BLUE SKIES, GREY SKIES

Preparing Together with SI COAD



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Built to Last | October 22, 2026

Who We Are

Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster

A boroughwide coalition connecting cross-sector partners to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.



Our mission: to better prepare Staten Island community organizations and service providers for disasters and emergencies, and to facilitate coordinated, collective action and response during and after a crisis.

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How We Got Here – SI COAD TIMELINE

2012

Born from post-Sandy collaboration; formalized under Nonprofit Staten Island to sustain year-round preparedness.

Early years

Preparing organizations through education, communications, situational awareness, and gap assessment.

2016/2017

Formalized the Medical Ecosystem Subcommittee, building on health coalition dating to 2008, to connect the health and nonprofit sectors.

COVID-19

Moved from situational awareness to response & operational coordination: information routing, public health communications, and mutual aid.

Today

An active Steering Committee, seasonal drills and briefings, and more data-informed outreach.

Blue Skies: How We Stay Ready

Readiness happens before the storm, through relationships, routines, and resources.

Infrastructure & Governance

- 11-member cross-sector Steering Committee
- "Living" emergency plan, network map, contact list, and communications scripts
- Ongoing improvement cycles

Programming for Preparedness

- Hazard Vulnerability Assessment
- Health updates and featured speakers at coalition meetings
- Workshops and shared tools and templates
- Seasonal briefings, call-down drills, and tabletop exercises

Force Multipliers

- Toolkits and "evergreen" content
- Agency and institutional partners
- Community Climate Corps
- Saying yes to capacity-building opportunities

Grey Skies: Recent Stress Tests



February 2026 Blizzard

Two to three feet of snow and 60 mph gusts. Facilities cut off, staff unable to travel, and care disrupted across the system.



Extreme Heat, Summer 2025

Pre-approved, plain-language templates; partners distributed cooling towels and water and shared cooling center information.

Turn Around, Don't Drown

July 31 Flash Flooding

Pre-event alerts and post-event resources, localized with FloodNet sensor data and partner photos.

The Medical Ecosystem

Where Staten Island's health and nonprofit sectors plan and respond together

Co-chaired by Dr. Ginny Mantello, Office of the Staten Island Borough President, and Tina Campbell, Richmond University Medical Center

- Connects both hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities, FQHCs, pharmacies, dialysis centers, primary care and others to community-based partners
- Coordinates with public health agencies and associations to represent and meet borough needs
- Bring health updates to every coalition meeting

Our roots

Before 2008

Richmond County Medical Society disaster preparedness committee

2008

Richmond County Emergency Preparedness Healthcare (RCEPH) Coalition, formed with DOHMH support

After Sandy

Health-sector leaders fold into SI COAD

2017

Formalized as the Medical Ecosystem Subcommittee

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COVID-19: A Borough Operations Center

The Medical Ecosystem and the Borough President's office ran a daily incident-command operation.

Around the table, every evening

- SI Borough President's Health representative
- Chief medical and safety officers from both hospital systems
- A skilled nursing facility medical representative
- Primary care representative, through the Richmond County Medical Society
- Community-based organization (COAD) staff

What moved through it

- Real-time needs: supplies, staffing, surge and bed capacity, nursing home transfers, testing, protocols, and transitions of care
- Donated supplies routed to community partners serving the hardest-hit neighborhoods
- Coordinated COVID 19 vaccine distribution and roll out with City, State, local hospitals
- Provider updates shared with 75+ Staten Island providers through SI PPS and RCMS
- Then, in 2022: DOHMH vaccine equity outreach and Tier 1 mpox outreach

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The Blizzard: A Health System Stress Test

February 2026. When climate, community, and health systems collide, coordination moves from conceptual to operational.

What it exposed

- Transportation is a core dependency across health care
- No shared, scalable system for moving patients or essential staff
- Limited real-time visibility into needs across partners
- Strong relationships and help from Governor’s office made response possible, but much of it was reactive

Where we're going

Transportation as core infrastructure

Health care and transport partnerships, MOUs and shared protocols, plans for moving patients and staff

Partnerships

Prioritizing trusted cross-sector relationships and re-engaging key response partners

Visibility and communication

Real-time information sharing and clear activation pathways

Year-round

Applying the lessons to heat, flooding, and storms

Where Your Organization Fits

When the skies are clear, we move from reactive to proactive, together.

Stay connected

Join the listserv and coalition meetings. Share what you're seeing on the ground.

Build your readiness

Use our trainings, toolkits, and templates, and help shape the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment.

Lend capacity

Join seasonal exercises and activations, or lead a training for the network.

Keep Staten Island represented

Help us hold our seat at citywide tables and reach communities carrying the most risk.

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Coming Up with SI COAD

Your next step: pick one and join us.

Nov. 3	Cybersecurity Awareness for Nonprofits
Nov. 16	COAD Coalition Meeting 2
Feb. 2	Disaster Mental Health and Psychological First Aid
Mar. 23	Basic Safety and Preparedness Training

Grab an SI COAD card at the Nonprofit Staten Island membership table for details and sign-up.

Questions?

Let's talk about where your organization fits.

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