



Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report



Cover photo credits
Belmond flooding (top) — Dirk van der Linden
Sandbagging in Iowa City — Ann Stromquist

Letter from the Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director

April 10, 2009

Governor Culver, Lt. Governor Judge and Members of the Iowa
Legislature:

In accordance with Section 10, House File 64, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) submits its initial quarterly performance report. This report provides a clear and concise picture of actions, activities, and efforts associated with the rebuilding and recovery of the state through March 31, 2009. While this report is requested for submission to the Governor and legislature, we have prepared it to ensure that all Iowans get a clear picture of Iowa's disaster recovery.

With guidance and direction from the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC), the RIO along with other state and federal agencies and countless local partners have worked tirelessly since last June to carry out the vision of "rebuilding a resilient Iowa that's safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history today and tomorrow."

As you will see in this quarterly report, we have made solid progress in the following areas:

- Federal, State, and Local Goals for Rebuilding
- Short-Term Priorities
- Long-Term Planning Priorities
- Housing, Business, Jobs, Infrastructure, Floodplain Mapping, Distribution of Recovery Funding, and Quantifying Disaster Impacts
- Communications and Public Education
- Integrated Community and Regional Planning and Intergovernmental Coordination

We have also included an update on the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission, budget, contracts and expenditure report as well as an overview of our current staff structure. The RIO will continue to provide leadership, coordination, communication and transparency of the recovery process, and secure economic assistance ensuring a strong recovery for our citizens, businesses, communities and state.

Respectfully,



Ron Dardis
Lieutenant General
Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director



The Rebuild Iowa Office State Partnerships

The Rebuild Iowa Office works in partnership with the following state agencies in Iowa's recovery from the devastating storms, tornadoes and flooding of 2008:

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
Iowa Department of Economic Development
Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Department of Elder Affairs
Iowa Department of Human Services
Iowa Department of Management
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Department of Public Defense
Iowa Department of Public Health
Iowa Department of Public Safety
Iowa Department of Revenue
Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Finance Authority
Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
Iowa Office of Energy Independence
Iowa Utilities Board
Iowa Workforce Development
State Fire Marshal Division, DPS

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)	8
Rebuild Iowa Office Mission, Vision & Goals	9
Federal, State & Local Goals for Rebuilding	10
Guidelines for Distributing Federal & State Funding	11
Short-Term Priorities	12
Long-Term Priorities	13
The Rebuild Iowa Office 2009 Legislative Agenda	16

PROGRESS REPORTS

Assisting Impacted Individuals & Families	22
Returning Iowans to Permanent Housing	26
Building Homes & Rental Properties	30
Reopening Businesses, Providing Jobs & Reinvigorating Economies	32
Rebuilding Iowa's Infrastructure	36
Mitigating Future Disaster Impacts	38
Forecasting, Mapping & Watershed Planning	40
Quality of Life & Cultural Heritage	44
Assistance for Local Governments	46
Long-Term Planning & Coordination	48
Identifying & Quantifying Disaster Impacts	54
Communications & Public Education	56
Distribution of Recovery Funding	61
Ongoing Challenges & Opportunities	66

APPENDIX

Rebuild Iowa Office Budget & Expenditures	70
Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing	71
Rebuild Iowa Office Contracts	72

Executive Summary

As the anniversaries of 2008 tornadoes and floods approach, the Rebuild Iowa Office's vision of a safer, stronger and smarter Iowa is coming into sharper focus. While much more remains to be done, hundreds of displaced Iowans and businesses are on the road to recovery and the building blocks for communities' recovery success are coming together. While recovery is a "marathon, not a sprint," the work done so far could not have been accomplished without an extensive recovery planning effort and an unprecedented level of cooperation among local, state and federal governments, private citizens, businesses and non-profit organizations.

This is the first formal quarterly report of the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and it is intended to provide an overview of recovery activities statewide across a variety of programs, agencies and communities. Actions and initiatives described in this report include the RIO's legislative agenda, vital housing and business programs, case management services available to Iowans, community planning processes and much more.

Rebuilding Iowa's infrastructure has been a high priority, and this report provides insight into various programs including FEMA Public Assistance, Community Development Block Grant, Economic Development Administration and other state and federal programs.

Mitigating future disaster damage requires flood management systems not only be rebuilt stronger, but strategically planned to make certain damage from inevitable future disasters is dramatically reduced or eliminated. The report discusses levee repair, floodplain mapping, basin studies, safe rooms, shelters and other innovative ideas.

Our quality of life and our cultural heritage in Iowa must be protected and in this report we review progress through several strategic programs that will achieve protection never before realized, and rebuild Iowa in a way that makes it an ever more attractive place to live and do business.

Assisting local governments through outreach programs is another priority reviewed in this report that provides insight on RIO guidance and direction to communities in need of financial assistance, long-term planning, sustainable and smart growth policies, funding, coordination and communications.

OVERVIEW

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)

THE REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

The RIO is focused on the recovery from 2008's devastating storms, floods and tornadoes.

RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team works with some of Iowa's hardest hit disaster-affected communities, helping each develop a unique recovery and rebuilding plan.

RIO's Case Management Coordination team works with voluntary agencies and faith-based groups. Their work with more than 20 local Long-Term Recovery Committees helps place struggling Iowans in contact with case workers who help them navigate the steps to a successful disaster recovery.

The RIO Communications team keeps Iowans informed of the latest disaster recovery information and programs by issuing press releases and hosting public press conferences to ensure accurate media messaging. The team also facilitates discussion among local, state and federal agencies involved in the recovery efforts to encourage cooperation and communication, handles public disaster-related inquiries, and offers a wealth of recovery information for the public through the RIO Web site, www.rio.iowa.gov.

The RIO also staffs specialists who research and coordinate economic, environmental, housing and infrastructure recovery issues as well as disaster-recovery policy and legislation.

CREATION OF THE RIO

As a result of the unprecedented levels of devastation and destruction caused by storms and floods during the spring and summer of 2008, and in an effort to efficiently and effectively manage the resources that were committed to rebuild and recover, Governor Chet Culver established the Rebuild Iowa Office through Executive Order Number Seven dated June 27, 2008. The Rebuild Iowa Office was officially created in House File 64, Iowa legislation which was signed into law on Feb. 2, 2009. This legislation authorizes the office to coordinate disaster recovery until June 30, 2011. It also called for quarterly reports to "include an updated budgetary and financial analysis including full-time equivalent positions, and progress in obtaining goals, benchmarks, and objectives established pursuant to paragraph "h," detailed below.

HOUSE FILE 64 DIVISION IV REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

Establish goals, benchmarks, and objectives by which progress in disaster recovery and long-term reconstruction can be measured. Such goals, benchmarks, and objectives shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Measures on returning displaced residents to permanent homes.
- (2) Progress on economic restoration in disaster areas such as opening or reopening of businesses, employment, and sales tax receipts.
- (3) Progress on the public purchase of land and accompanying structures both with and without financial assistance from the federal emergency management agency.
- (4) Progress on natural disaster forecasting, watershed management and floodplain management.
- (5) Measures on the expediency of obligation and distribution of federal and state moneys for disaster recovery.

Rebuild Iowa Office Mission, Vision & Goals

MISSION

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

VISION

A ready and responsive organization committed to rebuilding a resilient Iowa that's safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history today and tomorrow.

GOALS

- Provide leadership in coordinating state recovery efforts, in planning, programs, policy development, activities and decisions.
- Provide redevelopment principles and policies, link local/state/federal agencies, establish priorities and secure funding resources for recovery.
- Provide recovery information, services, guidance, status, updates and progress to Iowa



Cedar Rapids



Parkersburg



Oakville

Federal, State & Local Goals for Rebuilding

SPEAK UP IOWA!

In addition to feedback from Iowans during the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and Task Force meetings, the RIO toured the state to reach out to Iowans in impacted areas. Speak Up Iowa! public input sessions provided an opportunity for RIO staff and federal agencies to connect Iowans to initial recovery resources, information and assistance. The RIO also sought feedback from all individuals regarding circumstances, issues and experiences with the disaster and recovery effort.

