

## **CMS Disapproves Plan for Hurricane Sandy Payments**

On Dec. 14, CMS informed DOH that its application for Hurricane Sandy relief via the Medicaid program is **not** approved. LeadingAge NY will continue to aggressively advocate for payments to affected facilities.

The \$427 million plan disapproved by CMS would have provided cash grants to affected facilities equating to one to three weeks' worth of Medicaid billings. While CMS indicated that the proposal had merit, they concluded that the existing channels available to provide assistance, including those through FEMA, Small Business Administration and other Federal programs, are more appropriate. In all probability, DOH is now likely to re-visit a funding mechanism similar to that which was used for Hurricane Irene payments.

This is very discouraging news for our impacted members. LeadingAge NY has been and will continue to make every effort to push for a resolution to this issue, which is already far too late in coming and has serious negative ramifications for providers. Further talks between DOH and LeadingAge NY will occur over the next two days, and we will keep members informed on the latest developments.

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