



THE WAIT IS OVER

LEARN MORE >



HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley

http://www.northjersey.com/news/business/Applications_for_Sandy_business_recovery_grants_are_lagging_Christie_says.html?page=all

NorthJersey.com

Search



SEARCH

Local | News | Sports | Obituaries | Opinion | Columnists | Blogs | Real Estate | A & E | Food | Shopping | Events | Travel | Video | More

Bergen | Passaic | Morris | Essex | Hudson | Sussex | Towns | High Schools | Community | Shore News



NORTHJERSEY.COM : NEWS : BUSINESS

Applications for Sandy business recovery grants are lagging, Christie says

THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2013, 7:28 AM
BY MELISSA HAYES
STATE HOUSE BUREAU
THE RECORD

PRINT | E-MAIL

Homeowners whose properties were damaged in superstorm Sandy are rushing to apply for grants to rebuild or elevate their houses grants, but Governor Christie said Wednesday that businesses have been slower to seek financial assistance.

“We’ve been a little bit surprised by the lack of volume that is coming from businesses for this program so far as compared to the homeowner program, which I think is moving very quickly, more quickly and with greater volume in terms of applications,” he said.

Christie addressed the grant programs and other recovery efforts after touring two schools in Monmouth County that reopened last week for the first time since Sandy struck on Oct. 29.

The Republican governor, who is campaigning for a second term, pledged to continue visiting the Jersey Shore to highlight the recovery efforts and to encourage tourists to return this summer.

While a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Wednesday suggests that voters disagree with Christie on taxes, the economy and jobs, it found that 86 percent support his efforts to lead the state’s recovery from Sandy. A Quinnipiac University Poll released Monday shows Christie leading his Democratic challenger, state Sen. Barbara Buono of Middlesex County, 59 percent to 29 percent.

Christie met with students and Union Beach Memorial School and Monmouth Beach Elementary School on Wednesday to celebrate the reopening of both buildings, which flooded during Sandy. Only five schools in the state remain shuttered as a result of the storm, including the Robert L. Craig Elementary School in Moonachie. All of the schools are slated to reopen by the start of the next school year in September, Christie said.

“When we make progress we need to talk about it and we need to draw people back here to the Jersey Shore for our economy and for, again, another step of retuning life to normal,” Christie said at Monmouth Beach Elementary School.

Christie was asked about the decision by officials in Mantoloking to release the names of five families who have refused to grant the state permission to build protective sand dunes on their beachfront properties. He hopes it will lead their neighbors to convince them to sign off on the project, which is being run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



NorthJersey.com | Top Stories | Most Read

NJ added 14,300 jobs in May; unemployment rate dips to 8.6 percent

North Arlington man accused of sexual assault of young girls

N.J. budget deal includes funding for tax relief for Meadowlands communities

Revel checks its attitude, admits it's a casino

Jersey's family man: Bergen County native James Gandolfini dead at 51 [photos]

A flesh-eating parasite in Syria

Mexico tequila market in China: drunk with promise

Religion news in brief

US welcomes Qatar decision on Taliban name change

Massive explosion at Quebec fireworks factory

Corps of Engineers will work nonstop with the goal of restoring or building dunes by fall 2014.

“We got billions of dollars from the federal government to do this job on all 130 miles of New Jersey coastline,” he said. “I am not going to have that money sit unused because some people care more about their own view than they care about the safety and security of the people of New Jersey. We will do whatever we have to do to get those easements, delicately and indelicately.”

Lawyers for the holdout landowners have said they are concerned about their views, but also that their private beaches would become public land and that the state could build a boardwalk on their properties.

The governor also said a number of homeowners have applied applications for shares of the \$825 million in homeowner grant money, but businesses have been slow to apply for a chunk of the \$300 million set aside for them.

He stressed that the business grants are administered by the state and are separate from the federal Small Business Administration program. The state grants , so it may be able to assist people who did not qualify for the federal loans, he said.

Christie has said that by next spring he hopes to buy 300 homes in flood-prone areas along the Passaic River and another 1,000 that were damaged by Sandy. Larry Ragonese, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said work would move ahead on the Passaic River basin project once flood-prone areas in Sayreville and South River are addressed.

Email: hayes@northjersey.com

Tags: [Business](#) | [Jersey Shore News](#) | [State](#) | [Governor Chris Christie](#)

More from NorthJersey.com - Business:

- [North Arlington man accused of sexual assault of young girls](#)
- [A changing of the guard at Montclair's Wellmont Theatre](#)
- [NJ added 14,300 jobs in May; unemployment rate dips to 8.6 percent](#)
- [US rate on 30-year mortgage falls to 3.93 percent](#)
- [France threatens Google with privacy fines](#)
- [EU approval for Delta's Virgin Atlantic buy](#)

SUMMER SPECIAL!
Sign up for *The Record* home delivery
for **ONLY \$4.53/month**



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Linda Phillips ([Change](#))

Comment

Facebook social plugin

55 MELROSE
Your sanctuary by the beach
OwnPierVillage.com
LONG BRANCH, NJ CONDOMINIUMS

Latest tweets from @NorthJerseybrk

Tweets

Follow @NorthJerseybrk

N NorthJerseybrk @NorthJerseybrk 7m
#NJ added 14,300 #jobs in May; #unemployment rate dips to 8.6 percent | bit.ly/10AFK33
Expand

N NorthJerseybrk @NorthJerseybrk 21m
Luxury apartments are on their way to #Weehawken. A sign of recovery in the housing sector? ow.ly/mdZ8uow.ly/i/2pna1
Show Photo

Tweet to @NorthJerseybrk

Follow @NorthJerseybrk on Twitter | More tweets



Myrtle Beach on sale. Save with room rates from \$69 per night & package specials at select resorts.



Mortgage rates hit 2.625% / 2.937% APR! Calculate your new mortgage payment.....



New Jersey: Will This \$0.50 Stock Hit \$6.00? Can You Turn \$10,000 into \$120,000?



Pastor says he turned his father's \$40,000 retirement into \$396,000 by flipping this 'Obama blunder'

