budget in the Amount of \$165,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development for a program entitled Workforce Learning Link Program **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 12 Amending Resolution 2014-7 to include Joseph Cryan, Acting Sheriff as the custodian of petty cash for the Sheriff's Office. **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 13 Amending Resolution No 2014-5, authorizing personnel to sign checks, approve all wire transfers and other disbursements, adding Joseph Cryan, Acting Sheriff, as a signer for the Union County Sheriff's Office Business Account **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 14 Directing the undertaking of a continuing disclosure review and authorizing participation in the municipalities continuing disclosure cooperation initiative of the Division of Enforcement of the U S Securities and Exchange Commission **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**
- 15 Amending Resolution Number 2013-1058, to reflect an increase to the contract amount awarded to Pino Consulting Group, West Windsor, New Jersey, in the sum of \$16,000 00 for consulting services for the preparation of Indirect Cost Plan and Medicare and Medicaid Cost Reports for Runnells Hospital **(Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh)**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICESFrank Guzzo, Director

There were no questions

- 1 Amending Resolution 2013-251, to apply for and accept additional grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 with a 100% local match of \$20,000 for a total of \$40,000 for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, for inclusion in NJ Transit's Consolidated Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Application, submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for Federal Transportation assistance authorized by Section 3037 of the Transportation Equity Act of 21st Century (TEA-21) **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski)**
- 2 Authorizing the County Manager to endorse and approve the 2015-2017 Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan and Application in the total amount of \$689,163 listing each funding source as required by the State of New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission and Attorney General's Office State Community Partnership (SCP), Program Management funds in the amount of \$55,550, State Community Partnership (SCP) Program Service funds in the amount of \$384,876, and Family Court Services (FC) funds in the amount of \$248,737 for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski)**
- 3 Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Mutual of America, Parsippany, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$24,000 00 for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for the provision of Group Life Insurance with Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan for employees not covered under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) **(Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski)**

- 4 Request for a waiver of the County's residency requirement for Diana Youst, an employee with the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Detention (**Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski**)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ronald Zuber, Director

There were no questions

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to execute any and all agreements for the 2014 HEART Grant in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 00 (**Freeholder Sergio Granados**)
- 2 Authorizing the County Manager to have signage installed marking the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail through Scotch Plains, Westfield, Mountainside, Springfield and Summit (**Freeholder Sergio Granados**)
- 3 Amending Resolution Number 2014-295, awarding a contract to J&C Ice Technologies for Change Order No 1 in the amount of \$4,450 for the acquisition and installation of a factory installed Wash Water System on the Zamboni 546 Ice Resurfacer, for a new contract amount of \$93,935 00 (**Freeholder Sergio Granados**)
- 4 Authorizes the County Manager to use the County's option to extend a contract awarded to Professional Farrier Services, Inc , 950 Edgewood Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, for the period of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015 in the amount not to exceed \$75,000 00 (**Freeholder Sergio Granados**)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Moran, Director

There were no questions

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) Grant Funds in the amount of \$180,000 in base-line funding to support delegated CEHA activities for the contract period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and an additional \$22,632 in EPA 105 funding for fiscal year 2015 (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)
- 2 Amending Resolution 2013-926 to increase the 2013 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant award in the amount of \$94,711, for a new amount of \$1,322,618 due to the NJ Office of Homeland Security adding an additional project to the County's current spending plan (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)
- 3 Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A 11-1 et seq Emergency Services Mall Chevrolet, for the purpose of providing 2015 Suburban 4x4 SUV in the amount of \$48,300 00 (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIESJoseph Graziano, Director

Director of Public Works Joseph Policay represented the Department

There were no questions

- 1 Resolution concurring with the Township of Cranford ratifying the approval given to close Springfield Avenue between North Avenue and North Union Avenue on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, from 5 00 p m to 10 00 p m for the Cranford National Night Out Celebration Event **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 2 Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the 24 month option of the contract awarded to DCRS LLC via UCCP 35-12 – Road Sweeping Disposal Services, obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Laws, NJSA 40A 11-1 et seq Department of Public Works & Facilities, contract not to exceed \$100,800 00 **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**
- 3 Resolution concurring with the City of Linden granting permission to close North Wood Avenue, between Elizabeth Avenue to Gesner Street from 6 00 a m to 12 00 a m for the Street Fair “A September to Remember” which will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014 Also concurring with the City of Linden granting permission to hang two banners across Wood Avenue, one will be located at Wood Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue and the other at Wood Avenue and Curtis Street both from August 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 **(Chairman Christopher Hudak)**

RUNNELLS SPECIALIZED HOSPITALSandra Adour, Acting Administrator

Finance Director of Runnells Specialized Hospital, Michael Drummond represented the Hospital

There were no questions

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to extend the current contract with Pharma Care, Inc, Clark, New Jersey, for period of two months beginning September 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014 to continue to provide pharmacy consulting services to Runnells Specialized Hospital in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 00 **(Freeholder Vernell Wright)**
- 2 Authorizing the County Manager to extend the contract with Modern Medical Systems, Farmingdale, New Jersey (BA#-50-10) maintenance and repair services for bio-medical equipment and (BA#9-2013) maintenance and repairs of wheelchairs, patient beds, and nurse call bell systems on a month to month basis for the period of July 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$36,000 00 **(Freeholder Vernell Wright)**

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSELRobert E. Barry, Esq., County Counsel

There were no questions

- 1 Amending Resolution 2014-280, increasing the appropriation to Weber Dowd Law of Woodland Park, NJ in the matter entitled Beverly Figueroa v UC, et als in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 00 for a sum not to exceed \$90,000 00 (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGERAlfred J. Faella, County Manager

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension c/o Cook College of New Brunswick, NJ for the purposes of utilizing the educational services of certain members of the Rutgers faculty and staff of Cook College for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 in the amount of \$91,078 00 (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)

County Manager Faella stated that this is an annual program where County and State work together. This money supports various salaries of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The amount mentioned in item #1 is similar to last year.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

Vice Chairman Jalloh stated that he will have one additional Resolution as a result of the Fiscal Committee Meeting at the next Freeholder Meeting pertaining to Internal Position Controls.

Freeholder Granados stated that he will have a Laudatory Resolution for the next Freeholder Meeting.

Freeholder Wright stated that she will have a Laudatory Resolution for the next Freeholder Meeting.

- 1 Authorizing the County Manager to award the sum of \$25,000 00 to the Union County Baseball Association for the purposes of providing assistance with the operation of the 2014 summer and fall youth baseball programs. This funding is provided through and from the Kids Recreation Trust Fund in the amount of \$25,000 00 (**Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen**)
- 2 Laudatory resolution designating the "2014 Union County Four Centuries in a Weekend" to the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the settlement of Elizabethtown (**Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski**)
- 3 Proclaiming Friday, September 19, 2014 "POW/MIA Remembrance Day" in the County of Union to remember and honor the men and women who have given so much to make and keep us free and secure in this country (**Freeholder Mirabella and the Entire Board**)
- 4 Laudatory resolution congratulating John's Meat Market of Scotch Plains for celebrating their 75th year of serving the community (**Freeholder Alexander Mirabella**)

- 5 Laudatory resolution congratulating Mobile Meals on Wheels of Westfield, a service that delivers hot and cold meals to Union County residents for a nominal fee, on delivering their 1 Millionth meal (**Freeholder Alexander Mirabella**)
- 6 Amending Resolution 2014-123 appointing Acting Sheriff Joseph Cryan to the Emergency Management Council to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2014 (**Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh**)
- 7 Appointing Stanley Neron as a member to the Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Board to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2015 (**Vice Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh**)
- 8 Resolution sponsoring the City of Rahway's Summer Concert Series in the amount of \$2,000 00 (**Vice Chairman Jalloh and the Entire Board**)
- 9 Amending Resolution No 2014-13, designating official newspapers of the County of Union, to reflect a change in name from the "Star Ledger" to "NJ Advanced Media " (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)
- 10 Laudatory resolution congratulating the 2014 Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce Awards recipients, TD Bank, the President's Award, Hehl & Hehl, the Member to Member Award, Construction & Marine/Worldwide Holdings & Logistics, the Member to Chamber Award (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)
- 11 Laudatory resolution congratulating Magdalena Kepa of Linden on receiving the Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Tri-State Area College Tuition Scholarship (**Chairman Christopher Hudak**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following items will be discussed in Executive Session

- 1 Potential contract negotiations with the County of Hudson and attorney-client privileged communication relative to Correctional Services and Juvenile Detention Services

County Counsel Barry stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act a public body may enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects. This Board will now enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Potential contract negotiations with the County of Hudson and attorney-client privileged communication relative to Correctional Services and Juvenile Detention Services.

The minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session. The minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. The Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

Upon the Board's return, it will not take formal action on the matters discussed. \

Upon a majority vote of the members present, the Board may now retire to Executive Session.

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholders Carter, Mirabella and Chairman Hudak absent.

Vice Chairman Jalloh asked for a motion to return to the Agenda Meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholders Carter, Mirabella and Chairman Hudak absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski, seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholders Carter, Mirabella and Chairman Hudak absent.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 7:00pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

RE ORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2014 at 12:00pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

AGENDA SETTING MEETINGS

January 16, 2014

February 6, 2014
February 20, 2014

March 6, 2014
March 20, 2014

April 3, 2014
April 24, 2014

May 1, 2014
May 15, 2014

June 5, 2014
June 19, 2014

July 10, 2014

August 7, 2014

September 4, 2014
September 18, 2014

October 2, 2014
October 16, 2014

November 6, 2014
Tuesday, November 25, 2014

December 4, 2014
December 18, 2014

* Special Meeting May 15, 2014

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 23, 2014

February 6, 2014
February 27, 2014

March 13, 2014
March 27, 2014

April 10, 2014
April 24, 2014

May 8, 2014
May 29, 2014

June 12, 2014
June 26, 2014

July 17, 2014

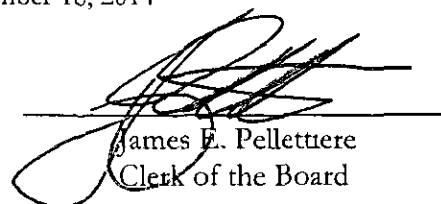
August 14, 2014

September 11, 2014
September 25, 2014

October 9, 2014
October 16, 2014

November 13, 2014
Tuesday, November 25, 2014

December 11, 2014
December 18, 2014



James E. Pellettiere
Clerk of the Board

JEP ac/mb

Union County, New Jersey



Strategic Recovery Planning Report

Union County Strategic Recovery Planning Report

Prepared for:
Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders
July 31, 2014

Prepared by:



T&M Associates
11 Tindall Road
Middletown, NJ 07748



Stan C. Slachetka, PP, AICP
NJ Professional Planner No 03508

The original of this document was signed and sealed in accordance with New Jersey Law

Executive Summary

When Superstorm Sandy struck the coast of New Jersey on October 29, 2012, it brought unprecedented damage to Union County. The sheer magnitude of the storm and its ripple effect from other parts of the state put the County's preparedness to the test. Trees throughout the County fell, damaging property, blocking roadways, interrupting phone service, and bringing down power lines. All municipalities in Union County experienced power outages, some lasting up to two weeks. In Linden, localized flooding was reported in the downtown area and along the Arthur Kill. The pump station at Tremley Point went offline and was impacted by a tidal surge for three to four days.