Outreach sessions were held in five disaster-affected areas across the state:

- July 31, 2008 – Cedar Rapids
- August 5, 2008 – Wapello
- August 11, 2008 – Red Oak
- August 12, 2008 – Fort Dodge
- August 19, 2008 – Cedar Falls

More than 650 Iowans participated during a 45-day information-gathering time period (July 17 – Sept. 2, 2008) through Task Force meetings, Speak Up Iowa! public input sessions and through online and telephone feedback.

REBUILDING SAFER, STRONGER, SMARTER

Rebuilding safer means more protections against future natural disasters. This includes mitigation measures such as levees and other protections, as well as planning for where and how we build in the future. It also means better ways of predicting disasters through flood plain mapping and new technology. Using these methods and the lessons learned from this and other disasters, Iowa individuals, businesses and communities can help protect themselves from future damage, devastation and loss of life.

Rebuilding stronger means promoting cooperation between communities, individuals, neighborhoods, public and private entities so that we are working together to make Iowa an even better place to live and work. It means maintaining our high standards of quality of life as we rebuild. Through hard work and ingenuity we can rebuild better than before.

Rebuilding smarter means incorporating 21st century ideas and technologies in the rebuilding process. It means incorporating “green” and sustainable principles and policies, using the devastation of a disaster to put new ways of doing things into practice in Iowa and serving as a model for the nation.

MAXIMIZING FUNDING

Rebuilding Iowa cannot be done without significant federal, state and local resources. This will be even more difficult in tough economic times, but we must ensure that it remains a priority. This not only means that we have the amount of funding needed to help Iowans rebuild but also that we leverage this funding in a way that is efficient and effective.

PRIORITIZING PEOPLE

As we rebuild, we must expedite processes in every way possible and focus priorities on ensuring that Iowans are safe and secure. This means getting people in to permanent housing, making sure they are protected if another disaster strikes, providing mental health assistance and helping businesses reopen and stay open so that Iowans keep their jobs.

PLANNING TOGETHER

None of our recovery goals can be accomplished without strong and unprecedented cooperation between leaders and Iowans at all levels. We have to help each other and plan for Iowa’s future as a state together if we are to meet our goals and rebuild safer, stronger and smarter.

Guidelines for Distributing Federal & State Funding

In addition to the overall guidelines provided by the recovery goals, the Rebuild Iowa Office has worked with various federal, state and local agencies to establish guidelines and priorities for specific programs.

FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Along with the Department of Economic Development and the Iowa Finance Authority, the Rebuild Iowa Office has contributed to three action plans for the use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The three action plans prioritize and specify Iowa's use of these important recovery dollars allocated to the state by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office. With its recovery partners, the RIO works to recognize where a need exists and develops a recovery program addressing and meeting the need to best utilize these federal dollars.

FEDERAL SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Along with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Elder Affairs, the Rebuild Iowa Office contributed to an action plan for federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding. With its state partners, the Rebuild Iowa Office put an emphasis on these much-needed resources for mental health needs and older Iowans.

STATE FUNDING

House File 64 appropriated \$56 million in state funds to disaster recovery efforts including housing assistance, community disaster grants and individual unmet needs grants. The Rebuild Iowa Office worked with the Governor and Iowa's legislators in determining Iowa's needs in these areas and the best, most effective structure to address them.

I-JOBS BONDING PROPOSAL

Governor Culver's \$750 million I-Jobs bonding proposals includes \$150 million for disaster-related projects. The Rebuild Iowa Office assisted in developing priorities for these funds to ensure that we are able to fill in the gaps of existing funding sources and are able to leverage additional funding sources.

Short-Term Priorities

THE REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION (RIAC)

The RIAC is a 15-member commission created by the Governor in Executive Order Seven. This group worked tirelessly throughout July and August of 2008 to visit communities impacted by the disaster, listen to experts, leaders and other stakeholders, and determine the top priorities for the immediate recovery process. Each RIAC Commissioner chaired a Task Force, which was comprised of Iowans who donated their time to help develop strategies for a statewide recovery.



RIAC in Columbus Junction



RIAC in Columbus Junction



RIAC in Oakville

TASK FORCES AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

- **Agriculture & Environment:** Brent Halling
- **Cultural Heritage & Records Retention:** Karris Golden
- **Economic & Workforce Development:** Mike Earley & Bill Gerhard
- **Education:** Beverly Wharton & Jim Fausett
- **Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation:** Bill Bywater
- **Housing:** Jim Davis & Nitza Lopez-Castillo
- **Infrastructure & Transportation:** Mark Wandro & Mike King
- **Long-Term Recovery Planning:** Carroll Reasoner & Amy Truax
- **Public Health & Health Care:** Linda Larkin

THE RIAC 45-DAY REPORT

This report assembled by the RIAC included the following priorities and recommendations for short-term recovery:

1. Provide support and assistance to individuals
2. Meet people's immediate housing needs
3. Provide incentives for the rebuilding and reopening of businesses and non-profits
4. Begin flood plain mapping
5. Create flexibility in funding options for local governments
6. Expedite the flow of recovery funds
7. Ensure public health is maintained

These recommendations were a beginning template for the focus of the Rebuild Iowa Office and its partners. All were acted upon and many continue to be addressed (see "Progress Reports").

Long-Term Priorities

In September, October and November of 2008, members of the RIAC continued to meet and delve more deeply into specific areas of disaster recovery. Hundreds of Iowans signed up for issue-specific Task Forces chaired by commission members to volunteer their time and effort to help establish priorities for Iowa's disaster recovery. Each task force prepared a report to the larger commission that assisted in the formulation of their long-term recommendations.

THE RIAC 120-DAY REPORT

This report assembled by the RIAC included the following priorities and recommendations for long-term recovery:

- 1) Continue to provide support and assistance to individuals
 - Helping those impacted by disasters navigate programs and resources available to them, obtain mental health support and receive the resources needed to rebuild their lives is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Individual Assistance progress report.
- 2) Ensure the availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent, purchase and rebuild homes
 - In order to rebuild their lives, families need quality, affordable housing available to them. Repairing what can be salvaged and rebuilding what cannot is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Housing progress reports.
- 3) Help small businesses and non-profits rebuild and reopen
 - Many small businesses were impacted by this disaster and do not have the resources to rebuild and reopen. We need to help protect those business owners and their employees and maintain Iowa's vital economic sectors. Assisting businesses in doing this without going further in to debt is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Business progress report.

THE REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) met March 23, 2009 to discuss progress in disaster recovery efforts from the 2008 floods and storms in Iowa and address its involvement in long-term disaster planning.

During the meeting, Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) staff reviewed the status of the 12 recommendations made in the RIAC's 120-day Report to the Governor, and provided an update on community and regional recovery outreach, communication plans and legislative issues. The staff also discussed the Office's coordination of long-term recovery plans for the 2008 disasters.

Commissioners encouraged the RIO to continue its efforts in coordinating the disaster recovery, working with officials to better streamline federal disaster aid and showing progress to Iowans. Commissioners were also interested in seeing how Iowa's recovery compares to efforts in other disaster-impacted states.

The RIAC also discussed its future role in the disaster recovery process. The Commission was initially charged with creating a 45-day and 120-day report to Governor Chet Culver which included both short- and long-term recommendations for Iowa's disaster recovery. Commissioners reached a consensus that their initial mission had been met. Commissioners plan to discuss their role going forward at the conclusion of this year's legislative session.



