

LESREADY!

Summary of Accomplishments, FY17

In FY17, LESReady! received funding from the New York Community Trust in the amount of \$80,000 to carry out community disaster preparedness work and implement various projects aimed at resiliency and sustainability. Our accomplishments during that time are detailed below:



LESReady! Disaster Plan

Our community disaster plan outlines the coalition's role and responsibilities in an emergency response situation, and provides member organizations with a variety of pre-disaster planning resources. Throughout 2017 coalition members met on various occasions to review the plan, familiarize themselves with important concepts and terminology, and practice the plan as a group.



Network Meetings & Trainings

LESReady! member organizations continued to meet throughout 2017 in regularly scheduled General and Committee meetings. Meetings are held at various locations on the Lower East Side and consist of trainings, discussions of issues impacting the community, event planning, and efforts to coordinate services.



Beyond The Grid

In 2017, the Beyond The Grid team developed a design and engineering concept for a community micro-grid as well as an organizational model, and hosted various stakeholder visioning sessions throughout the community. They conducted solar assessments of 41 of the approximately 100 low- to moderate-income MHAs, HDFCs, and limited equity co-ops on the Lower East Side.



Pass-Through Grants

Funding from the New York Community Trust supported (or will support) a public post-Sandy resiliency event at the New School; shared community dinners and emergency preparedness discussions for individuals in senior housing; training and equipping of floor captains in a Mitchell-Lama affordable housing complex; a community emergency preparedness resource fair; and various Sandy commemoration events, including:



#Sandy5 and Sandyween Events

LESReady! participated in the #Sandy5 march and hosted the second annual Sandyween event the following day. Approximately 30 families attended the event, which included disaster preparedness activities for children and resources for adults, face painting, a DJ, and a magician. About 15 member organizations tabled at the event with resources.

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Collaboration with NYC

Though LESReady! has had contacts within NYC government for some time, in 2017 we began exploring concrete strategies for post-disaster collaboration. These include potential partnerships with NYC Emergency Management’s food distribution efforts, and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Post-Emergency Canvassing Operations (PECO).



Radio Repeater & Communications Training

In July 2017, LESReady’s emergency radio repeater was installed on the roof of member organization Village East Towers. The FCC-licensed repeater allows us to communicate on a private channel with up to 40 users. LESReady! members tested the radios throughout the Lower East Side, a training that was captured by a local documentary filmmaker for the film “COOKED.”



Outreach to Houses of Worship

In winter 2017, LESReady! hired two interns to conduct resiliency and disaster preparedness outreach to houses of worship on the LES. Specifically, they encouraged faith leaders to enroll in New York Disaster Interfaith Services’ (NYDIS) HOWAlert program, a free emergency text alert system, and to consider becoming LESReady! members. The interns reached out to 121 houses of worship by phone, mail, email, and in-person.



Public Comment – East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR)

On March 24th the City released its 13th Proposed Amendment to the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project – the extension of which we advocated for – based on community feedback and new design challenges. LESReady! submitted public comment about the importance of climate science and the need to defend against displacement, both natural and man-made. Our members were also quoted in a WNYC News story.



Hurricane Season 2017

In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, LESReady! released a Hurricane Relief Statement via our website and social media channels with suggestions on where to direct financial and material contributions. The statement included information on contacting loved ones in Puerto Rico. LESReady! and its members also collected / donated supplies to be shipped to Puerto Rico such as non-GMO seeds, solar lanterns, and bike repair kits.



Severe Weather Outreach

LESReady! members utilized the coalition’s website and social media channels to post and share updates regarding severe weather and other emergency events on the Lower East Side, such as blizzards, extreme cold, utility disruptions, coastal flooding, and extreme heat. Members also flyered apartments, storefronts, and community events with seasonal preparedness information.