In response to the impacts faced by Superstorm Sandy, Union County's recovery efforts have been extensive. In the days and weeks immediately following Superstorm Sandy, Union County evacuated stranded residents, barricaded flooded roads and hazards, cleared fallen trees from roads and parks, and held daily conference calls with power suppliers and local mayors. In the months following Superstorm Sandy, Union County has updated its Emergency Operations Plan, applied for grants to install emergency backup generators at key public facilities, and renovated the County Emergency Operations Center, among other actions.

At the time of this Strategic Recovery Planning Report (SRPR), Union County property and business owners have received recovery aid from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. The County's municipalities have been awarded \$770,000 for the Homeowner Resettlement Program, \$1,644,515 for the Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation Program, \$630,000 for the Small Rental Properties/Landlord Rental Repair Program, \$119,431 for the Incentives for Landlords Program, \$3,743,917 for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, and \$664,433 for the Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund, \$500,000 for the Pre-Development Fund, and \$150,000 for the Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program. These programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Detailed descriptions of each of these projects as well as fund allocations by municipality are located in Appendices A and B.

Apart from CDBG programs, Union County's residents have received 99 home loans totaling \$2,135,500, 4 business/economic injury disaster loans totaling \$919,700, and 6 stand-alone economic injury disaster loans totaling \$311,600. The County has also been awarded a total of \$1,426,700 to date as part of the Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program.

Union County's recommended priority actions to promote recovery from Superstorm Sandy and to reduce vulnerabilities from future storms include (but are not limited to) the following actions:

- Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable populations and neighborhoods,
- Provide recommendations to urban coastal towns about resilient land uses and land use planning practices,
- Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans,
- Improve the system for documenting what work is done during an emergency,
- Develop a virtual "emergency operation center", and
- Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods.

Union County recognizes that this SRPR is a first step in a comprehensive strategy to aid recovery, reduce hazards, and improve resiliency in the County. The next steps in the County's plan are described in the recommended actions at the end of this report (on pages 26-34).

Acknowledgements

Board of Chosen Freeholders

Christopher Hudak, Chairman
Mohamed S. Jalloh, Vice Chairman
Bruce Bergen, Freeholder
Linda Carter, Freeholder
Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder
Sergio Granados, Freeholder
Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder
Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder
Vernell Wright, Freeholder

Alfred Faella, County Manager

William Reyes, Jr., Deputy County Manager and Director, Department of Economic Development

Department of Economic Development

Amy C. Wagner, Deputy Director
Colleen Mahr, Director, Division of Strategic Planning & Intergovernmental Relations
William Inglefield, Economic Development Representative, Project Manager
Amy Vitale, Project Coordinator
Hannah Peterson, Project Coordinator
Kamal Saleh, Bureau of Planning and Economic Development
Liza Betz, Bureau of Transportation Planning
Thomas O. Mineo, P.E., Director, Division of Engineering
Ray Sullivan, Division of Engineering

Department of Parks and Recreation

Ronald Zuber, Director
Michael Brennan, Director, Division of Park Maintenance

Department of Public Safety

Andrew Moran, Director
Christopher Scaturo, Division of Emergency Services
William Kane, Deputy Director, Division of Emergency Services
Salena Carroll, Bureau of Domestic Preparedness, Office of Emergency Management
Virginia Franco, Health Officer, Director, Division of Health
Roberta Milano, Coordinator, Division of Health

Department of Public Works and Facilities Management

Joseph A. Graziano, Sr. Director
Joe Policay, Director, Division of Public Works
Mike Brennan, Acting Director, Division of Facilities Management

City of Linden

Captain Dave Hart, Patrol Division Commander, Police Department

Town of Westfield

Chief Daniel J. Kelly, Westfield Fire Department

T&M Associates

Stan Slachetka, PP, AICP
Fran Mullan, PE, CME
Ryan Garner
Jeffrey Cucinotta

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Introduction

This Strategic Recovery Planning Report (SRPR) will serve as a blueprint to guide Union County's recovery from the effects of Superstorm Sandy and to reduce vulnerabilities to future storms. Accordingly, the report will

- Evaluate the impacts on affected community features in Union County and address the conditions created or exacerbated by the storm,
- Articulate the planning goals, strategies, and priority actions that are most urgently needed to improve public safety, increase resistance to damage from future storms, and stimulate economic recovery, and
- Contain detailed descriptions of each of the projects proposed, a statement of need that demonstrates how each project relates to the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, why the project is important to the economic and environmental health of the community, the major tasks associated with each project, the estimated cost of implementation, identification of potential or actual funding sources to pay for project implementation, and estimated implementation dates

Union County upholds six community livability principles by which it guides planning efforts in the County. They are

- **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality,

reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health

- **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation
- **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets
- **Support existing communities.** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes
- **Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment** Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy
- **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods

Description of Union County

Union County is located in Northern New Jersey, to the southwest of Manhattan, and just to the west of Staten Island to which is connected by the Goethals Bridge. Within New Jersey it is bordered by Middlesex County to the south, Somerset and Morris Counties to the west, Essex County to the north, and Hudson County to the northeast.

Union County is about 102.86 square miles in area and is comprised of 21 municipalities, including the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey's fourth largest city. Union County's municipalities (shown in Figure 1) include:

Berkeley Heights	Kenilworth	Roselle Park
Clark	Linden	Scotch Plains
Cranford	Mountainside	Springfield
Elizabeth	New Providence	Summit
Fanwood	Plainfield	Union Township
Garwood	Rahway	Westfield
Hillside	Roselle	Winfield

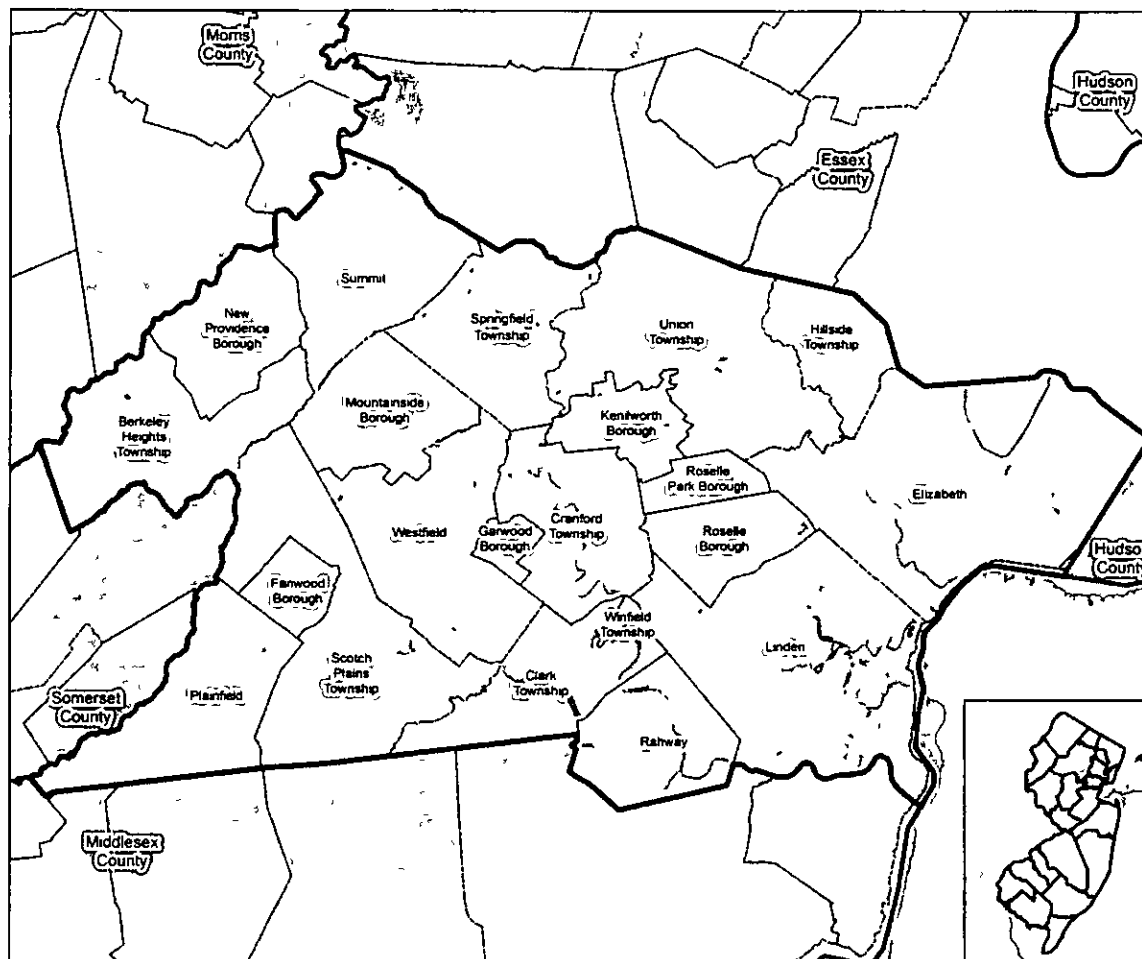
Union County serves as a major transportation hub in New Jersey. The County's transportation network includes all modes of transportation including highway, bus, rail, air, and water. Parts

of Union County are just minutes away from Newark Liberty International Airport. The New Jersey Turnpike (I-95), the Garden State Parkway, and I-78 all cross through Union County. The County is also served by five New Jersey Transit rail lines: the Northeast Corridor, the North Jersey Coast Line, the Raritan Valley Line, the Gladstone Line, and the Morristown Line. This extensive transportation network has greatly influenced the development of the County.

Union County is highly developed and urbanized with a population of approximately 543,976, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey estimate. The County expects to see continued population growth through the year 2040. Population forecasts for the year 2040 range from about 607,000 to 638,000. Union County must take such growth into consideration when planning for resiliency against future Sandy-type storms.

In the context of resiliency planning, a growing population for Union County means that the County's municipalities will need to plan with the following in mind: locating future population growth outside of flood hazard areas, increased impervious surface coverage and decreased groundwater recharge, strains on stormwater systems, and providing emergency services and utilities.