RIAC members at 120-Day Report presentation



Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis presents the 120-Day Report to the Governor



The Governor accepts the 120-Day Report from the RIAC

- 4) Invest in rebuilding Iowa's infrastructure
 - The damage to Iowa's infrastructure last summer was truly catastrophic. Damage done to roads, bridges, buildings, schools, water systems and much more will take years to repair and is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Infrastructure progress report.
- 5) Funding options and flexibility for local governments
 - Local governments bear a significant burden in disasters in deciding how to rebuild their communities and funding the resources. They need the flexibility to act quickly and decisively and the funding options to meet their needs. They also need support from the state level as they work through their recovery decision-making processes. This is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Long-Term Planning and Coordination progress report and the RIO 2009 Legislative Agenda.
- 6) Invest in and improve local emergency management
 - Iowa's local emergency managers and emergency management system play a critical role in immediate disaster response and emergency preparedness.
 - The Rebuild Iowa Office is leading discussions on how to provide greater resources, coordination and capacity for this system.
- 7) Sustain community identity, quality of life and cultural heritage
 - Iowa's recovery process cannot ignore the very institutions, places and activities that make this state a great place to live. Maintaining quality of life, community identity and our state's rich cultural heritage are top priorities in Iowa's disaster recovery.
 - For details, see the Quality of Life and Cultural Heritage Progress Report.
- 8) Integrated long-term community, regional and statewide planning
 - No community's planning process can succeed without regional and statewide cooperation and assistance. A major role of the

Rebuild Iowa Office is facilitating this cooperation and assistance through out Community and Regional Recovery Planning team and other efforts.

- For details, see the Long-Term Planning and Coordination progress report.
- 9) Flood plain and watershed management policy
- Policies and practices are needed to help mitigate the impacts of any future disasters in the state. This can allow us to plan better and avoid destruction, cost and loss of life. This is a top priority in Iowa's disaster recovery and beyond.
 - For details, see the Mitigating and Forecasting progress reports.
- 10) Complete flood plain mapping
- A short-term priority for the state was to begin quality, state-of-the-art flood plain mapping for the entire state and a longer-term priority is to ensure its completion. This mapping will allow for better planning, mitigation, coordination and much more.
 - For details, see the Forecasting progress report.
- 11) Formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office
- The Rebuild Iowa Office was officially created in House File 64 in February 2009. This legislation authorizes the office to work to coordinate disaster recovery until June 30, 2011.
 - See the Appendix for more information on RIO staff, budget and operations
- 12) Communication and outreach initiatives to support and educate Iowans
- An important need in disaster recovery and role of the Rebuild Iowa Office is to communicate with one voice to Iowans and outside of Iowa about our state's disaster recovery, progress, challenges and needs. The RIO has lead several public outreach campaigns to share information for individuals and on overall recovery.
 - For details, see the Communications and Public Education progress report.

RIAC STATISTICS

On June 27, 2008 Governor Chet Culver's Executive Order Number Seven created the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission. Between that date and Nov. 17, 2008, the 15 members of this Commission worked hard to learn about the devastating impacts of the disasters and create recommendations for the state's short and long-term recovery.

This work included:

- Nine Commission meetings, two lasting more than one day and held across the state
- Multiple meetings of nine task forces involving more than 500 impacted Iowans, experts, stakeholders and other interested parties
- Disaster area tours in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Coralville, Wapello, Oakville, Palo, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Parkersburg, New Hartford, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Evansdale, Waverly, Red Oak and Fort Dodge
- Five public input sessions in Cedar Rapids, Wapello, Red Oak, Fort Dodge and Cedar Falls
- Nine separate task force reports on impacts and short-term recommendations
- One Unified Task Force Report on long-term recommendations
- Two Commission reports containing statistics, information and recommendations on recovery

The Rebuild Iowa Office 2009 Legislative Agenda

SENATE REBUILD IOWA COMMITTEE

CHAIR:

Robert M. Hogg (D, District 19)

VICE CHAIR:

William M. Heckroth (D, District 9)

RANKING MEMBER:

Shawn Hamerlinck (R, District 42)

Staci Appel (D, District 37)

Swati A. Dandekar (D, District 18)

Robert E. Dvorsky (D, District 15)

Randy Feenstra (R, District 2)

James F. Hahn (R, District 40)

Wally E. Horn (D, District 17)

Hubert Houser (R, District 49)

Pam Jochum (D, District 14)

Kim Reynolds (R, District 48)

Roger Stewart (D, District 13)

The information in this report reflects the Rebuild Iowa Office's agenda for the 2009 legislative session. As of this report many of the proposals below have been changed, improved and modified through the legislative process. Some may take more than one legislative session to accomplish. In our next quarterly report, the RIO will provide information on the outcome of this agenda and other recovery-related legislation as well as plans for the next session.

DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

Funding for disaster recovery unmet needs including individual assistance, additional Jumpstart Housing assistance, non-profit assistance and grants to cities and counties.

House File 64, signed by Governor Culver Feb. 2, 2009, provides state funding for disaster recovery unmet needs including individual assistance (\$10 million), additional Jumpstart Housing assistance (\$24 million), and grants to cities and counties (\$22 million).

REGIONAL WATERSHED & LAND USE POLICY TASK FORCE

Establish a task force to lead the development of comprehensive state and local land use policies based on state, regional, and local watershed planning that addresses principles of conservation, environmental protection, smart growth, low impact development and green building techniques whenever practical and possible, and provides mitigation of future risk and losses from natural disasters.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

Language in the Acts of the Legislature appropriating funds to the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for Historic Site Preservation Grants limits the award of grants to no more than \$100,000 per grant and not more than two grants per county. This proposal modifies this language so that grants would be limited to no more than \$100,000 per grant and not more than \$200,000 per county. This modification will allow for greater flexibility to respond to future disaster situations by removing the two-grant per county limit while maintaining the legislative intent of providing funding across the state via the \$200,000 total grant award limit per county.

HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

This proposal would increase the authorized State Historic Tax Credits by \$20 million for each of the following fiscal years: 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. These supplemental credits will be utilized exclusively in Presidentially- or Governor-declared disaster counties to aid in the rehabilitation of historic structures damaged by the natural disasters of 2008.

FLEXIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Adjustments to current law that we learned in this year's disasters would help school districts in their response and recovery, including providing the director with broad temporary authority in times of natural disaster to grant one-time waivers to educational entities, opening the emergency fund levy to school corporations and allow them to petition for permission to assess and levy this tax for costs associated with and incurred within two years of a natural disaster, require school districts to buy flood insurance if available to them, add authority for the School Budget Review Committee to authorize a district or AEA to spend a reasonable and specified amount from its unexpended cash balance for costs of demolishing or repairing a building in the event of a natural disaster and up to two years after that event, allow PPEL funds to be used for disaster clean-up costs.

Waiver the supermajority approval of a bond for repairs/rebuilding directly necessitate by a natural disaster for up to 18 months after the disaster.

Allow local boards of education to change revenue purpose statements if necessitated by a natural disaster – the cost must be a disaster-related expense.

STATE BONDING

Legislation to conform state code on use of federally tax-exempt bond proceeds to recent federal changes on use of bond proceeds.

DOUBLE TAX EXEMPTION

Iowa Finance Authority housing bonds are exempt from federal taxes. This change would also exempt them from state income taxes and encourage greater participation.

HOUSE REBUILD IOWA & DISASTER RECOVERY COMMITTEE

CHAIR:

Tom J. Schueller (D, District 25)

VICE CHAIR:

Deborah L. Berry (D, District 22)

RANKING MEMBER:

Pat Grassley (R, District 17)

Kerry Burt (D, District 21)

Betty R. De Boef (R, District 76)

Erik Helland (R, District 69)

Gerri D. Huser (D, District 42)

Dave Jacoby (D, District 30)

Jeff Kaufmann (R, District 79)

Mark A. Kuhn (D, District 14)

Tyler Olson (D, District 38)

Dawn E. Pettengill (R, District 39)

Thomas R. Sands (R, District 87)

Kent Sorenson (R, District 74)

Dick Taylor (D, District 33)

Todd E. Taylor (D, District 34)

Roger Thomas (D, District 24)

REBUILD IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Rebuild Iowa Office organized Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol on Feb. 2, 2009. The day offered legislators and the general public a chance to meet with federal, state and community partners active in Iowa's disaster recovery.

Impacted Iowans from cities across the state were present to detail the rebuilding process in their communities.

Representatives from state and federal agencies were also on hand to answer questions about the roles they play in the statewide recovery effort.

