



Iowa Pools Resources to Continue Missouri River Flooding Recovery

Governor Branstad recently announced that \$1 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will be made available to continue the recovery efforts following this year's flooding in western Iowa.

"The devastation of the Missouri River flooding this past summer is extreme," said Governor Branstad. "By providing the required local match that would otherwise be a burden that the city or county would have to bear, we are helping Iowans to move forward with rebuilding not only their homes, but their lives."

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) will provide up to \$1



Hwy. 2 west of I-29 on July 11, 2011.

million for the required local match portion that affected cities or counties will need to provide in order

Continued on Page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Financing for Businesses</i>	2
<i>River Crossings Reopen</i>	3
<i>\$3 M IA Funding Approved</i>	3
<i>Assistance for Individuals</i>	4
<i>Community Recovery Assistance</i>	4
<i>Assistance for Agriculture</i>	4
<i>Woodbury Co. Rental Assistance</i>	5
<i>IA Application Deadline Nears</i>	5

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available in Five Counties

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to Iowans living and working in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties. Read more on page 4.

Task Force Website Now Available

For more information on the Missouri River Recovery Coordination Task Force visit www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov.

Another Milestone for Fast-Track Flood Recovery

Over the Veterans Day holiday weekend, the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) restored traffic on Iowa 333 into Hamburg. This marked a significant milestone in Iowa's fast-track flood recovery effort, as this was the last section of state highway to remain closed as a result of the Missouri River flooding.

Iowa 333 was closed in June when a temporary levee was constructed around Hamburg and across the highway to protect the town. Flooding eventually inundated the highway with several feet of water, damaging the roadway and bridge approach.

Fremont County and the city of Hamburg were hard hit as a result of

the Missouri River flooding. Flooding took an economic toll on businesses that lost access to the interstate, as well as to the many regional business and recreational travelers the highway brought to the area. Flooding closures significantly impacted local residents by adding miles to their daily commutes.

The Iowa DOT joins the residents of Fremont County in welcoming visitors back to Iowa, and encourages travelers to make a stop in Hamburg (I-29, exit 1) or any one of the other communities easily accessed from Interstate 29.

Read more about the Iowa DOT's rebuilding efforts on page 3. ♦

CDBG Funding for Recovery Efforts

...Continued from Page 1

to acquire the federal funding offered through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

HMGP assists affected political subdivisions in acquiring property and damaged homes in the flood plain at fair market value. All properties assisted with this program are in the 100-year flood plain and are deed restricted to be green space.

All Iowa counties can apply for HMGP funding, however, only the counties of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury are eligible to apply for the CDBG local match funding. Counties, and non-entitlement cities within them, can apply for the CDBG funds through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

"Working with other state agencies to respond to Iowans' needs is essential to keeping our recovery efforts on track," said Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority. "We are pleased to leverage community development funding to make a difference for these homeowners who have been through so much this year."

For more information, visit www.iowalifechanging.com. ♦

Low-Interest Financing for Businesses Available Through Iowa Finance Authority

Eligible Iowa businesses are encouraged to take advantage of low-interest financing that's available for a limited time for the repair, improvement or construction of nearly any Iowa business. The financing is available through \$2.1 billion in Federal Midwestern Disaster Area Bonding capacity, which is only available until January 1, 2013. The Iowa Finance Authority administers the program and works in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority to make the resource available to current and potential Iowa businesses.

The State of Iowa was allocated \$2.6 billion in bonding authority for Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds in 2008 through the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act. Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds are a private activity tax-exempt bond designed to facilitate the economic recovery and can be used in the 78 Iowa counties that were declared a major disaster area by the President in 2008. Because Iowa lost so many businesses from the storms, tornadoes and flooding, most businesses locating, expanding or improving facilities within the 78 counties may be eligible for the program.

Many businesses that would not otherwise qualify for tax-exempt financing due to limitations of tax-exempt bonds qualify for Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds. The bonds are issued on a conduit basis, meaning the borrowing business is responsible for repaying the debt. Rates and terms are dependent on the credit-worthiness of the borrower.