Figure 1: Union County Regional Location



Assessment of Existing Planning Documents

This section of the SRPR provides an overview of the County's existing planning documents and their relevancy to post-storm recovery and the mitigation of future storm impacts

Union County Master Plan, 1998

Phase I of the Union County Master Plan presents the Planning Board's recommendations for the future of Union County as it relates to population, land use, transportation and circulation, and economic development. It represents the direction that the County should pursue to achieve the optimum relationship between land uses, protection of the natural environment, and development of efficient transportation systems.

The Union County Master Plan identifies four major goals for the County. These goals include:

- **Housing** Promote a broad range of housing opportunities for all income levels and household types by encouraging the maintenance or rehabilitation of the existing housing stock and through the construction of new housing units.
- **Development** Facilitate the development of Union County by directing new growth to environmentally suitable areas that can be provided with essential infrastructure and support facilities and to revitalize the urban centers and corridors within the County.
- **Transportation and Circulation** Promote the development of an improved balance, multi-modal transportation system that integrates and links highway, bus, rail, air, and waterborne transport systems, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- **Economic Development** Continue County sponsored economic development efforts to reduce unemployment, provide year round employment opportunities, and enhance the tax base by encouraging compatible industrial, commercial, office, and retail facilities to locate or expand in Union County.

The Union County Master Plan's planning goals and objectives are designed to address major issues and influences that impact Union County's housing, land use, transportation/circulation, and economic development. The County's goals and objectives recognize the interrelationships of related policies of municipalities, regional agencies, and the State regarding the future of development of Union County. The achievement of these goals and objectives requires decision making at many levels of government, as well as the private sector.

Union County Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan Element, 1999

The Open Space and Recreation Element of the Union County Master Plan was prepared as a program of new recreation development and improvements to existing park resources, in addition to modest parkland acquisition

In the 1999 Open Space and Recreation Plan Element, Union County outlines the study that was undertaken to determine and address user needs, preferences, and perceived deficiencies of existing parks. It also outlines a program of \$24 million in both repairs to existing park facilities and construction of new park facilities, as well as \$7,000,000 in acquisition of approximately 100 acres of additional parkland.

The Plan outlines the steps that the County has taken to formulate the recommendations for the rehabilitation of current facilities and the construction of new recreational facilities: base mapping of the parks, an inventory of the parks and facilities, and a needs assessment involving public participation.

Union County Land Development Standards, 1999

This ordinance provides procedures, rules, regulations, and standards for review and approval of land subdivisions and site plans for land development in Union County, which are used to promote the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the County.

Union County Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan Element Amendment, 2002

The 2002 Amendment presents the philosophy of the County and its goals regarding recreation and open space as the following:

- To enhance the quality of life in Union County by providing all members of the public with easily accessible open space, programs, and facilities suitable for active and passive recreational, and leisure activities,
- To enhance the quality of life in Union County by managing, expanding, preserving, developing, and improving the facilities and properties dedicated to the public for the pursuit of active and passive recreational, as well as leisure activities,
- To maintain and preserve existing County parkland while seeking to acquire new parcels when appropriate,
- To protect exceptional natural and scenic resources of the County,
- To acquire lands which protect ecologically sensitive areas and provide wildlife habitat,
- To provide for both passive and active outdoor recreation uses, and
- To acquire lands contiguous to existing parklands when possible.

Union County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan, 2010

This Plan identifies and anticipates the major public space needs of the community's residents. It is intended to provide a framework for open space preservation and recreational development through County and municipal planning.

The Plan's goals are as follows:

- Provide an interconnected system of high quality, accessible, multi-use trails and greenway corridors
- Update parks and facilities giving consideration to recreation trends and priority need areas
- Provide funding sources for Master Plan implementation
- Preserve and protect the environment
- Develop consistent maintenance and appearance of parks

Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2010

The Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was approved in January of 2011 and expires in January of 2016. Participating municipalities in the current Plan's planning process included Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Hillside, Linden, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit, Union Township, and Westfield. Elizabeth City did not participate in the County Plan, as it has its own approved single jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan.

The HMP was prepared to guide Union County and its municipalities in identifying existing and to plan for future mitigation measures to prevent future losses of lives and property due to flooding. The Plan focuses on five natural hazards and two technological/manmade hazards with the highest potential for damaging physical assets, people, and operations in Union County. These hazards are flood, high winds (straight line winds), earthquake/geological, dam failure, hazardous material releases, severe storms (winter weather), and high winds (tornadoes).

The mitigation planning goals included in this Plan that are relevant to this SRPR include:

- Improve education and outreach efforts regarding potential impacts of hazards and the identification of specific measure that can be taken to reduce their impact,
- Improve data collection, use, and sharing to reduce the impacts of hazards,
- Improve capabilities, coordination, and opportunities at municipal and county levels to plan and implement hazard mitigation projects, programs, and activities,
- Pursue opportunities to implement projects including mitigation of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties and other appropriate programs and activities.

The Plan's mitigation planning objectives include:

- Increase awareness of risks and understanding of the advantages of mitigation by the general public and by local government officials,

- Improve data available to the county and participating communities for use in future planning efforts,
- Provide government officials and local practitioners with educational opportunities and information regarding best practices for hazard mitigation planning, project identification, and implementation,
- Acquire and maintain detailed data regarding critical facilities such that these sites can be prioritized and risk-assessed for possible mitigation actions,
- Continue support of hazard mitigation planning, project identification, and implementation at the municipal and county level,
- Support increased participation in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating system (NFIP/CRS), and
- Provide direct support, where possible, to municipal mitigation programs

In addition, this Hazard Mitigation Plan has identified the following overall action items for Union County

- Acquisition of flood prone properties in Rahway,
- Community outreach as it applies to hazard mitigation,
- Structural retrofits to flood proof the Police Department in Linden,
- Engineering studies to identify drainage solutions in Garwood, and

- Backup power installation at the Department of Public Works in Westfield

This HMP does not identify complete hazard vulnerability assessments on its participating municipalities because it includes many jurisdictions and the available data is not very detailed. Instead, the Plan identifies that it is appropriate for its participating municipalities to address these data deficiencies in anticipation of the next Plan update.

Evaluation of Superstorm Sandy's Impacts on Union County

Superstorm Sandy's impacts on Union County were extensive, including but not limited to downed trees, power outages, localized flooding, and damage to properties

Figure 2: Devastation from the Storm Surge in Eastern Union County

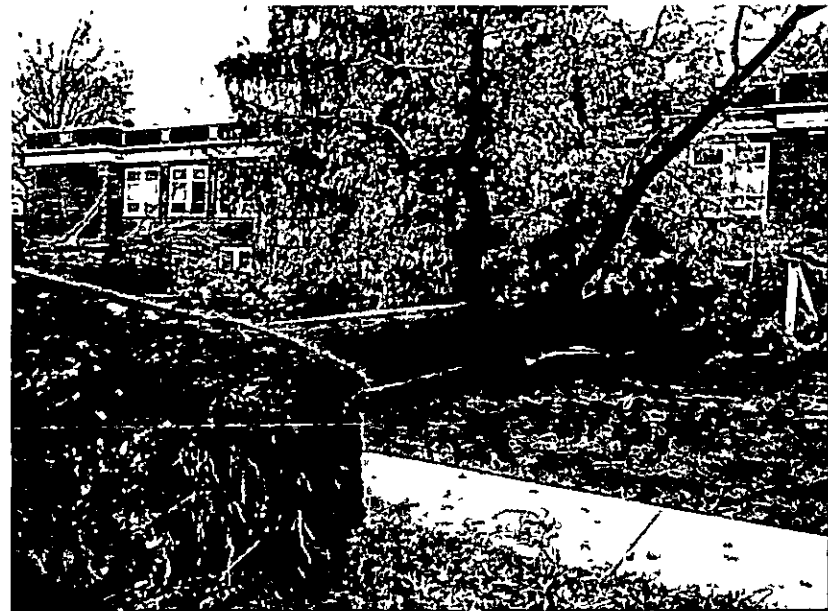


Downed Trees

Superstorm Sandy brought high wind speeds that caused trees to fall throughout Union County. In many locations this caused damage and destruction to properties, uprooted infrastructure, and blocked streets. Emergency services were therefore hindered

because they were unable to reach all streets until trees were cleared. Though, in no areas were people completely cut off from road access for more than 6 or 7 hours. In many areas downed trees also brought down power lines, causing power outages. Even after downed trees were cleared from most areas, power outages and transportation problems persisted.

Figure 3: A fallen mature tree just missed Washington School in Garwood.



Source: nj.com (<http://bit.ly/UFR8Rv>)

Figure 4: Downed Trees in Cranford Township



Figure 5: Downed Trees in Fanwood Borough



Figure 6: Downed Trees in Kenilworth Borough



Figure 7: Downed Trees in Plainfield City



Power Outages

All 21 of Union County's municipalities experienced power outages, some lasting up to two weeks in duration. For example, in Linden 90-95% of the population was without power including the Union County Juvenile Detention Center. High winds toppled trees and sent debris flying, which collectively caused the downing of untold numbers of power lines. Utility crews were stretched to the max shutting power to downed wires, rebuilding destroyed substations, and replacing damaged poles. Utility crews were brought in from around the country, but damage was so widespread that restoration took significantly longer than most expected.

While residents suffered through unusually cold temperatures without power, the impact was felt far beyond residents' homes. Power outages left major intersections without signals, area hospitals operated on emergency generators for extended periods of time, businesses were shuttered, and local government officials struggled to communicate with their residents.

Further complicating matters was the lack of accessibility of both gasoline and diesel fuel. While an ample number of generators were available, a shortage of fuel and the inability to pump what was on hand made a bad situation worse. Residents, business owners, and governmental agencies alike waited in line at area service stations to fill vehicles and canisters, reminiscent of the fuel shortages in the early 1970s.