Agencies represented included the following:

- The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)
- The Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)
- The Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs
- The Iowa Dept. of Economic Development (IDED)
- The Iowa Dept. of Elder Affairs
- The Iowa Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
- The Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- FEMA's ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery
- The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)
- USDA
- Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)

STATE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Create a state funded public assistance grant program to assist political subdivisions during disaster that do not qualify for federal aid (in smaller disasters). The funding source would mirror the state's existing individual assistance program.

ALTERNATIVE REVENUE OPTIONS

Allow cities and counties alternative revenue options to pay for increased costs and lost revenue following a Presidentially-declared disaster.

ESSENTIAL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR CITIES

Existing laws governing cities limit their ability to respond effectively to the storm and flood damage of 2008. In order to make the existing "tools" more useful for cities and counties, without cost to the State of Iowa; since a city's lowest-cost financing tool is the issuance of general obligation indebtedness; several new "essential corporate purposes" would be added to what is currently allowed.

EXTENDED BOND MATURITIES (IN TIMES OF DISASTER)

Extend the 20-year limitation of general obligation bond maturities during times of disaster for disaster affected cities to enable deferment of principal payments on general obligation bonds and to restructure repayment of outstanding bonds.

AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY REPAIRS (IN TIMES OF DISASTER)

Cities and counties need expanded ability to undertake emergency repairs. If emergency repair of public improvement, highway, bridge or culvert is necessary and delay of advertising and public letting may cause serious loss or injury to governmental entity, city can proceed without competitively bidding project.

BOND OPTIONS FOR COUNTIES

Under current language regarding bond processes for counties, counties

struggle to bring project costs within the total estimated cost figure which was approved along with the bond issuance.

ELIMINATION OF CRIMINAL PENALTIES (IN TIMES OF DISASTER)

Eliminate criminal penalties associated with budget noncompliance in times of emergency. In 2008, out of necessity, cities have gone over budget and were unable to amend budget as required by chapter 384, because of unforeseen disaster-related expenditures. Any noncompliance that may have occurred due to the undertaking of emergency repairs, reconstruction of public improvements or over expenditure of city budgets due to disaster related activities is currently an illegal activity.

NFIP REQUIREMENT

This proposal seeks to require communities within Iowa participate in the National Flood Insurance Program so all citizens of the state have access to this insurance.

SAFE ROOMS REQUIREMENT

This proposal would make it a requirement that any newly constructed public facility contain a saferoom that is built in accordance with FEMA standards.

RECORDS RETENTION

Provide support to the State Archives of Iowa for implementing the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) Project of the Council of State Archivists. IPER is a nation-wide effort to provide training on the preservation of essential (vital operating) records of government units, especially local government units. IPER is funded by FEMA and involves representatives of the State Archives, Emergency Management, and Information Technology agencies of each state and territory. It will result in delivery of tested, verified, and effective training programs to local government officials in a timely, cost-efficient manner. In order to implement IPER in Iowa, an additional staff member for the State Archives and Records Program will be required along with a small amount



Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol



Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol



FEMA's ESF #14 at Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE STAFF

The RIO is staffed both by individuals hired and borrowed from existing state agencies.

Executive Director's Office

Executive Director:
Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis
Chief of Staff:
Emily Hajek
Executive Assistant:
Lynn Zook
Chief Financial Officer:
Tim Criner

Communications & Media Affairs

Communications Director:
Tina Potthoff
Media Specialist:
Juli Probasco-Sowers
Communications Assistant:
Adam Bartelt
Constituent Liaison:
Judy Lowe

Community & Regional Recovery Planning

Community Planning Director:
Susan Dixon
Community Planning Specialist:
Aaron Todd
Community Planning Specialist:
Annette Mansheim
Community Liaison:
Ann Poe
Community Liaison:
Natalie Sugira
Community Liaison:
Carissa Swanstrom

Voluntary Agency Coordination

Voluntary Agency Liaison:
Julie Struck
AmeriCorps VISTA:
Dan Cataldi

RIO Specialists

Administration and Reception:
Stephanie Kindred
Intergovernmental Affairs Director:
Susan Judkins Josten
Economic Recovery Specialist:
Jacqui DiGiacinto
Environmental Specialist:
Ken Tow
Strategic Planning Specialist:
Ron Randazzo

of travel and support funds. The total budget for implementation will be approximately \$75,000 annually to provide continuing technical assistance to local records keepers.

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

The RIO, originally established in Executive Order Number 7, would be created as a state agency within the office of the Governor to coordinate activities related to disaster recovery. The office would sunset by June 30, 2011 and be provided with minimal state funding and full-time equivalent employee authorization. Authorized in House File 64, signed by Governor Culver on Feb. 2, 2009.

DISASTER FUND

One major recommendation of the RIAC was that there be funds the Governor can access without calling a special legislative session in times of Presidentially-declared disasters. This year, the Governor was able to transfer funds and take from the ending balance to meet immediate needs such as funding for FEMA match, creation of housing and business assistance programs, etc. It is important that in future disasters there is a mechanism by which this kind of funding can be quickly allocated.

DNR DISASTER WAIVERS

Several waivers have been suggested that would allow for a more efficient way to respond and recover when a disaster strikes.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Assisting Impacted Individuals & Families

Individuals and families impacted by last summer’s disasters continue to feel the affects of lost and damaged homes, lost possessions, lost jobs, lost neighborhoods and extreme mental stress. Several program have been utilized to help address the needs of those impacted.

FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

This federal program is designed to help individuals and families with temporary housing, repairs, replacing personal property and other disaster impacts. The maximum award is \$28,800 per household. As of April 10, more than 40,000 lowans have registered with the FEMA Individual Assistance Program. Of those that registered, more than 24,000 have been approved for more than \$137 million in grant assistance for home repairs, personal property losses and other disaster-related needs.

MENTAL HEALTH

Many disaster victims find themselves in need of professional assistance to deal with the stress and strain of recovery. Several programs have been created to help provide those services including Project Recovery Iowa, Ticket to Hope and other community-based programs and trainings.

Project Recovery Iowa Contact Counts Current March 27, 2009

Type of Contact	Total
In-person brief educational or supportive contact	36,677
Telephone contact	22,043
E-mail contact	6,616
Material handed to people with no or minimal contact	138,171
Material mailed to people’s homes	12,931
Material left in public places	94,314
Community networking and coalition building	25,850
Public education/group counseling sessions held	1,125
Participants attending public ed./group sessions	16,971

CASE MANAGEMENT

The emphasis of Iowa Disaster Recovery Case Management is placed on timely and quality case management services that are sensitive to the phases of recovery for clients and the community. Iowa Disaster Recovery Case Management is meant to help facilitate the equitable distribution of

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE SUMMIT

The Rebuild Iowa Office, with support from FEMA, hosted a Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) Summit on March 12th in Cedar Rapids. More than 70 people attended from LTRCs and other recovery agencies across Iowa.

RIO Executive Director Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis addressed the audience, commending them on their efforts and encouraging them to continue their important work for lowans. Keynote speaker Steve Zimmer from the United Way of the Greater New Orleans Area spoke about his experiences with disasters in the Gulf Coast Region. Participants spent the remainder of the day in breakout sessions focusing on disaster recovery case management topics. Each session was led by an experienced facilitator brought to Iowa by FEMA.

Participants also used the summit to network with other case managers from across the state, discussing common issues and best practices. The RIO received the following positive reviews from the participants:

“Great networking, entertaining and knowledgeable speakers.”

“Great information - great to network with people who have experience the same issues (good or bad).”

“Great first summit! Good networking opportunity.”

This summit was the first in a series of trainings the RIO plans to hold for Iowa’s case managers and LTRCs.

disaster-related resources, including outreach to vulnerable populations. Iowa Disaster Recovery Case Management strives to encourage client empowerment in recovery planning, a crucial component of healing after a disaster, and collaboration with community recovery partners, which is essential to the success of individuals and communities.

Mission of Iowa Disaster Case Management:

- To strengthen coordination of voluntary organizations and local and state governmental agencies;
- To ensure that all Iowans receive the necessary assistance and access to resources to recover from disaster; and
- To develop a communication system and strengthen information systems to provide the most up-to-date information for disaster assistance to the public.

