

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Office of Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14th District

For Immediate Release
Date: March 20, 2015

Contact: Gregory Atherton
Phone: 631-854-1100

**LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY INFORMS CONSTITUENTS ON
NEW YORK RISING'S INTERIM REPAIR PAYMENT PROGRAM**



Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro (second from left); Governor Cuomo's Special Adviser on Superstorm Sandy Relief, Jon Kaiman (center facing camera); Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (second from right); along with officials from HUD and NY Rising.

Lindenhurst, NY: Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst) is very happy to inform his constituents that their voices were heard and in response, NY Rising has instituted an interim payment program for qualified individuals whose homes were significantly impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

Since NY Rising began its work in 2013, it has provided funding to enable eligible applicants to make critical repairs or modifications to their homes, namely raising foundations to resist future

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flooding. However, under the old arrangement, those qualified for such funding would first receive half of the cost of needed repairs, and would only get the second half when work was completed. This caused a tremendous amount of problems, as it was often the case that money would run out and contractors would have no choice but to leave projects unfinished. To help alleviate this pervasive problem, NY Rising will now provide for an interim payment of 25% of the total cost of needed repairs.

Michele Insinga, Executive Director of Adopt A House – a grassroots organization whose mission is to assist Superstorm Sandy victims recover – was more than relieved to learn about this desperately needed policy change. “We are pleased with the recent change that allows an interim payment of 25% of the grant award to assist homeowners in moving forward with their construction,” said Insinga. “We, along with our partner organization, the South Shore Recovery Coalition, have been advocating for this change and feel this is a positive step. We hope to see more changes in the future that will benefit individual applicants, and by extension, the South Shore communities at large.”

McCaffrey, a Lindenhurst resident, toured his storm-ravaged district with HUD Secretary Julian Castro this past October. In a recent article published by *Newsday*, McCaffrey’s conversation with Secretary Castro was highlighted as playing a significant role in effectuating change with the payment policy. As described in the article, McCaffrey did not mince words when he explained to Secretary Castro that the funds could not get to the storm victims fast enough.

“This is a great relief to individuals that still have not been able to return to their homes almost two and a half years since Superstorm Sandy,” said McCaffrey. “The district I represent was one of the worst hit areas, and while we have come a very long way in recovering, these NY Rising funds are absolutely needed to not only finish the work, but to better prepare us for the future. I would like to thank all the community groups such as Adopt A House, elected officials, and individual citizens who lobbied for this long overdue change.”

For more details on who may qualify, or to request an interim payment, NY Rising can be reached by calling 516-830-3560.