Figure 8: Downed Trees and Damaged Power Lines in Union Township

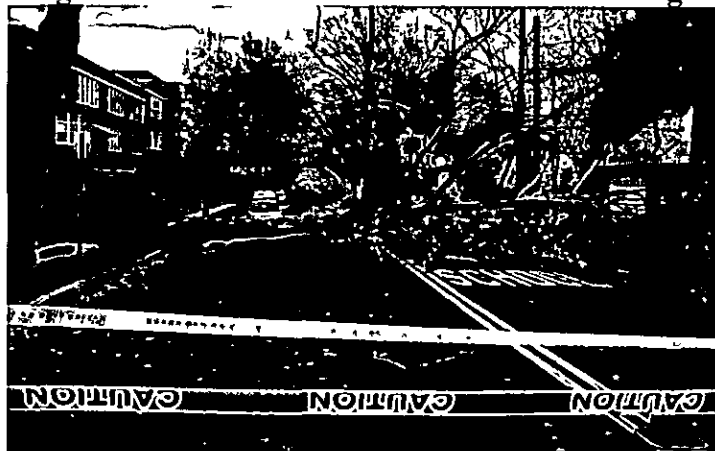


Source: nj.com (<http://bit.ly/1qQ1jYW>)

Figure 9: Downed Power Lines in Elizabeth



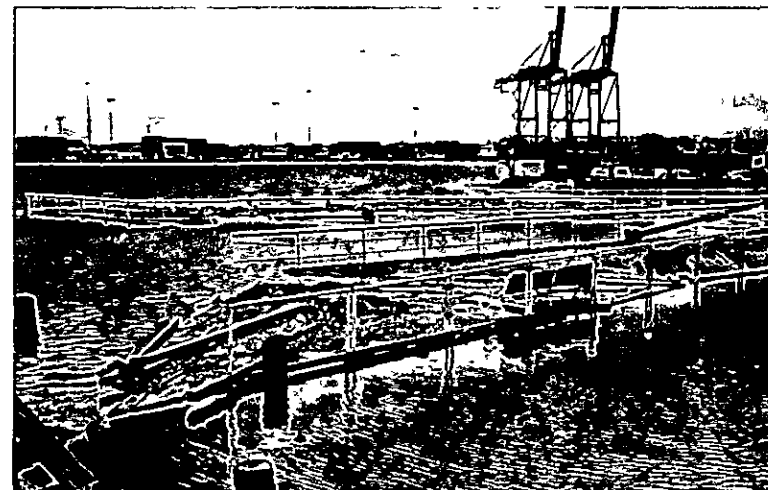
Figure 10: A Downed Tree in Roselle Park Borough



Flooding

Some places in Union County faced serious local flooding as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The Rahway River flooding peaked at 12 ½-13 feet. The river's walls are only 11 feet high. This resulted in major flooding in downtown Rahway and Linden. Also in Linden, the heavily industrialized area along the Arthur Kill (including the Bayway Refinery) faced millions of dollars in damage from 12-14 foot tidal surges. Areas of the Passaic River and its tributaries also witnessed localized flooding. Furthermore, the pump station at Tremley Point in Linden went offline and faced a tidal surge for 3-4 days. Despite flooding, floodwater in most areas subsided after a few days.

Figure 11: Veterans Memorial Park Devastation in Elizabeth at Confluence of Elizabeth River and Arthur Kill



Damage to Properties

The State of New Jersey has analyzed the storm damage to heavily impacted communities and has released the CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The data has been generated using the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Survey Data and FEMA Individual Assistance Data (effective March 2013).

As a result of Superstorm Sandy, less than 1% of the households in Union County sustained “severe” or “major” damage, totaling 643 units, but minor damage was common. In total, 2,998 units experienced some level of damage, including 80% owner units and 20% rental units. Within Union County, one census tract in the City of Linden had between 10% and 24% of households experience major or severe damage. Eleven census tracts in Union County had homes that sustained “severe” or “major” damage to housing units, shown on Table 1 at right.

Figure 12 Property Damage Caused by Fallen Trees



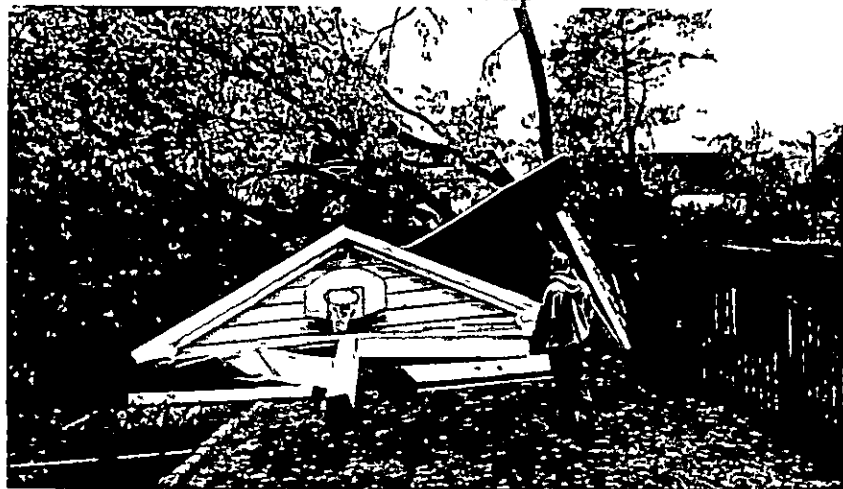
Table 1 Census Tracts with “Severe” or “Major” Damage

Muni	Census Tract No	% of Households with Major/ Severe Damage	House holds	Median Household Income
Elizabeth	305	4	1,464	\$44,136
Elizabeth	309	2	1,719	\$49,621
Elizabeth	306	1	1,144	\$36,607
Elizabeth	308 02	1	850	\$45,536
Elizabeth	302	1	733	\$34,719
Linden	354	13	954	\$57,727
Linden	352	5	775	\$56,384
Linden	353	1	1,842	\$50,490
Rahway	360	7	1,961	\$56,726
Rahway	358	3	1,269	\$46,563
Rahway	359	1	1,231	\$55,244

Source: Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 2013

The CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan also outlines the impacts on special needs populations. Union County has 198,668 total housing units, of which 643 (or 0.3%) received major or severe damage from Superstorm Sandy. Of that percentage of damaged households, 405 (or 63%) are low or moderate income households (Sources: American Community Survey, 2006-2010 5-Year Averages, HUD CHAS 2012 data, and FEMA Individual Assistance Data effective March 12, 2013).

Figure 13: A Damaged Property from a Fallen Tree in Westfield Township



Source: nj.com (<http://bit.ly/1kqvOM3>)

Community Vulnerabilities Exacerbated by Superstorm Sandy

Sandy exacerbated the vulnerability of homeowners and businesses located in low-lying areas to the flooded waterways that border and run through Union County, particularly in Rahway, Elizabeth, and Linden. In addition, the loss of power exposed residents to the dangers of cold fall nights. These vulnerabilities were magnified in Union County because the County is mostly urban and developed. Furthermore, many utilities such as water, sewage, electricity, telephone lines, and transportation grids are aging, requiring maintenance and repair. These vulnerabilities to future storm events are all magnified in an urban community such as Union County amidst continued population growth and demand for services.

Flooding

As mentioned above, homeowners and residents located in low-lying areas close to waterways are vulnerable to flooding. Following interviews with various County personnel, the following additional vulnerabilities to flooding have been identified:

- The Rahway River and its tributaries are prone to regular flooding. The dams on the Rahway River are not flood-controlled dams. If major flooding were to occur on the Robinson's Branch, the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains would be vulnerable to substantial damages.

- The Passaic River's tributaries often face overbank flooding during medium-to low-frequency flood flows because backwater flow from the Passaic River tends to build up sediment in the downstream portions of the tributaries
- The Elizabeth River, which has concrete flumes, also is prone to flooding
- Union County's vulnerable roads include Morris Avenue/Route 82 in Springfield and Union Townships, and North/South Avenue (State Route 28), particularly in Cranford
- Many of Union County's parks are located in floodplains, where flooding from storms is not uncommon
- The far eastern part of Union County along the Arthur Kill is vulnerable to storm surge because of its proximity to wetlands and impermeable land cover

High Hazard Dams

Union County also has three dams that are classified by the County Hazard Mitigation Plan as "high hazard" dams. These are dams that would likely bring a loss of life to the immediate area if dam failure were to occur. Union County's high hazard dams are the Robinson's Branch Reservoir Dam in Clark Township, the Clearwater Detention Dam on Salt Brook in New Providence Borough, and the Shackamaxon Dam on Lambert's Run in Scotch Plains Township, as seen in Figure 6.

Communication and Coordination

Another vulnerability that was identified during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy involved gaps in communication and coordination across public County entities and private entities (though, the communication between public County and municipal personnel was very effective post-Sandy). Most public-private communication occurred between officials in Union County and the utility companies' officials. The County held daily conference calls with Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) and Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), the county's two power suppliers. Updates and information were then subsequently conveyed to the utility personnel providing post-Sandy aid in the field. However, limitations and gaps in communication and coordination between Union County's personnel and utility companies' personnel who were out in the field created problems in recovery efforts and inefficiencies in response. The people providing first hand aid throughout Union County had no clear procedures for communicating with each other across public-private boundaries. As a result, the following energy and transportation problems persisted longer than necessary:

- Central Avenue (at the Clark/Westfield border), which usually supports about 4,000 cars an hour and about 24,000 cars a day, became inaccessible after Sandy. Union County prioritized reopening this road, but the power companies did not effectively transmit or emphasize the importance to their field workers. Because of this lack of communication it was the last road in the County to reopen.

- During the tree removal process, the Department of Public Works had 40 forestry service workers ready and waiting for clearance to begin cutting and clearing trees from power lines and streets. But because of a lack of communication and effective procedures they were unable to take action in high risk, populated, and priority areas and were instead sent to clear trees in parks.
- When aid arrived to Union County from other parts of the country, some of the out of state workers were not clearly directed where in the County they were to go. This led to more time being spent than was necessary for finding out and arriving where their aid was needed.

Personnel and Resources

In general, County and municipal personnel were spread thin after Superstorm Sandy, as municipalities did not have enough services, money, or personnel to provide post-Sandy assistance to their residents. When this happened, they had to request additional aid from the County, which further strained Union County for resources and personnel. For example, in places where power was disconnected for extended periods of time, police departments had to man traffic intersections, while their assistance was also needed for other recovery and response actions. In other cases, emergency shelters could have benefited from more qualified full-time personnel. Additionally, personnel were being trained for tasks outside of their normal area of expertise, which also strained the County.

Population Growth

Furthermore, Union County's anticipated population growth serves as a vulnerability. Any future planning for resiliency has to take into account that the County is anticipating significant growth. Population growth located in municipalities like Rahway, Linden, and Elizabeth that have areas prone to damages from Sandy-type storms will especially serve as a vulnerability in the future.