Enhancing several critical areas is the first step in creating a statewide Disaster Recovery Case Management framework. This involves coordination with key partners; establishing communication systems; strengthening information systems; and preparing agencies and staff who provide case management.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES

In response to the overwhelming disaster event this past summer more than 25 Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) organized and activated to provide critical services for individuals experiencing loss. Collectively, these committees are a consortium of agencies representing community services to assist individuals through the disaster recovery process by providing services based on need through the voluntary member organizations and local resources. These committees are the foundation on which disaster recovery case management is provided to individuals with unmet needs.

Voluntary and Community Organizations most commonly represented on Long-Term Recovery Committees in Iowa:

- American Red Cross
- Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- Lutheran Disaster Response



Case managers gather at the LTRC Summit in Cedar Rapids



Guest speaker Steve Zimmer presents at the LTRC Summit



Discussion at the LTRC Summit

**WHAT IS...
DISASTER RECOVERY
CASE MANAGEMENT**

Disaster Recovery Case Management services plan, secure, coordinate, monitor and advocate for unified goals and services with organizations and personnel in partnership with individuals and families.

Disaster Recovery Case Management services include practices that are unique to delivery of services in the aftermath of emergencies and major incidents. These services are delivered under difficult environmental conditions that typically result in loss of infrastructure, disruption of operations and special challenges for communication, record keeping, coordination and efficiency. Distinct service delivery challenges are associated with an influx and simultaneous deployment of local, regional, state and, in a declared disaster area, federal assistance. Services may be delivered within, or separate from, a multi-service organization.

(adapted from Council on Accreditation)

- Mennonite Disaster Service
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- The Salvation Army
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- United Way

Typical Committees within a Long-Term Recovery Committee

- Steering Committee/ Executive Committee
- Case Management
- Construction
- Volunteer Management
- Spiritual / Mental / Emotional
- Housing
- Finance / Fiscal
- Mitigation
- Fundraising / Donations management
- Employment

IOWA UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

House File 64, passed on Feb. 2, 2009, created the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program, which provides reimbursements and vouchers to disaster victims to cover remaining unmet needs including child care, transportation, home repairs and personal property.

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program was developed to provide individuals with a grant of up to \$2,500 for unmet needs related to the disaster. These grants are administered locally through the LTRCs which assist individuals with the complex navigation of information, resources and assistance related to disaster recovery.

Individuals living in 78 counties presidentially declared for individual

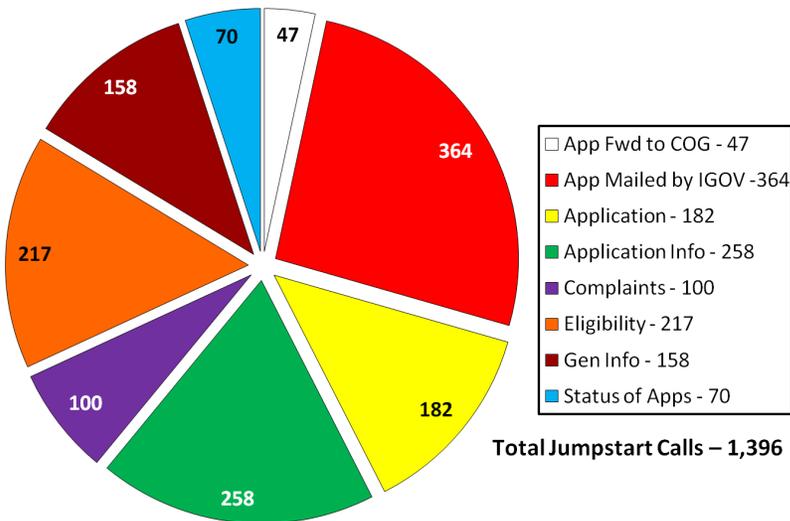
assistance are eligible to receive this grant. Over 30% of the counties are currently accepting applications and by April 15 over 90% will be accepting applications. The Rebuild Iowa Office and the Department of Human Services provides support to all LTRCs and are working to address challenges with administering this grant program. We continue to support and provide guidance for these committees and are confident that all individuals living in individual assistance declared counties will have access to the financial resource provided through this unmet needs grant program.

RIO CONSTITUENT SERVICES

The Rebuild Iowa Office serves as a clearinghouse for disaster recovery information and assists constituents who call, write or email with their questions and issues.

**Jumpstart Calls to the RIO by Category*
Sep. 2008—March 2009**

*While the RIO takes many calls, this chart details those strictly relating to the Jumpstart Iowa Program.



**SPOTLIGHT:
CASE MANAGEMENT IN
LINN COUNTY**

Linn County's case management services are provided through the Linn Area Long-Term Recovery Coalition (LALTRC). The LALTRC is comprised of representatives from more than 70 local health and human service providers, government agencies, funding sources and faith-based organizations dedicated to assisting in the individual recovery from 2008's disasters.

Within the first two weeks after the announcement of the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program (IUNDGP), LALTRC had received more than 400 applications. Since then, the number of applicants has steadily increased. As of April 6, the number stood at 723.

LALTRC expects the total number of applicants for this grant program to reach 2,000 for Linn County due to the level of destruction from last year's disasters and the remaining unmet needs.

Returning Iowans to Permanent Housing

Many thousands of Iowans were displaced by the 2008 disasters and many remain displaced. Some chose to live with family; others in FEMA mobile homes and other temporary situations. It is vital that these families are returned to their repaired homes or another permanent home.

HOUSE FILE 64: HELPING IOWANS

Jeff and Shannon Gardemann of Cedar Rapids enjoyed their home close to the Cedar River for many years. But on June 13, their house was destroyed by 14 feet of water. Along with their house, they lost many other personal items in the flood waters.

Because of Jeff's income as a crane operator, he made more than the average median income in his area and did not qualify for federal dollars under the Jumpstart Housing program.

However, the passage of House File 64 on Feb. 2 helped the Gardemann family get the assistance they needed. The \$56 million Disaster Recovery Bill set aside \$24 million in state dollars for the Jumpstart Housing program. It also specifically provided assistance to disaster victims that were up to 150% above the average median income. Because of the bill, the Gardemann's were able to qualify for the Jumpstart program.

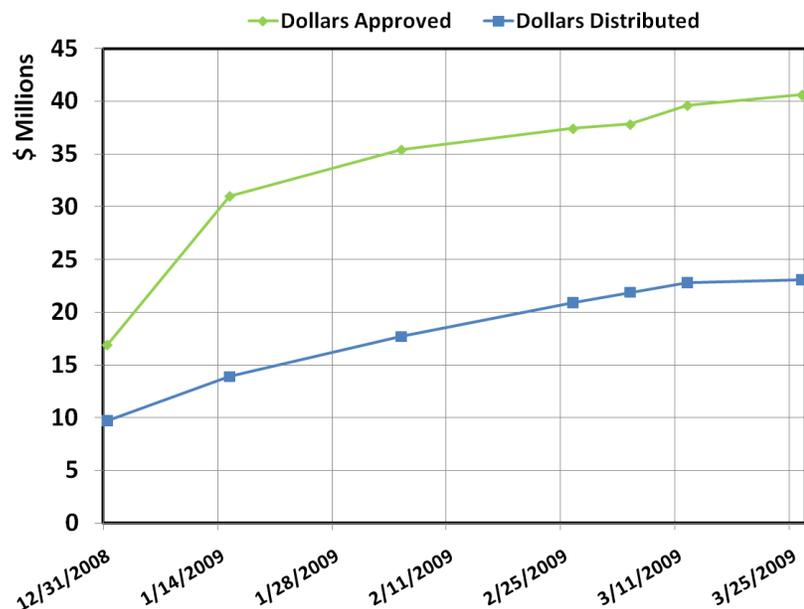
Several weeks later, Jeff received a Jumpstart check to help pay down his SBA loan for a house in Benton County. Jeff and Shannon now live in Shellsburg with their three grandchildren.