The Iowa Finance Authority is a statewide issuer of tax-exempt bonds. A city or county may also be able to issue these bonds. To apply for the Iowa Finance Authority to be the issuer, the borrowing business must complete an application which is available at: www.IowaFinanceAuthority.gov/MDA.

Projects financed with the Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds must be located in any one or more of the 78 Iowa counties declared a major disaster area by the President as part of disaster number FEMA 1763-DR declared on May 27, 2008. In Iowa, all counties except Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Ida, Jefferson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Wayne, and Woodbury are included. ♦

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Two Major Missouri River Crossings Reopen After Months of Flooding

When the Missouri River severely damaged 3.1 miles of Interstate 680 between the river and I-29, closing it on June 9, there was an initial degree of uncertainty over exactly how long it would take to rebuild it and restore traffic.

Under ordinary circumstances, a project involving total reconstruction of a four-lane interstate highway, including removal and recycling of the existing pavement, would take nearly an entire construction season. But these were not ordinary circumstances and getting the road reopened to traffic before winter set in was a priority and essential to economic recovery from the flooding.

Iowa DOT employees across the spectrum of the agency began a unified effort to prepare for the rapid rebuilding of the roadway.

The design process was fast-tracked using a limited design approach - meaning not every detail was developed ahead of the construction process. Since the original plans from the 1970s were already on file electronically, the process was even quicker. The reconstructed roadway also would follow the original highway footprint, so there was no need to revisit the lengthy environmental process that could have delayed reconstruction.

Responding to an emergency construction bid letting on Sept. 23,



I-680 construction leading to Memorial Bridge. Photo by Iowa DOT.

a partnership of Peterson Contractors Inc. of Reinbeck and Reilly Construction of Ossian submitted the low bid of \$19.2 million. Federal Emergency Relief funds will reimburse the majority of the costs.

On Sept. 28 the contractors began 24-hour-a-day continuous operations at the site, which continued for 10 straight days. After the peak work period, operations shifted to 14-16 hour days.

Communication and coordination between the Iowa DOT and the contractors was consistent and positive, solidifying an already close commitment between the Iowa DOT and the contracting community in our state.

In just 34 days, the fully reconstructed roadway was reopened to traffic Nov. 2. More than 60,000 worker hours by more than 300 individuals from multiple contractors and subcontractors made the completion date possible.

At a relinking ceremony in Crescent Nov. 2, Gov. Terry Branstad

Continued on Page 5...

Over \$13 Million in Assistance Approved for Individuals and Communities

More than \$13 million in assistance has been approved for lowans and communities impacted by Missouri River flooding.

Assistance for Individuals

As of Nov. 14, 2011, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved \$3,076,464.33 for residents of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties as part of the Individual Assistance Program.

Individual Assistance may include grants to help pay for rent and home repairs, replace personal property and reimburse medical and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance. Assistance may also include low-interest federal disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations from the Small Business Administration.

Individuals have until Dec. 19, 2011, to apply for Individual Assistance. See page 4 for information on how to apply.

Public Assistance Funding Tops \$10 Million

Just over \$10.2 million has been obligated by FEMA for projects under the Public Assistance Program. Projects funded under this program include repair of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure, along with emergency protective measures that were taken to prevent or mitigate damage from flood waters. ♦

Recovery Assistance Available to Individuals and Businesses

Assistance for individuals and businesses impacted by Missouri River flooding is available from several sources.

FEMA Individual Assistance Program

Citizens in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties may apply through FEMA. Assistance may include grants or a loan through the Small Business Administration.

- Call toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing- and speech-impaired
- Apply online at www.fema.gov, www.disasterassistance.gov, or via smartphone at m.fema.gov.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Iowans living and working in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including farmers. Any Iowa WORKS center can accept DUA

claims. Visit www.iowaworkforce.org for information.

