

## Hurricane Sandy recovery groups receive more money for projects

By **DIANE D'AMICO** Education Writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 8:23 pm

In the last two weeks, the Atlantic City Long-Term Recovery Group got 13 new applications from residents looking for help recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

“People thought it was too late, or didn’t realize we are still out here helping,” said Clarence Alston, director of the group.

Not only are they still helping, but they are busier than ever. The group currently has 50 houses approved to be repaired, more still being processed, hundreds of volunteers coming in to help, and now an extra \$145,000 to help pay for materials.

The funds came from the nonprofit Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, which this week announced 27 new grants totaling \$7.3 million to nonprofit groups helping families recover and rebuild after the October 2012 storm. More than \$40 million has been distributed so far.

Much of the funding is going to construction projects.

The Atlantic County and Cape May County Long-Term Recovery Groups will each get \$100,000 each to repair 12 damaged homes in each county.

The Ocean County Long-Term Recovery Group will get \$1.5 million to assist 700 households with housing needs and case management. Ocean, Inc. will get \$250,000 to build 12 three-bedroom rental homes for families displaced by Sandy.

Henry Wise, director of the Atlantic County Long-Term Recovery Group said they are also getting a good turnout of volunteers, with about 50 or 60 coming in each week to help rebuild homes. He said the grant money will help pay for professional contractors to help with the more specialized work. The group has about 30 homes in the process of being restored.

Alston said they have contractors working on six homes they hope to have completed this month. The number of volunteers coming in grows each week, and he is expecting 200 volunteer workers during the week of July 21. The group has also received \$250,000 in other grants to help cover construction costs.

“We are really grateful for all the help,” he said.

Social services groups also got funds to help with case management and financial and mental health counseling, including Jewish Family Services, which got \$80,000 and Cape Counseling which received \$90,000.

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