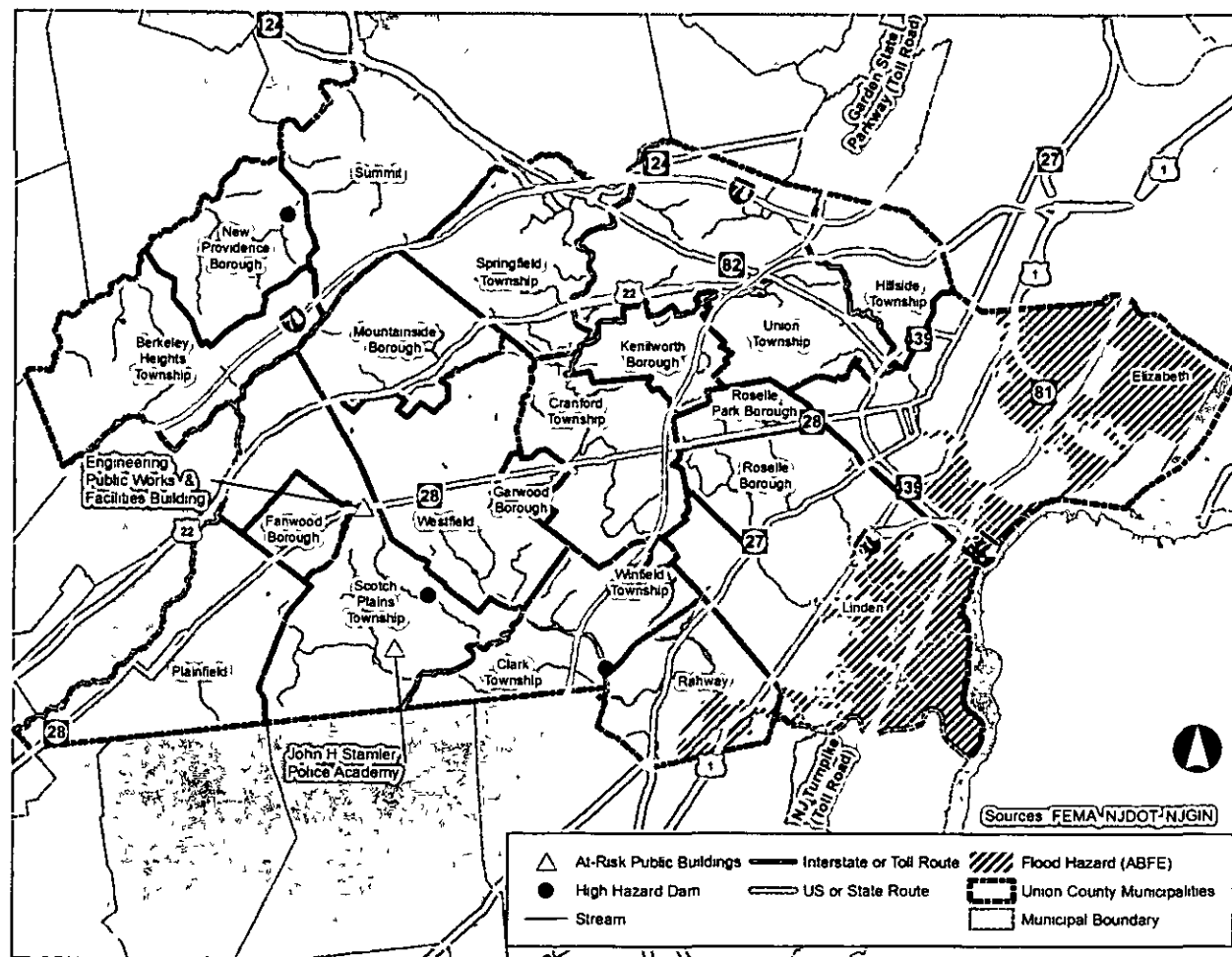
For example, Linden, which has over one third of its land in a flood hazard area and experienced significant flooding in Superstorm Sandy, can expect to accommodate growth for about 5,000 more residents by the year 2040. Rahway, which also faced significant flooding from Superstorm Sandy, can plan for an increase in population of about 4,000 by the 2040. Elizabeth, which also has over one third of its land located in a flood hazard area, can expect about 15,000 more residents by 2040. All population projects referenced here are based on Moody's Analytics population projections.

Community Opportunities Created by Superstorm Sandy

The impacts of Superstorm Sandy have shed light on the areas in which Union County may improve its resiliency in future storm events by

- Promoting public awareness of hazard mitigation and resiliency issues,
- Focusing public agencies on community vulnerabilities to hazards such as flooding and downed trees and power lines,
- Focusing public agencies on the importance of better public-private communication and coordination methods,
- Encouraging regional solutions to flood- and storm-related impacts, and
- Ensuring that future capital projects are designed and constructed to incorporate features that are resilient to storm- and flood-related impacts

Figure 14: Community Vulnerabilities in Union County



Current Status of Post-Sandy Recovery Efforts

In the days and weeks immediately following Superstorm Sandy, Union County took the following emergency protective measures

- Evacuated stranded residents,
- Barricaded flooded roads and hazards,
- Cleared fallen trees from roads and parks,
- Delivered and arranged for delivery of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel to critical facilities and for emergency generators in municipalities and at major health care and other service providers, and
- Held daily conference calls with Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), and Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), and Union County mayors. Updates and information were then subsequently conveyed to the respective personnel providing post-Sandy aid in the field.

In the months following Superstorm Sandy, Union County has undertaken (and continues to take) the following recovery efforts

- Union County has identified key locations for installation of emergency backup generators. These locations include the Department of Public Works and the John H. Stamler Police Academy, both located in Scotch Plains. The County has applied for grant funding for these projects. Grant award amounts will dictate whether one or both of these installations will be possible.

- The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was renovated to upgrade audio visual capabilities within the Ralph Froehlich Public Safety Building. These renovations, completed during the summer of 2014, provided inter-connectability between the EOC and meeting spaces located throughout the building, allowing communication among key personnel in various parts of the building during an emergency.
- The County applied for and was awarded grant funding to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A consultant has been hired to complete the update which is expected in late 2015.

Figure 15: Fallen trees are cleared from a road in Echo Lake Park in Westfield.



Figure 16: Fallen trees are cleared from a road in Echo Lake Park in Westfield



Figure 17: Electrical lines are repaired on Chestnut Street in Roselle Borough.



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Programs

Union County's municipalities have received recovery aid from various funding programs. The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has put together an online database of CDBG programs that have aided in Superstorm Sandy recovery across New Jersey. Union County residents have been awarded aid from the following housing programs:

- Homeowner Resettlement Program (HRP),
- Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation (RREM),
- Small Rental Properties/Landlord Rental Repair Program (LRRP),
- Incentives for Landlords (INCLL),
- Blight Reduction Pilot Program/Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP),
- Sandy Special needs Housing Fund (SNH),
- Pre-Development Fund (PREDEV), and
- Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program (SHBA)

Appendix A describes each of these programs, and Appendix B outlines the awarded and disbursed project funds by municipality, as of the date of this report.

In addition, the City of Elizabeth has been awarded two CDBG Small Business Grants in the amount of \$100,000, and the City of Summit has been awarded one in the amount of \$65,427. These loans may help small businesses pay for Sandy-related expenses.

including building repairs, equipment and inventory purchases, rent or mortgage payments, salary expenses, and utility costs

Furthermore, Cranford Township has been awarded \$30,000 in CDBG Administrative/Planning funds. These funds are designed to provide oversight, monitoring, evaluation, and planning support for programs and grantees. The program also includes planning grant assistance to local or regional entities to guide long-term recovery and redevelopment.

More information on these CDBG programs can be found on the DCA website <https://www.newjerseyrebuild.org/home.aspx>

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Elevation Program

This is a \$100 million reimbursement grant program set up to assist homeowners elevate their homes after Superstorm Sandy. The HMGP elevation program provides up to \$30,000 of reimbursement for eligible homeowners to elevate their primary single-family residences. The New Jersey standard is to elevate residential structures one foot higher than the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). This reduces the risk of damage to the property and its contents in the event of major flooding. It may also provide a significant reduction in flood insurance premiums compared to a structure that is not elevated. The application period for homeowners closed on September 15, 2013.

Small Business Administration Disaster Loans

In the months following Superstorm Sandy, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has been issuing loans to homeowners and businesses in New Jersey to aid in their recovery and reconstruction efforts. NJ.com has compiled data from the SBA and made it available on their website. Union County has received 99 home loans totaling \$2,135,500, 4 business/economic injury disaster loans totaling \$919,700, and 6 stand-alone economic injury disaster loans totaling \$311,600. Table 2 on page 21 depicts the SBA loans that were awarded to Union County by municipality. (Source: NJ.com and the Small Business Administration, 2013)

UNION COUNTY — STRATEGIC RECOVERY PLANNING REPORT

Table 2: SBA Disaster Loans by Municipality

Municipality Awarded	Loan Type	# of Loans	Amount	Municipality Awarded	Loan Type	# of Loans	Amount
Clark	Home	2	\$26,200	Plainfield	Business and Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$8,900
Cranford	Home	1	\$29,900	Plainfield	Home	11	\$180,000
Cranford	Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$29,400	Rahway	Home	12	\$108,300
Elizabeth	Business and Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$866,300	Roselle	Business and Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$29,300
Elizabeth	Home	7	\$58,200	Roselle	Home	3	\$56,300
Fanwood	Home	1	\$18,200	Roselle	Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$55,800
Hillside	Home	2	\$10,700	Roselle Park	Home	2	\$86,500
Kenilworth	Economic Injury Disaster	2	\$219,200	Scotch Plains	Home	5	\$39,800
Linden	Business and Economic Injury Disaster	1	\$15,200	Springfield	Home	3	\$46,800
Linden	Home	20	\$642,500	Springfield	Economic Injury Disaster	2	\$7,200
Mountainside	Home	2	\$23,700	Summit	Home	4	\$289,800
				Union	Home	17	\$243,600
				Westfield	Home	7	\$273,000

River Desnagging Project

This project is a cooperative effort between Union County, the Morris County Park Commission, and seven municipalities in Union, Morris, and Somerset Counties. The project involves the cleaning and desnagging of over 12 miles of the Passaic River where it runs through these municipalities. In Union County this includes Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Summit. These areas along the Passaic are known for their prevalent flooding. The primary goal of this project is to desnag part of the Passaic River of vegetative debris and refuse in order to improve drainage and stream flow and to lessen the severity of flooding along the river. In late 2013 Union County and its partners applied for grant funding through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and were awarded \$300,000 towards the estimated \$1.2 million desnagging project. Bid specs are currently being drafted to maximize this grant award.

Figure 18: A Snag in the Passaic River



Figure 19: A Fallen Tree Damages a Home in Fanwood
(Photo Credit: Tom Kranz)



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Union County has been awarded a total of \$1,426,700 to date as part of the Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP). This State grant program provides eligible households with up to \$15,000 in total assistance paying retroactive/current mortgage, rent and utility payments, and the purchase of essential furnishings or appliances. As of the date of this report, 171 households have been served with SHRAP.

Storm Recovery Loan Program

The Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC) has been administering loans to Union County small

businesses that were damaged in Superstorm Sandy. The loans have low interest and are good for up to \$50,000. UCEDC's Storm Recovery Loans can be used to help cover the cost of repairing structural damage, as well as the cost of replacing lost inventory and damaged equipment.

