CITY OF JERSEY CITY

STEVEN M. FULOP, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 10, 2013

Contact: **Jennifer Morrill**
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Jersey City Awarded $989,000 in Federal Social Services Block Grant Funds; Funding to Conduct Environmental Investigations Related to Superstorm Sandy

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today announced that Jersey City has been awarded **nearly $1 million** in federal **Social Services Block Grant Funds** to assist with environmental investigations related to last year's **Superstorm Sandy**.

The $989,428 in federal funds, which is allocated to the **Department of Health and Human Services,** will assist the City in monitoring the health impacts of Hurricane Sandy, particularly via blood lead screening. Following the hurricane, concern grew that children could be exposed to lead due to damages in older homes and outdoor environments. The City continues to offer free blood lead level testing in the Child Immunization Clinic at 360 MLK (HUB).

"Thousands of families were affected by Superstorm Sandy and the City is working closely with the State and the federal government to develop ways for an urban area like ours to mitigate the impact of a potential future hurricane," said **Mayor Fulop**. "But equally important to the mitigation strategies is understanding the health impacts a storm like Sandy has on our population so we can best assist our residents."

The funding was awarded from the federal government through the State of New Jersey to municipalities with severe flooding from Hurricane Sandy. As part of the grant, the City of Jersey City Health Department will conduct blood lead testing, case management for affected families, environmental investigations such as soil testing and home inspections, as well as other fundable activities.

In addition to this federal grant award, the administration is also establishing a Grants Office where different grant resources will be aggregated so that the City can pursue larger and more competitive grants.

"We recognize that we cannot do everything with tax dollars and as a government we need to become more diligent in leveraging federal, state and county as well as private grant dollars," said **Mayor Fulop**. "This is an example of how we are moving in that direction."

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for the City of Jersey City, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699./////

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
280 GROVE STREET
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302

P: 201 547 5200
F: 201 547 5442

WWW.JERSEYCITYNJ.GOV