JUMPSTART HOUSING PROGRAM & PROGRESS

The Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program is administered through the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and is funded by nearly \$130 million in state and federal dollars. This program helps disaster-impacted homeowners either make a down payment on a new house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgages while waiting for a potential buyout. Households/individuals must be registered with FEMA and have received FEMA funds in order to qualify. Options under the Jumpstart Housing program include:

Homebuyer Assistance: Individuals whose primary residence will eventually be bought may qualify for homebuyer assistance of up to a \$60,000 loan which will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the home for a set number of years. This includes rehabilitation in support of

Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program



homeownership; acquisition assistance including down payment, buyer's side closing costs, mortgage buy-down (principal reduction) and combinations of the above; and combination of both rehabilitation and acquisition assistance.

Housing Repair/Rehabilitation Assistance: Individuals whose homes are not slated for buyouts may receive assistance to make repairs of up to a \$60,000 loan which will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the home for a set number of years. Individuals eligible for this assistance are not eligible for assistance under either the Down Payment Assistance or Interim Mortgage Assistance provision. All units must meet state or local property standards after repair/rehabilitation work is completed. No repair/rehabilitation benefits are allowed to a structure located within the 100 year flood plain or a designated buy-out area unless the activity meets all HUD environmental requirements, applicable design standards, and the property is insured by Federal Flood Insurance.

"Jumpstart Express" Emergency Repair: "Jumpstart Express" Emergency Repair is an option under the Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program. The application process for "Jumpstart Express" is the same as Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance. This option helps homeowners repair their current home without having to meet all of the previous requirements. The maximum award is a \$24,999 loan which will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the home for a set number of years.

Interim Mortgage Assistance: Interim mortgage assistance is available only to individuals whose primary residence will eventually be bought out. Eligible interim mortgage assistance may be used for payment of principal, interest, property taxes and hazard insurance.

Jumpstart Housing Update (as of April 9, 2009):

- Total number of applicants for all options: 3,959
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$68.8 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 2,446
- Total amount obligated: \$42.1 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$26.5 million
- Average award: \$17,198
- Applications ineligible for the program: 423



Jeff and Shannon Gardemann with Governor Culver



Home raised above the floodplain in New Hartford



Home being rebuilt in Parkersburg

JUMPSTART: HELPING IOWANS RECOVER

On Oct. 30, 2008, Gov. Chet Culver and RIO staff members traveled to eastern Iowa to deliver Jumpstart Iowa checks to local small business and home owners whose property was damaged by last year's historic flooding and severe weather.

Governor Culver presented checks to two local businesses in Coralville. The first went to Doug Parsons, the owner of Frohwein's Office Supply, who received a check for \$50,000. The second check, which also totaled \$50,000, was presented to Lee Staak, the franchise owner of the local Hardee's Restaurant. Both businesses were damaged as a result of extensive flooding in the Coralville business district.

The Governor also traveled to the Sans Souci Drive neighborhood in Waterloo, where he joined with U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley to award \$42,697 from Jumpstart to Shane and Katy Hackett and \$26,644 to Linda Sharp and Marilyn Pierce. These homeowners used Jumpstart to assist with down payments on new homes and interim mortgage assistance.

Jumpstart Iowa began as a \$40 million state housing and business recovery initiative, announced by Governor Culver on September 12, 2008. The initial allocations were released to the Councils of Government and Entitlement cities on September 26, 2008, with the first funds being made available to individuals within several days.

Applications are still being taken for Jumpstart. Iowans with disaster-impacted homes or businesses are encouraged to call 1-866-849-0323, or to visit jumpstart.iowa.gov to apply.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) HOME LOANS

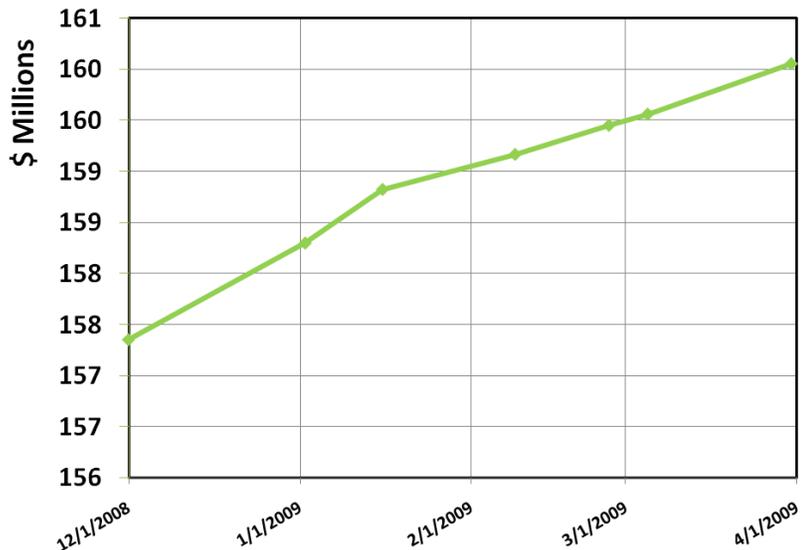
In addition to providing loans to small businesses, in times of disaster, the Small Business Administration also provides low-interest loans to homeowners to assist in their home repair or replacement.

HOUSING WORKING SESSION

As a direct result of the tornadoes, storms and floods of 2008, housing immediately emerged as a critical and widespread need in most areas of the state. Addressing the many housing needs after a disaster is a complicated undertaking, and though significant progress has been made, much work remains. State and federal programs are in place to address the variety of housing issues across the state. Yet, the process and intricacies of the different programs, coupled with individual needs and the communities' situations, create an array of challenges for those state and local agencies responsible for implementing housing assistance.

Getting all Iowans situated in a permanent housing solution is the goal of every person working in the local and state agencies. A working session was convened on February 18-19 to focus specifically on how the goal can be reached most efficiently and quickly. Housing program representatives of the Entitlement Cities, designated Councils of Government (COGs),

**Small Business Administration
3,171 Home Loans Approved Through 3rd Quarter 2009**



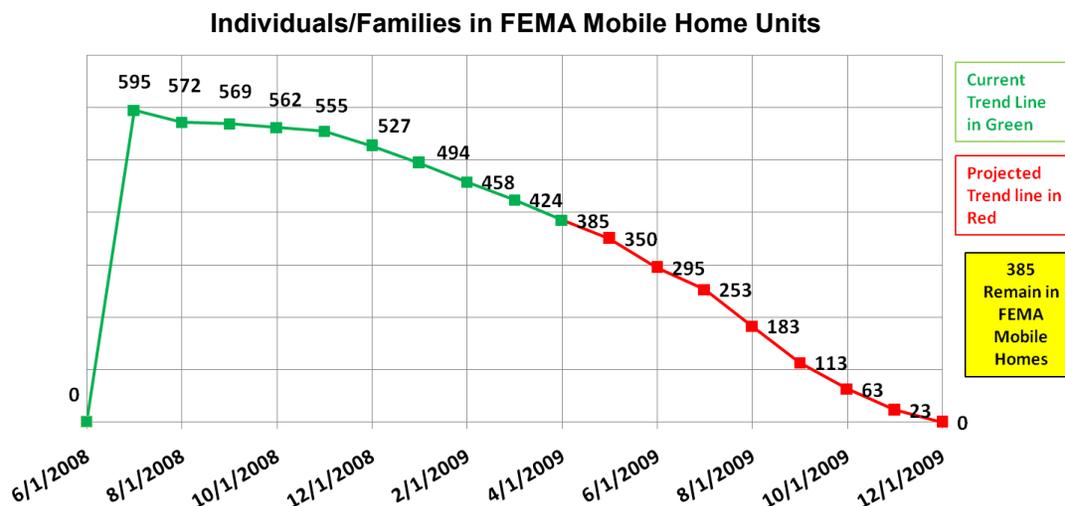
RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

IDED, IFA and RIO gathered in Coralville, Iowa, to discuss the progress, challenges and improvements to achieve housing recovery goals sooner. Mayors of 15 of the most-impacted cities joined the group on the second day. Gov. Culver also participated and provided remarks during the second day of the working session. Attendees discussed current roadblocks to getting Jumpstart program funds out to applicants as well as a year-long plan on housing issues including repairs, buy outs and new production. Three key products came out of the Working Session: the issues that need to be addressed to better serve the lowans awaiting housing assistance, several process and practice improvements developed by the program participants and specific goals by entitlement city and region for completing the processing of applications.