Participation in FEMA's Community Rating System

Only three of Union County's municipalities participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), including Linden, Rahway, and Roselle (according to FEMA's most updated records from October 1, 2013). Under CRS, a municipality receives discounts on flood insurance premium based on its class rating and its implementation of local mitigation, outreach, and educational activities that go well beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. Premium benefits are just one of the benefits of participation in CRS, but it is more important that these communities are carrying out activities to save lives and reduce property damage. Other benefits include enhanced public safety, reduced property damage and public infrastructure, avoidance of economic disruption and losses, reduction of human suffering, and protection of the environment.

The City of Linden has been a participant in the CRS since October 1, 1992. It has a Class 8 status, which means that City residents living inside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) receive a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums, and those living outside the SFHA receive a 5% discount. As of January

2012, there were 239 NFIP policies in place in Linden with a total premium of \$319,198 and a CRS discount of \$28,626 (source FEMA NFIP).

The City of Rahway has also been a participant in the CRS since October 1, 1992. It has a Class 6 status, which means that City residents living inside the SFHA receive a 20% discount on flood insurance premiums, and those living outside the SFHA receive a 10% discount. As of January 2012, there were 552 NFIP policies in place in Rahway with a total premium of \$701,480 and a CRS discount of \$109,255.

Roselle Borough has also been a participant since October 1, 1992. It has a Class 7 status, so Borough residents living within the SFHA receive a 15% discount on flood insurance premiums, while those living outside the SFHA receive a 5% discount. As of January 2012, there were 266 NFIP policies in place in Roselle with a total premium of \$352,779 and a CRS discount of \$35,063.

As only three of Union County's 21 municipalities participate in the CRS program, the County may consider supporting municipal action to expand participation in the program.

Table 3 shows the list of activities for which Linden, Rahway, and Roselle received points under the CRS, as of January 2012.

Table 3: CRS Activity Points

Activity Descriptions	Municipal Points			Activity Descriptions	Municipal Points		
	Linden	Rahway	Roselle		Linden	Rahway	Roselle
#310- Elevation Certificates	60	60	56	#440- Flood Data Maintenance	90	186	152
#320- Map Information Services	140	140	140	#450- Stormwater Management	233	83	0
#330- Outreach Projects	58	179	52	#510- Floodplain Management Planning	0	27	0
#350- Flood Protection Information	16	56	17	#520- Acquisition and Relocation	0	25	0
#360- Flood Protection Assistance	59	62	0	#540 Drainage System Maintenance	195	80	0
#410- Additional Flood Data	40	150	144	#630- Dam Safety	67	67	67
#420- Open Space Preservation	119	244	222	Total	1,233	1,576	1,038
#430- Higher Regulatory Standards	156	217	198	Source FEMA Community Rating System, 2012			
				As the data in Table 3 is from January 2012, these standards may be based on the prior CRS manual			

Community Involvement

Union County's three municipalities that participate in the CRS program all partake in ongoing community involvement and public outreach activities, as mentioned above.

In addition, Union County and FEMA representatives conducted a public information session for Union County residents on November 14, 2012 at Union County College in Cranford. Issues discussed with the public involved some of the various assistance programs discussed in this SRPR, such as the National Flood Insurance Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and the Small Business Administration financing programs. At this meeting, County residents had the opportunity to discuss any concerns regarding their individual storm recovery work.

Furthermore, the County has provided online a Health and Well-Being Assessment Survey. The assessment includes a survey that is open to Union County residents in which they can identify continuing, unmet needs related to Superstorm Sandy and its aftermath. This post-Sandy effort is being coordinated by the Union County Bureau of Public Health through funding from a two-year Social Services Block Grant. The survey is available on the County website and the first year's results are attached in Appendix C.

Union County Long Term Recovery Group

The Union County Long Term Recovery Group (UCLTRG) was created in response to Superstorm Sandy and is made up of various non-profit, community, and faith-based organizations.

This group supports the rebuilding efforts of Union County residents in the aftermath of the storm. The UCLTRG provides case management as well as emotional and spiritual care, and seeks donations to assist households that do not have adequate personal resources or insurance for basic needs and recovery.

Rebuilding Approaches That Will be More Resistant to Damage from Future Storms

The recovery efforts previously mentioned all serve as rebuilding approaches the County is taking to be more resilient in the future. They serve to protect residents from the dangers of potential storm events by providing a solution to damaged services.

The County may also consider coordinating with the appropriate entities and agencies in order to further the following rebuilding approaches and recovery efforts (including providing information on best practices approaches to the following):

- Rebuilding and renovating homes and structures in accordance with flood hazard and construction codes
- Elevating emergency generators of pump stations and key community facilities above the base flood elevation
- Educating residents and builders about flood hazards and flood-resistant provisions in codes
- Protecting natural areas that currently buffer developed areas from storm damage and storm surge
- Upholding the six community livability principles
- Guiding future population growth outside of flood hazard areas and areas prone to other Sandy-type storms

Recommended Actions to Promote Recovery from Superstorm Sandy and to Reduce Vulnerabilities to Future Storms

Union County has discussed several capital and programmatic improvements in order to recover from Superstorm Sandy and to improve response and increase resiliency to future storms. These actions have been developed in consultation with the officials from a variety of County offices, and are intended to promote resiliency to future storms. Meetings were conducted with public officials on October 29, 2013, November 19, 2013, January 7, 2014, January 28, 2014, and May 13, 2014. The actions that this SRPR recommends are detailed in Table 4 and have been categorized into the immediate/short-term range (within the next 12 months), mid-term (within the next 24 months), and long-term range (within the next 36 months). However, the various actions presented could be changed between the short-, mid-, and long-term as opportunities arise and funding becomes available.

Union County has identified that its priority recommendations include the following:

- Support the expansion of participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS),
- Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable populations and neighborhoods,
- Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans to provide recommendations and model stream corridors based on existing best practices,
- Develop a virtual "emergency operation center" with full communication to all County and municipal personnel,
- Provide backup power for traffic lights at key County traffic intersections and at fueling stations, and
- Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods.

These actions serve as Union County's priorities moving forward, but do not comprise the County's entire strategy to recover from Superstorm Sandy and to improve response and increase resiliency to future storms. These and additional recommendations are outlined below in Table 4.

Table 4: Recommended Actions to Recover from Superstorm Sandy and to Improve Response and Increase Resiliency to Future Storms

Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Priority Actions			
Support the expansion of municipal participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). This will include exploring steps that other counties have taken to assist homeowners.	FEMA's CRS promotes recovery from Sandy-type storms.	CRS participation results in enhanced public safety, reduced property damage, and discounted flood insurance premium rates, etc.	Short-term priority, but continually ongoing.
Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable neighborhoods and populations. The County has discussed conducting a cross-section to identify lower-income and at-risk populations in relationship to environmental threats and constraints. This project could include mapping land uses, mass transit service, medical and health facilities, emergency shelters, and other supporting infrastructure and their accessibility to vulnerable populations. The project would further outline procedures and actions for improving resiliency in these neighborhoods and for responding to the needs of this population in times of hazards.	This project would identify and map vulnerable populations based on data and definitions from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Census, and the American Community Survey. Lower-income and at-risk populations often live in areas that are most vulnerable to damage from a Sandy-type storm, but are often unable to evacuate or are overlooked.	This can serve as a way the County can improve resiliency for at-risk populations that otherwise may not be able to provide their own solutions. It also fits with the rewriting of a Strategic Action Plan for community development.	Short-term (Within 12 months).

Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans to provide recommendations and model stream corridors based on existing best practices, in reference to the tributaries of the Raritan River that are located in Union County. This should include green infrastructure and green stormwater management elements.	This area is urbanized and vulnerable to flooding.	This could improve the resiliency of Union County's flood hazard areas along the Raritan Valley stream corridor.	Short-term (Within 12 months)
Develop a virtual "emergency operation center" with full communication to all County and municipal personnel. This would include an electronic "space," intranet, or other setting that utilizes social media such as a blog, website, or other outlet for all County and municipal personnel to meet, communicate, and coordinate. In this electronic space, all relevant county and municipal workers (such as mayors, administrators, public works personnel, engineers, etc.) should have access to contribute and receive inputs.	Union County's post-Sandy recovery efforts faced communication and coordination issues.	An enhanced electronic system could improve cooperation and communication, leading to faster and more effective response and recovery.	Short-term (Within 12 months)

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Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Provide backup power for traffic lights at key County traffic intersections and at fueling stations, including considering alternative forms of backup power such as diesel generators when gas is shut off. This should also include hospitals, emergency operations center, correctional facilities, shelters, and other facilities.	Countywide power outages after Superstorm Sandy caused traffic control issues and significantly decreased fueling stations' capability to serve County residents.	This could improve evacuations during a future storm, and can also improve reliability in service, response time, and access for emergency services post-storm.	Short-term (Within 12 months)
Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods.	All components of this action relate to recovering from and becoming more resilient to impacts of Sandy-type storms.	This action is a comprehensive approach in that it encompasses goals and objectives of various ongoing recovery and resiliency efforts in the County that complement each other.	Short-term (Within 12 months)

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Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Additional Actions			
Improve the County's system for documenting emergency work, including descriptions of work and hour logs. This should also include increasing hardware inventory for performing these tasks, such as more laptops in the Department of Public Works' trucks.	Union County uses Cartegraph (an operations management system), which utilizes electronic and real-time services for tracking costs for reimbursements. Though, the County could benefit from an updated system, and more and newer electronic devices for performing these field tasks.	This action can increase Union County's capacity to provide effective and time-sensitive emergency services.	Short-term (Within 12 months)
Improve outreach and education for the public about emergency awareness.	Many people were reluctant to evacuate prior to Sandy and did not understand the importance of evacuating.	Effective outreach and public response can minimize the amount of residents remaining in hazard areas after a storm.	Short-term (Within 12 months)

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Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Provide recommendations to urban coastal towns about resilient land uses and land use planning practices for coastal areas. This can be done through good engineering practices and design, creating coastal resiliency plans, restoring wetlands where possible, and hardening existing facilities where possible.	This area is urbanized and vulnerable to flooding.	This can help improve locational decisions for future development in Union County.	Mid-term (Within 24 months)
Update the County Transportation Master Plan, including disseminating its emergency evacuation plan.	Union County residents needed effective evacuation services during Superstorm Sandy.	This will shed light to improvements in evacuation services.	Mid-term (Within 24 months)
Video log all county roads.	Many roads became inaccessible after Superstorm Sandy.	An inventory of the quality and status of roads would allow emergency services to more effectively serve the public.	Long-term (Within 36 months)

Action	Relation to Superstorm Sandy's Impacts	Importance to Promoting Recovery, Response, & Resiliency	Length of Project
Create a GPS system for work that is performed during and after emergencies to identify where workers and County vehicles are, to be monitored from a virtual emergency operations center (EOC)	Union County's post-Sandy recovery efforts faced communication and coordination issues	This action could improve inter-departmental cooperation and communication, leading to faster and more effective response and recovery This could also help when support teams from out of state come to the County, as the EOC can make sure they are working in the right area	Long-term (Within 36 months)