Legal Assistance

A toll-free legal aid hotline is available for survivors of recent storms and flooding in Iowa. The service allows callers to request the assistance of a lawyer. The service is a partnership between FEMA, the Iowa Bar and its Young Lawyers Division and the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

Those seeking assistance may call 877-775-8882, 24 hours a day to request assistance. Survivors who qualify for assistance will be matched with Iowa lawyers who have volunteered to provide free help.

Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program No Longer Available

Residents in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties may no longer apply for the Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program because the federal Individual Assistance Program supercedes the Iowa program. For more information, visit www.dhs.iowa.gov and select the Storm Help link. ♦

Assistance for Community Disaster Recovery

Currently, these forms of assistance are available to communities as they rebuild following the Missouri River flooding.

FEMA Public Assistance Program

Government entities and select non-profit agencies may be eligible for reimbursement under this program. Contact HSEMD for information.

Community Disaster Loan Program

Provides operational funding to help local governments that have incurred a significant loss in revenue due to a major disaster that has or will adversely affect their ability to provide essential municipal services. Apply through HSEMD. ♦

Assistance for Agriculture Losses is Available

Agriculture producers who sustained damage from the flooding of the Missouri River may be eligible for assistance.

USDA Secretarial Designation

The United States Department of Agriculture granted a disaster designation for 60 counties for disaster-related damage in 2011.

Assistance is available through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), including emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the Oct. 12, 2011, designation to apply for emergency loan assistance. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012.

More information can be obtained through local FSA offices.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture announced the availability of \$360,000 to help repair conservation practices damaged by storm events during the 2011 crop year.

Funding is available in 60 counties that were granted disaster designation by the USDA.

The deadline to apply for the repair funding is Dec. 30, 2011, and all repairs must be completed by June 30, 2012.

Contact a local Soil and Water Conservation Office for more information. ♦

Two Major River Crossings Reopen

...Continued from Page 3

and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, along with Iowa DOT Director Paul Trombino III, spoke to a jubilant crowd of more than 100. Director Trombino said: "The fast-track completion of this project is a testament to the dedicated and hard-working contractors, consultants, subcontractors and DOT employees who were focused on getting the road opened quickly to meet the needs of travelers and restore mobility in an area hard hit by the flooding."

Iowa 175

Also on Nov. 2, the barricades came down on the Missouri River crossing on Iowa 175 between Onawa, Ia. and Decatur, Neb. The highway and bridge had been closed since June 27 due to a large scour hole that formed around the bridge piers and eastern abutment.

In phase one of the flood recovery project, the nearly 50-foot-deep scour hole was filled and roadway embankment stabilized. The toll bridge was inspected and determined safe for travel.

The second stage of this project, including construction of a weir and dike, will be performed while the roadway is open to traffic.

Article submitted by the Iowa Department of Transportation. ♦

Woodbury County Flood Survivors May Be Eligible for Rental Assistance

The Community Action Agency of Siouxland is currently accepting applications from residents of Woodbury County who may be at-risk of homelessness. The assistance is available through the Iowa Rental Help program, which is the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program created as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Types of eligible assistance may include: case management, short-term rent and utility subsidy, hotel/motel vouchers to be used if adequate housing is not immediately available, housing search and placement assistance, storage costs and security deposit assistance. Qualified applicants may earn no more than 50 percent of the Area Median Income, which in Woodbury County is \$58,800

Contact: the Community Action Agency of Siouxland: 800- 352-3725 ext. 216. ♦

Deadline to Apply for Individual Assistance is Dec. 19

Residents in Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties must apply for FEMA Individual Assistance funding by Dec. 19, 2011. Call toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or apply online at www.fema.gov, www.disasterassistance.gov, or via smartphone at m.fema.gov. ♦

Missouri River Recovery
Coordination Task Force

Chairman
Brig. Gen. Derek Hill,
Iowa Homeland Security
and Emergency
Management Administrator

The Missouri River Flood Recovery newsletter is published by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in cooperation with members of the Missouri River Recovery Coordination Task Force.

Questions or comments may be directed to:
MoRiverRecovery@iowa.gov.

