



Stockton to Host Public Hearing on State Plan to Spend \$1.46 Billion on Sandy Recovery

Event on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Performing Arts Center

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The public is invited to a hearing on **Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014** at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on the state's plan to spend \$1.46 billion in additional federal funds to help New Jersey residents and businesses recover from 2012's Superstorm Sandy.

The hearing at Stockton is the first of three statewide, and will be held in the Performing Arts Center on the college's main Galloway campus from 4 - 7 p.m.

This is the second round of federal funds allocated to New Jersey for Sandy recovery. Some \$1.83 billion of Community Disaster Block Grant (CDBG) funds was awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last April. The state said it will continue to prioritize funding in the nine counties most impacted as determined by HUD: Atlantic, Cape May, Ocean, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth and Union.

The plan proposes to spend \$735 million on housing assistance programs, with \$450 million of that going to low-to-moderate-income families. Another \$535 million would go to infrastructure programs such as providing reliable power to critical public facilities including hospitals, shelters and wastewater treatment plants; and to provide flood protection for high-risk areas.

Other parts of the proposal include \$90 million in funding for local governments impacted by Sandy to maintain essential services; \$10 million to demolish unsafe flood-damaged structures; and \$5 million to help affected municipal zoning and code-enforcement offices respond to the influx of applications to rebuild. The plan also includes \$5 million for marketing tourism at the shore.

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CDBG Disaster Recovery funds are intended to support local rebuilding efforts after private insurance, FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), or other available sources of funds have been applied, the state said.

At Stockton, Spanish-language translators, sign language interpreters and other services will be provided by the state to make the event accessible to more members of the public. State officials and representatives of federal agencies are expected to attend and provide additional information.

The other two public hearings will be held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Essex County on Feb. 12 and at Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County on Feb. 13.

A 30-day period for public comment on the state's proposed amendment to the New Jersey Disaster Recovery Action Plan will run through March 5, 2014. The plan was developed in consultation with residents, elected officials, long-term recovery groups and other stakeholders in New Jersey, and will also incorporate feedback received during the public comment period, the Christie Administration said in a statement.

The proposed plan may be obtained in English and Spanish at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/action/> on the DCA's website. Written comments to the proposed plan can be submitted by email to sandy.publiccomment@dca.state.nj.us or can be provided by mail to the attention of Gabrielle Gallagher, NJ Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, Post Office Box 800, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0800. All comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 5, 2014.

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