Summary of Actions and Priorities

The recommended actions for Union County serve as a comprehensive approach to both recovering from Superstorm Sandy and reducing vulnerabilities to future storms

Based on the discussion of Union County's recommended actions in Table 4, the County has identified that its priority recommendations include the following

- Support the expansion of participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS),
- Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable populations and neighborhoods,
- Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans to provide recommendations and model stream corridors based on existing best practices,
- Develop a virtual "emergency operation center" with full communication to all County and municipal personnel,
- Provide backup power for traffic lights at key County traffic intersections and at fueling stations, and
- Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods

Immediate/Short-term needs include:

- Support the expansion of participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS),
- Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable neighborhoods and populations,
- Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans to provide recommendations and model stream corridors based on existing best practices,
- Develop a virtual "emergency operation center" with full communication to all County and municipal personnel,
- Provide backup power for traffic lights at key County traffic intersections and at fueling stations, including considering alternative forms of backup power such as diesel generators when gas is shut off,
- Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods
- Improve the County's system for documenting emergency work, including descriptions of work and hour logs This should also include increasing hardware inventory for performing these tasks, such as more laptops in the Department of Public Works' trucks, and
- Improve outreach and education for the public about emergency awareness

Mid-term needs include:

- Provide recommendations to urban coastal towns about resilient land uses and land use planning practices for coastal areas, and
- Update the County Transportation Master Plan

Long-term needs include

- Video log all county roads, and
- Create a GPS system for work that is performed during and after emergencies to identify where workers and County vehicles are, to be monitored from a virtual emergency operations center

Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Requests

Based on the foregoing priorities, the County will be seeking additional funding from the NJ Department of Community Affairs as part of the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program (PSPAGP) for the following activities eligible for funding under the program

- Evaluate options for evacuating or providing aid to vulnerable neighborhoods and populations,
- Provide recommendations to urban coastal towns about resilient land uses and land use planning practices for coastal areas,

- Analyze the Raritan Valley stream corridor development designs, redevelopment plans, and site plans to provide recommendations and model stream corridors based on existing best practices,
- Improve the system for documenting what work is done during an emergency, including descriptions of work and hour logs,
- Develop a virtual “emergency operation center” with full communication to all County and municipal personnel, and
- Prepare a comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan that is designed to integrate and coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommended strategies and actions in the County’s updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Health and Wellbeing Assessment, sustainability initiative, and evaluation of vulnerable populations and neighborhoods

All of the foregoing will help Union County improve resiliency by improving the County’s knowledge base, establishing clear procedures and protocols for addressing future emergencies and facilitating restoration, and creating a comprehensive planning framework that will enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the County and minimize the impacts of future storm events

**Appendix A: List of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery
Programs Awarded to Union County Municipalities**

Homeowner Resettlement Program (HRP): \$180 million in federal funds have been allocated to support a Homeowner Resettlement Program designed to encourage homeowners to remain in the nine (9) most impacted counties (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Union) that were severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy. The funds may be used for any non-construction purpose that assists the Homeowner to remain in, or return to, the county in which they lived prior to Superstorm Sandy. The grant amount is \$10,000.

Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation (RREM): \$600 million in federal funds have been allocated to help eligible primary homeowners repair or rebuild their Superstorm Sandy impacted homes. The RREM program will assist homeowners in rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation, and mitigation so that they can do the necessary work on their homes to make them livable and to comply with requirements for structures located in flood plains. RREM provides grants to eligible Homeowners up to \$150,000. The RREM program is intended to “fill the gap” between the cost of repairs and other funds the owner has received to repair the structure. The state sent preliminary-award letters to 4,303 homeowners and has estimated an average award of \$100,000 per application until final award of construction amount is known. Once final award is determined, this amount will be adjusted.

Small Rental Properties/Landlord Rental Repair Program (LRRP) This program provides up to \$50,000 per unit in grant funding assistance to eligible owners of rental property from 1 to 25 units. The LRRP program will provide funds to help rental property owners restore their properties through rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation, and mitigation to rental property damaged by Superstorm Sandy. The LRRP program is intended to help existing owners restore their properties and receive reimbursement for eligible building expenses incurred by owners prior to the LRRP implementation but not paid for by other programs.

Incentives for Landlords (INCLL): This program provides rental property owners roughly the difference between 30% of a tenant's monthly income and federal fair market rents each month over a two-year period and allows rental property owners to provide affordable rental housing. For example, a landlord in Monmouth County would receive the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment which is \$1,410 (approximately \$517 paid by a tenant with an incentive of approximately \$893 paid by the State). Participating landlords may apply for between one and 25 units per county.

Blight Reduction Pilot Program/Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP): The Neighborhood Enhancement Program provides funding to stabilize “threatened but viable” neighborhoods, through the creation of affordable housing. The Program is intended to be a component of local plans to invest in and rebuild these communities. It funds the rehabilitation or re-use of abandoned, foreclosed

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and vacant housing, structures or lots and addresses the shortages of affordable housing caused by the storm, while at the same time refunding blighted buildings to viability. The program provides zero percent loans to eligible entities that will create for sale or rental housing units through either rehabilitation or redevelopment. Initial occupancy of the units developed under this program is restricted to households at or below 80% of Area Median Income as defined by HUD. \$30,000,000 in CDBG-DR funds are allocated to this program.

Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund (SNH). This program is dedicated to the development of quality, permanent supportive housing located in the nine most impacted counties. SNH can be used to fund permanent supportive rental housing or community residences in which some or all of the units are affordable to low- and moderate-income special needs residents. Special needs populations include individuals with mental, physical, or developmental disabilities, and other at-risk populations identified by the State.

The program provides loans to developers of projects which combine rental housing and support services. Developers may apply for stand-alone financing or for program funding in conjunction with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, tax-exempt bonds, and/or Fund for Restoration of Multifamily Housing. The State has dedicated \$25,000,000 in CDBG-DR funds to this program.

Pre-Development Fund (PREDEV). The State has developed in its Community Disaster Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan various programs to address the substantial damage that Superstorm Sandy caused to New Jersey's housing sector. The "Predevelopment Loan Fund for Affordable Rental Housing" was among the programs created by the State to address the storm's impact on the State's rental market.

This program will provide financing in the form of a low interest loan to non-profit developers for predevelopment costs associated with developing properties that are unsafe, underutilized, or in foreclosure. Eligible uses of loan proceeds include project feasibility studies, environmental studies (e.g., Phase 1 and Phase 2), engineering studies, architectural fees, and other soft costs.

Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program (SHBA): SHBA provides financial incentives for low- and moderate-income households to purchase a home. Qualified homebuyers may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in assistance to help with the purchase of a home. The assistance is in the form of a subordinate mortgage. There are no monthly payments and the loan is forgiven 20% a year over a 5-year period.

SHBA is designed to boost the purchasing power of low and moderate-income households, primarily renters displaced by Sandy, to successfully purchase a home, as well as to stimulate the market for new and restored homes.

**Appendix B: CDBG Disaster Recovery Program Awarded Amounts to Union County
Municipalities**

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		Clark	Elizabeth	Hillside	Landen	Plainfield	Rahway	Roselle	Roselle Park	Scotch Plains	Summit	Union	Westfield	Union County
HRP*	LMI Units†	1	2	3	15	1	15	2	0	0	0	1	0	39
	UN Units†	0	0	1	17	1	12	0	1	1	1	3	1	38
	Total Units	1	2	4	32	2	27	2	1	1	1	4	1	777
	Awarded	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$320,000	\$20,000	\$270,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$770,000
	Disbursed	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$320,000	\$20,000	\$270,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$770,000
RREM*	LMI Units*	-	1	2	10	0	12	1	0	0	-	2	0	28
	UN Units*	-	0	0	9	1	6	0	1	1	-	1	1	20
	Total Units	-	1	2	19	1	18	1	1	1	-	3	1	48
	Pre-Awarded	-	\$100,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	-	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$3,100,000
	Obligated	-	\$0	\$217,700	\$282,541	\$13,115	\$907,559	\$0	\$0	\$58,600	-	\$165,000	\$0	\$1,644,515
	Disbursed	-	\$0	\$5,734	\$76,157	\$0	\$142,573	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	\$0	\$0	\$224,464
LRRP*	Units	-	-	6	9	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	21
	Awarded	-	-	\$180,000	\$270,000	-	\$60,000	\$90,000	-	-	-	\$30,000	-	\$630,000
	Disbursed	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	\$0	\$0	-	-	-	\$0	-	\$0
INCLL*	Units	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	Awarded	-	\$112,231	-	\$7,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$119,431
	Disbursed	-	\$5,454	-	\$626	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$6,080

- * HRP Homeowner Resettlement Program
 RREM Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation
 LRRP Small Rental Properties/Landlord Rental Repair Program
 INCLL Incentives for Landlords
 † LMI low and moderate income units
 UN urgent need units

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		Clark	Elizabeth	Hillside	Landen	Plainfield	Rahway	Roselle	Roselle Park	Scotch Plains	Summit	Union	Westfield	Union County
NEP*	Units	-	24	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
	Awarded	-	\$3,647,000	-	-	\$96,917	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,743,917
	Disbursed	-	\$0	-	-	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0
SNH*	Units	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Awarded	-	-	-	\$552,051	\$664,433	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,216,484
	Disbursed	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0
PREDEV*	Units	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
	Awarded	-	-	-	-	\$500,00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500,000
	Disbursed	-	-	-	-	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0
SHBA*	Units	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
	Awarded	-	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$150,000
	Disbursed	-	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$150,000
Total	Units	1	35	12	62	70	48	7	2	2	2	8	2	249
	Awarded	\$10,000	\$3,829,231	\$437,700	\$1,431,792	\$1,294,465	\$1,287,559	\$160,000	\$10,000	\$68,600	\$110,000	\$235,000	\$10,000	\$8,774,347
	Disbursed	\$10,000	\$75,454	\$45,734	\$396,783	\$20,000	\$462,573	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$1,150,544