IOWANS IN FEMA TEMPORARY HOUSING

In addition to providing temporary housing in rental properties to thousands of lowans, FEMA also provided mobile homes to many. Our goal is to help those families move in to permanent housing yet this year. The RIO and Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division are working to assist those individuals and families currently living in FEMA mobile home units move out and into permanent housing.

The chart below reflects our goal of having all lowans in FEMA mobile homes transitioned into permanent housing by the end of 2009. While many factors will contribute to whether we are able to achieve this goal, this shows that if the current trend continues, we believe this goal is attainable.



Building Homes & Rental Properties

WHAT IS THE LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROGRAM?

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 created the tax credit as an incentive for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project owners to invest in the development of rental housing for individuals and families with fixed or limited incomes. The tax credit, rather than a direct federal subsidy, provides a dollar for dollar reduction (or credit) to offset an owner's federal tax liability on ordinary income. The tax credit frequently provides the last critical element to ensure the financial feasibility of the project.

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) has been the tax credit allocating agency for the state of Iowa since 1986. In that time, IFA has helped create more than 17,000 LIHTC units in more than 400 projects located in 83 counties throughout Iowa.

The Heartland Disaster Relief Act of 2008 provided Iowa and other impacted states with additional tax credits to be used to rebuild low-income housing stock destroyed in the disaster.

(From the Iowa Finance Authority)

Many homes and rental properties were destroyed in the floods and tornadoes. In order to help Iowans recover, we need to help them find new homes. In many cases this means buying out the destroyed home. It can also mean providing down payment assistance and will require that we work with developers to build new housing stock in areas where it was lost and work with landlords to provide rental rehabilitation assistance.

Several programs are under way to create incentives for new developments to replace lost homes and rental properties. Funding can be provided for down payment on these properties, can help offset construction costs and can provide tax credits for the development of low-income housing.

“BUYOUTS”

There are several programs that participate in “buying out” destroyed homes, either to mitigate future destruction or to make way for new developments.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) purchases destroyed homes in the areas most susceptible to future flooding and requires that the land they were on become green space forever.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds can be used to purchase other destroyed homes in areas where communities determine it is safe to redevelop.

These programs require considerable time and planning. Making decisions and taking action on destroyed homes is a lengthy and frustrating process for all involved. The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is now under way and the Community Development Block Grant program is being developed pending the next allocation of federal funding to the state.

SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING PRODUCTION

In the current housing market, it is necessary to create incentives for the construction of new single family homes to replace houses damaged and destroyed last year. A new program through the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) provides purchase assistance for these new homes of 30% of the sale price. So far, \$20 million in CDBG funds have been allocated for this program and will receive applications to commit these funds by the end of April. It is anticipated that as more CDBG funds are awarded to the state, this program will grow. This will be decided in part based on the number of

applications we receive for the initial program.

To assist rental housing we are currently reviewing the parameters of a loan program to assist Low Income Tax Credit Projects with construction funding and are also making plans for how we can assist in the production of smaller rental units that do not easily fit the program. For details on tax credit funding, view the "Distribution of Recovery Funding" table on pg. 65.

RENTAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Large Project Rental Rehabilitation program was announced in early April and allows disaster-impacted landlords with eight or more units to receive up to \$24,999 per unit for repairs.

The Small Project Rental Rehabilitation program for seven or fewer units was announced in January and is still available. Supplemental funds are also available under the program for lead hazard reduction, project delivery costs and temporary relocation. Total cost including supplemental assistance cannot exceed \$37,500 per unit. Assistance will be in the form of a five-year forgivable loan (non-receding) which will be forgiven in full at the end of the five-year compliance period.

Both Rental Rehabilitation programs will be administered by the 11 Council of Governments (COG) and Entitlement Cities that currently administer the Jumpstart Housing Program.

Eligible applicants must be:

- Rental property owners (individuals, for-profit entities, and non-profit entities) whose properties were impacted by the disasters of 2008
- The owner of record for the property prior to the disaster event
- Able to demonstrate the ability to fund on-going operational expenses associated with the rental property over the life of the forgivable loan

Both the Small and Large Rental Rehabilitation programs are funded by CDBG funds. No rental rehabilitation benefits to structures or projects located within the 100-year floodplain will be allowed, unless the activity meets all Housing and Urban Development (HUD) environmental requirements, all applicable flood mitigation design standards and the property is insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Also, no rental rehabilitation benefits will be allowed for structures or projects located in a designated or proposed buy-out area.

Reopening Businesses, Providing Jobs & Reinvigorating Economies

SPOTLIGHT: THE BLUE STRAWBERRY COFFEE COMPANY

A popular coffee shop in downtown Cedar Rapids is keeping its doors open after receiving assistance through the Jumpstart Iowa Small Business Assistance Program.

Michael Monnahan, owner of The Blue Strawberry Coffee Company, was presented with a \$50,000 Jumpstart Iowa Small Business check on Jan. 15. The money will help him pay for repairs to the coffee shop, which is a hot spot in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Monnahan's store suffered 41 inches of water in June. Initially thinking he would have his business back up and running two or three days after the floodwaters receded, Monnahan had a change of mind once he saw just how badly his store was damaged. The basement was completely flooded and the water was 10 inches short of the tables on the first floor. Monnahan also lost much of his equipment. He didn't make the decision to repair The Blue Strawberry Coffee Company until August.

"We're basically starting over from the beginning again," said Monnahan.

Monnahan said since reopening his doors at the downtown location, he can't complain.

"Business has been good. We are very close to pre-flood sales levels," he said.

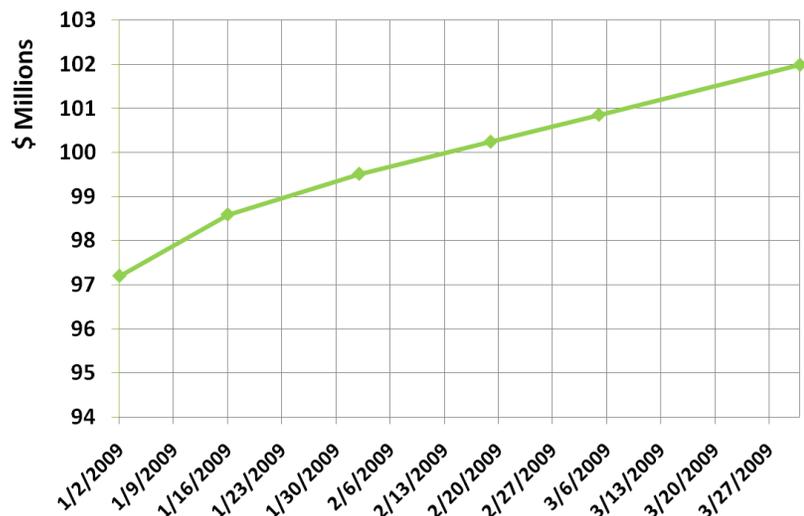
The Blue Strawberry Coffee Company is an upscale coffee house offering gourmet coffees, pastries, desserts and bistro-style entrees.

The RIO works and cooperates with local chambers of commerce, statewide business organizations and large corporate partners in evaluating the needs of businesses in disaster-affected areas, planning for recovery and projecting any local or statewide economic ramifications. To date, disaster affected businesses have received direct support from corporate and economic communities in the recovery and rebuilding efforts in the way of free temporary office space, free or reduced prices for services and even loaning professionals from non-affected communities to work while employees dealt with the disaster at home. Many state and federal departments rolled out programs designed specifically to address the needs of impacted businesses and their employees.

