

Town of Fairfield

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT STORM SANDY APPLICATIONS

First Selectman Mike Tetreau announced today that residents affected by Storm Sandy are highly encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible for the Storm Sandy Community Development Block Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Rebuilding (OORR) Program.

The Town stresses that residents who are seeking assistance make an appointment at the Intake Center which is temporarily set up at the Town’s Senior Center, 100 Mona Terrace, by calling the Program’s Call Center at 1-866-272-1976. The Call Center’s hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 10 pm. For quicker assistance, residents can stop by the Intake Center to make an appointment and seek help with their applications. The Fairfield Intake Center is available to assist residents in filling out and submitting their applications

There is no established deadline by the Connecticut Department of Housing for submitting applications at this time. In early February, 2014, the State will decide whether to close the Intake Center in Fairfield, but applications will still be accepted.

The hours of operation at the Intake Center remain the same (9 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday, and 9 am to 3:30 pm on Saturdays) EXCEPT for the following changes during the holiday season:

- Tuesday, December 24, 2013: Intake Center Closes at 12 pm
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013: Intake Center Closed

- Tuesday, December 31, 2013: Intake Centers Closes at 12 pm
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014: Intake Center is Closed

The Intake Center will be closed on all federal holidays.

There will also be mobile application intake units to assist those who are unable to come to the Intake Center. Intake counselors will meet a person at their home or another place of the applicant's choosing. The intake counselor will be equipped with a laptop/tablet and a mobile scanner to assist applicants in finishing their applications. Priority for this service will be given to elderly or disabled individuals. These mobile units will be able to continue assisting residents after the Intake Center closes.

First Selectman Tetreau said, "The Town of Fairfield is here to assist our residents who are still dealing with the aftermath of Storm Sandy. I highly encourage applicants to make an appointment or visit the Intake Center as soon as possible since this Program is based on a first-come, first-served basis."

The online application can be accessed at <http://sandycapplication.com/>.

The State's application instructions, which outline eligibility requirements, as well as background information on the program and other pertinent information can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/doh/cwp/view.asp?a=4513&Q=530630>.

Last October, the Town announced that the State Department of Housing allocated \$30 million in federal funding for the (OORR) Program to support efforts to rebuild and renovate homes while addressing needs to prepare for future storms. The Program is geared toward residents with unmet needs from Storm Sandy. If eligible, Fairfield residents can receive assistance to rebuild and rehabilitate their homes damaged in the Storm. Fairfield residents who have experienced uninsured or uncovered losses as a result of Storm Sandy may be eligible for funding through this Program.

The State's housing recovery programs are designed to meet the housing needs of residents in communities most impacted by Storm Sandy that are not covered by insurance, FEMA and any other sources of funding. The general objectives of the State's OORR Program includes: assisting people directly affected by Storm Sandy; replacing and rehabilitating their homes; identifying mitigation measures; and improving the resilience(s) of their homes.

The grant award for each eligible property ranges from \$10,000 - \$150,000. The State will contract with the homeowner, and general contractor for the approved scope of work. The assistance provided will be secured with a five-year Deferred Forgivable Promissory Note that bears no interest. If the homeowner sells, transfers, or vacates the property for any period of time during the term of the five year Note, the repayment terms will be enforced.