* NEP Blight Reduction Pilot Program/Neighborhood Enhancement Program

SNH Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund

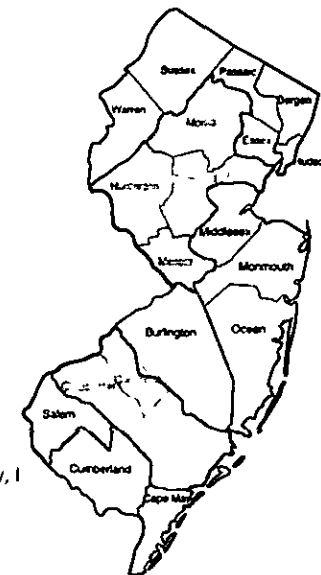
PREDEV Pre-Development Fund

SHBA Sandy Homebuyer Assistance Program

Appendix C: Superstorm Sandy Health & Wellbeing Assessment Report Template

SUPERSTORM SANDY HEALTH & WELLBEING ASSESSMENT REPORT TEMPLATE

Union County, New Jersey
May 2014



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A County Demographics

1) Summary of individuals surveyed

Survey Demographics		
		Percentage of Respondents
Sex	Male	34.1%
	Female	65.9%
Age	18 -29	9.0%
	30-44	28.7%
	45-54	19.7%
	55-64	27.0%
	65-74	9.0%
	75 years and older	6.6%
Ethnicity/Race	Asian/ Asian-American	1.6%
	Black/African-American	16.4%
	White/Caucasian	30.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	29.5%
	Other	1.6%
Housing Characteristics	Single-Family Home	73.3%
	Attached Home	1.2%
	Apartment/Condo	22.1%
	Mobile Home	0%
	Other	3.5%
	1-Person Household	11.7%
	2- Person Households	22.5%
	3- Person Households	18.3%
	4- Person Households	34.2%
	5 or More - Person Households	13.3%

B. Impacts of Hurricane Sandy

B1 Impact on Finances

Percentage of survey respondents who reported the following impacts had a financial impact due to Superstorm Sandy

Reported Impact:	Percentage of Respondents
Lost power	90 5%
Home was damaged	33 3%
Car was damaged	11 9%
Displaced from home	44 3%
Stayed with or at	
Friends & relatives	29 4%
Shelter	3 2%
Hotel	9 5%
Still displaced a year out	1 6%
Temporary loss of income (Less than 6 Months)	37 4%
Permanently loss of income (more than 6 months)	4 1%

B2 Impact on Personal Health

a) Percentage of respondents and their self-reported health status before and after Superstorm Sandy

Health Status	Very Good (%)	Good (%)	Neither good nor poor (%)	Poor (%)	Very Poor (%)
Before Superstorm Sandy	45 0	41 7%	10 0%	1 7%	0
After Superstorm Sandy	23 3%	34 2%	27 5%	7 5%	5 0%

b) Percentage of respondents who described their recovery from Superstorm Sandy as

Status of Reported Recovery	Percentage
Completely recovered	45.9%
Mostly recovered	39.6%
Recovered about halfway	3.6%
Recovered a little	7.2%
Not Recovered at all	3.6%

c) Percentage of respondents who needed service provider assistance, such as a visiting nurse, meal delivery, or other home-based care service as a result of Superstorm Sandy, __7.5%__

c1) Percentage of “yes” respondents who are still receiving service, __0%__

d) Percentage of respondents who said they visited a hospital for Medical Care as a result of the storm, __3.2%__

B3 Top Concerns Reported Due as Result of Superstorm Sandy

a) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) Health & Well Being concerns reported by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these concerns?

Top 5 Health & Wellbeing Concerns	Percentage of Respondents
1 Safe Place to Live	33.3%
2 Money	32.5%
3 Work/Employment	26.7%
Housing	26.7%
4 Good Neighborhoods/Neighbors	24.2%
5 Affordable Healthy Food	22.5%

b) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) services utilized by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these services?

Top 5 services utilized	Percentage of Respondents
1 Money	57.4%
2 Food	24.6%
3 Medical	21.3%
4 Government Grants	18.0%
5 Counseling for Depression	10.4%

c) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) mental health issues reported by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these issues?

Top 5 Mental Health Issues	Percentage of Respondents
1 Avoiding Reminders	41.8%
2 Over Protective	40.3%
3 Recurring Dreams	28.4%
4 Anger	25.4%
5 Physical Symptoms	25.4%

d) As a result to Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) conditions that respondents identified as preventing them from a successful recovery?

Top conditions preventing successful recovery
1 Stress/Mental health issues
2 Insurance coverage

3	Finances/funding
4	Damaged infrastructure
5	Translation services

C. NJ Residents' Awareness of Resources

Percentage of respondents who are aware of the following services/resources, and are still in need of these services/resources

Type of Services/Resource	% Aware	% still in need of the Service/Resources
Case Management	94.7%	5.3%
Counseling Services	96.0%	4.0%
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	97.3%	2.7%
NJ Hope and Healing	94.4%	5.6%
NJ 211	100%	0%
NJ Register Ready	100%	0%
Sandy Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP)	88.5%	11.5%
United Way/Red Cross/Charity	94.4%	5.6%

Narrative

There were a few consistent themes noted during the focus groups. A substantial number of attendees voiced concerns over recovery from Superstorm Sandy with some of the recovery concerns not being related to public health issues. A large cross-section of respondents and those residents in attendance at the focus groups were concerned largely over recovery issues related to rebuilding their homes and neighborhoods. There were a significant number of respondents that discussed concerns related to advertisement of federal recovery resources and to the length of time, it has taken federal recovery resources to provide any assistance or additional guidance. There were also additional concerns that future storm/disaster events will yield the same degree of response from federal resources.

Sheltering was a major concern among attendees at the focus groups. There were issues related to space and the appropriateness of particular shelters for all those requiring sheltering (e.g. medical needs and service animal/pet accommodating shelters). Additionally, concerns over space in shelters and the

number of available spaces were also a significant concern. There was discussion at the focus groups regarding space at shelters and the number of shelters that were open and able to receive residents.

Individuals recovering from Superstorm Sandy voiced concerns over continued stressors directly related to the storm. Residents voiced continued stress reactions during times of high winds or rains. There are also concerns discussed over physical responses secondary to stress because of slow recovery assistance from Superstorm Sandy and during storms following Superstorm Sandy. Access to local mental health professionals to assist recovery victims with these issues has been difficult for residents to locate and to utilize. Other health concerns are related to storm damage. Residents are concerned over mold in their homes and ground contamination secondary to flooding. Residents voiced frustration in locating funding for mold abatement and difficulty with local and county government offices allocating funding and resources for testing for ground contamination.

There is a significant discrepancy between resident's knowledge of available resources such as NJ 211 and NJ Register Ready. Based on survey responses, one-hundred percent of residents are familiar with both resources. However, residents attending the focus groups collectively did not know how to access these resources nor were they aware that these resources were available. It is difficult to determine the reason(s) for the discrepancy. A likely cause may be some degree of survey fatigue of those individuals completing the surveys.

D Key Informant Interview Summary

Organization (Name, City, County)	Did the key informant feel that his/her organization was adequately prepared to assist individuals affected by Sandy?	Have the organization been able to meet the needs of individuals seeking services due to Sandy?
Elizabeth City, DHHS	No	No. No but are in the process of planning. We have completed CERT Training and have almost completed our POD plans.
City of Westfield, Emergency Management	No. Interoperable communications are still an issue in the county which hurts response coordination. We need a broader education effort on emergency preparedness including acceptable methods of home heating in cold weather and generator use.	Yes. For the most part.
Union County, PIO	For the most part. Need to expand presence through social media.	Yes.

Springfield, OEM	Yes We did the best we could with what we had Lacked adequate reserves of fuel, food, manpower and consumables (batteries, extension cords, gas cans, shelter supplies, etc)	I believe we helped everyone who requested help There were one or two individuals with health issues beyond our ability to deal with at the shelter some nights
City of Linden, Emergency Management	No Manpower was limited since so many of our staff was affected by the storm Cooperation and coordination with the county was excellent	Yes, so far
Union County, Office of Emergency Management	No Personnel and resources Old infrastructure and limitations in roads It took the Red Cross 8 days to get staff into the area and another day to get up and running County staff exhausted by that point	We were not able to get exactly what folks wanted, but we were able to meet all needs requested
Springfield Township, Administrator	Yes We were prepared but not for the intensity of the storm and the lack of leadership from Jersey Central Power and Light (JCPL) With employees not being able to get to Springfield, resources were much stretched	We did our best, but the level of care some residents needed/ wanted was beyond that of the township's capacity
Clark Township, Health Department	I am a single person H O I started preparing and issuing alerts at 3 days prior to the storm I am the only staff person in the Clark H D I am also the registrar of Vital Statistics and the <i>Qualified</i> Purchasing Agent	I would say yes
MRC and DRCC	MRC and DRC has been preparing for disasters through conferences spending time together to form relationships of trust	Not everyone Many of the people in the shelters were elderly They were uncomfortable physically and at times disoriented
Linden Police	No Lack of support, political interference from uneducated elected officials Lack of funding to provide immediate aid	No Lack of full-time staff dedicated to recovery on a municipal level
Volunteer, Linden	Our city was not prepared	

Plainfield OEM	No More equipment and supplies were needed Feeding of officers, telecommunications issues Need for more storm and/or hazard mitigation equipment	Yes From a first-responder viewpoint
Linden Health Department	No Hampered by lack of means of communications	Health Department continues to respond to all requests for assistance
Linden Health Department	No Local political support was not received Money was not given for anything No information was relayed by officials No maps, no list of elderly with oxygen or other handicaps, specials needs	No response to survey
Westfield Regional Health Department	Yes, had practiced with emergency plans from Irene	Many people unable to get answers from FEMA

Narrative

The challenges faced by a number of the key informants are related to infrastructure failures, supply issues and workforce resources Based on the interviews and survey responses the vast majority of individuals needs were met A number of key informants have identified opportunities for improvement in their respective organizations and have begun to take action to improve response and recovery assets and resources

E Evaluation Criteria

A Survey

- 1 How many surveys did you distribute?
An exact number of surveys distributed is difficult to tabulate The number of paper copies distributed was in the hundreds Specifically, 475 surveys were distributed to various church and community organizations, additionally sixteen of the seventeen municipal libraries twenty-five surveys Each church, community group and municipal library was provided surveys in both in English and Spanish In addition to paper surveys, the survey was made available in two electronic, web-based formats The surveys were advertised on Union County's home page, Twitter and Facebook pages and were also advertised through Union County First Alert
- 2 How many survey responses did you receive?
Surveys were received in paper and electronic formats with 147 total surveys being returned

- 3 How many individuals contacted your local health department (either by phone, fax, email or telephone) inquiring about health and/or other assistance after receiving the survey? 0

B Key Informants

- 1 How many key informants interviews did you conduct?
15

C Focus Groups

- 1 How many focus groups did you conduct?
2
- 2 What was the total number of focus groups participants for all focus groups conducted?
There were a combined total of 31 participants in attendance at the focus groups
- 3 Did you connect any participants of the focus group(s) who reported unmet needs to resources?
Yes

3a If yes, how many?

This number is difficult to tabulate. Discussions of available resources were conducted during each focus group. Representatives from partner organizations were available at each focus group, those residents having unmet needs connected with partner organizations directly while at the focus groups. Follow-up was arranged directly between the residents and partner organizations.

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