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest loans to businesses and homeowners impacted by disasters to assist with lost revenue, needed repairs and replacement of disaster-damaged property owned by the business (such as real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment). Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities and private universities are also eligible. Federal law limits these business loans to \$2 million to help alleviate economic injury caused by a disaster. Loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss.

**Small Business Administration
723 Business Loans Approved through 3rd Quarter 2009**



THE JUMPSTART BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through the Jumpstart Business Assistance Program, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) provides financial assistance to businesses suffering physical damage or economic loss due to the 2008 storms, tornadoes and floods. The Jumpstart Business Assistance Program, launched in Sep. 2008, uses \$35 million in state and federal funding to provide forgivable loans of up to \$55,000 to impacted businesses, assisting them in disaster-related repairs and lost revenues. The loan is forgiven if the business reopens within 12 months of the award date. Businesses are eligible for assistance if they have received disaster loan funds from the SBA, a state- or federally-chartered financial institution or other recognized entity that underwrites loans. The maximum amount of program funds a business can receive is 25 percent of the business's other disaster loan, up to a maximum of \$50,000. An additional \$5,000 can be used for the purchase of energy-efficient appliances/ replacements. IDED administers this program through 11 Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities. As of March 31, the program has received more than 1,050 applications from Iowa businesses.



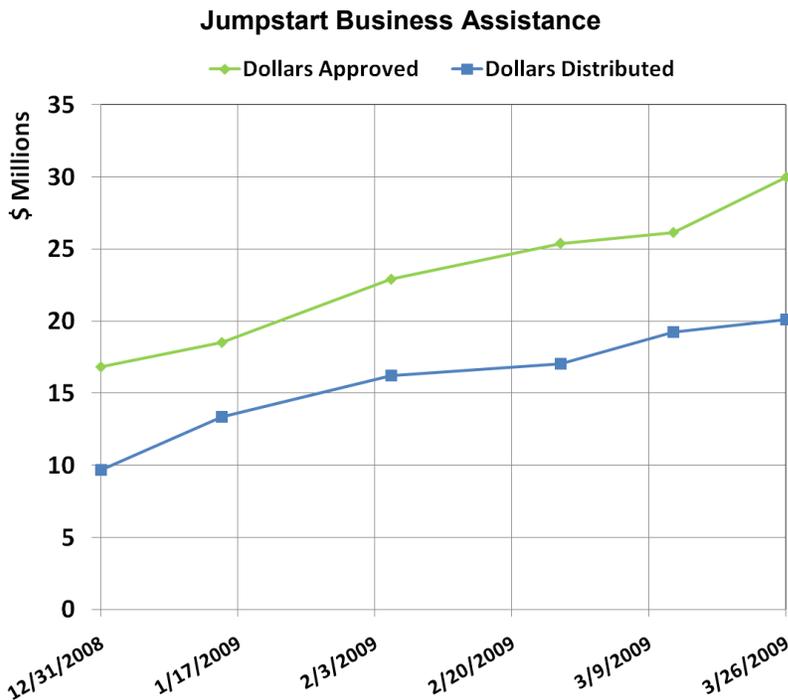
Michael Monnahan (center) of the Blue Strawberry receives a Jumpstart Business check



Cedar Rapids business under water



Cedar Rapids business drying post-flood





Flood-damaged park in Des Moines County
Photo credit: EPJ



A campground scoured by flood water
Photo credit: EPJ



The same campground after work by the EPJ Program
Photo credit: EPJ

THE DISASTER RECOVERY BUSINESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

While Jumpstart Business has been successful in addressing many of the unmet needs of Iowa businesses due to the 2008 disasters, the Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program will benefit businesses that may not have been eligible for the Jumpstart Business program. The Business Rental Assistance Program promotes business growth and revitalization of commercial space damaged by the disaster. Businesses can receive up to \$50,000 in rental assistance reimbursement over six months (retroactive to Oct. 2008). Businesses must remain open during the six months.

THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC BETTERMENT ACCOUNT

The Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) program provides economic development investments to companies that will provide returns to the State in the form of quality jobs and income tax revenue. This program supports large and small business ventures that demonstrate several qualities: additional funding sources, business plan strength, future growth, return on investment, local support, and a comprehensive economic plan. Currently, the Department of Economic Development has funded three companies' proposals and is working with an additional four companies on applications. CEBA funds can be used to support a wide range of projects, including building construction or reconstruction, land or building acquisition, operating and maintenance expenses, equipment purchases, working capital and site development including clearance, demolition and building removal.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT

The State of Iowa has received a National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for \$17.1 million dollars toward the Emergency Public Jobs Program (EPJ) and the Small Business Assistance Grant.

The EPJ was designed to put Iowans who have lost their job due to the tornadoes or floods back to work (up to 1,040 hours – approximately 6 months). The program is administered through Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and the wages will be paid at the prevailing wage for the worksite. To date, EPJ has employed nearly 850 Iowans and has expended over \$7 million dollars.

The IWD Small Business Assistance Grant allows businesses affected by the 2008 disasters with 25 employees or fewer to apply for as much as \$5,000 in grant money. This grant program is a more flexible vehicle for businesses, farmers and even non-profits to use for dislocated employee, repair and other disaster-related losses. Wages are not an eligible expense through this program.

AGRICULTURE

The disasters caused significant damage to agriculture and rural infrastructure throughout Iowa's 85 Presidentially-declared disaster counties. Damage to cropland alone is estimated at about \$800 million. More than 2.2 million acres of Iowa farmland had excessive erosion.

Conservation measures were very effective in stopping erosion where those measures were in place and maintained. Damages to cropland would have been much worse had conservation measures not been in place, However, more conservation practices are needed. Damages caused by flooding and excessive rains need to be repaired, and structures that have been in place for more than twenty years need to be updated. The estimated cost of all practices needed to adequately protect Iowa's rural lands is more than \$1.8 billion.

Federal programs offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided flood recovery assistance to individual farmers, watershed organizations and local communities. To date, Iowa has been allocated \$72 million through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for emergency recovery work and the purchase of floodplain easements. In addition, \$33.5 million has been allocated for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) which helps defer the cost of conservation practices, restoring fences and removing debris from fields.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided \$290 million nationally for watershed improvement programs to design and build flood protection and water quality projects, repair aging dams, and purchase and restore conservation easements in river flood zones. The funds are divided equally to provide \$145 million for EWP floodplain easement and restoration projects, and \$145 million for small watershed projects. Congress also appropriated \$150 million nationally last year to establish a Rural Development Assistance Fund, to be administered by USDA's Rural Development agency. None of the stimulus funds or the rural development funds have been allocated.



Cropland damage from gully erosion

Photo credit: NRCS, USDA



Corn field submerged in flood water

Photo credit: Scott Olson/Getty Images



Cattle on a porch to avoid flood waters north of Vinton. 6-11-2008

Photo credit: AP Photo/Steve Pope

Rebuilding Iowa's Infrastructure

The 2008 disasters caused significant damage to Iowa's vital public infrastructure including roads, bridges, public buildings, water systems and much more. Repairs and sometimes replacing these structures is key to helping Iowa recovery



Governor Culver at flood-damaged Cedar Rapids Public Works facility



Flood-damaged railroad tracks
Photo credit: IDALS



Flood-damaged road near Oakville

FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

FEMA has agreed to provide funding for 90% of infrastructure repairs and rebuilding in Iowa. The process of approving these projects is complex and currently, it is estimated that in the end more than \$1.1 billion will be spent in this program (see "Distribution of Recovery Funding," pg. 61).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Seven Iowa communities have already received \$9.1 million in awards for nine projects including an inflatable dam in Waverly, storm water and sewer system improvements and repairs in Des Moines, Keosauqua, Shenandoah, Centerville, Farragut and Essex. \$32 million more is currently available for similar projects with a maximum award per project of \$5 million.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC WORKS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Through the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration sponsors several funding programs. The State of Iowa has received funding from the EDA Public Works and Economic Development program. These investments help support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, redevelop "brownfield" sites and provide eco-industrial development.

COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Through funding from the Economic Development Administration, the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Department of Economic Development are in the process of a comprehensive study of Iowa's infrastructure needs,

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

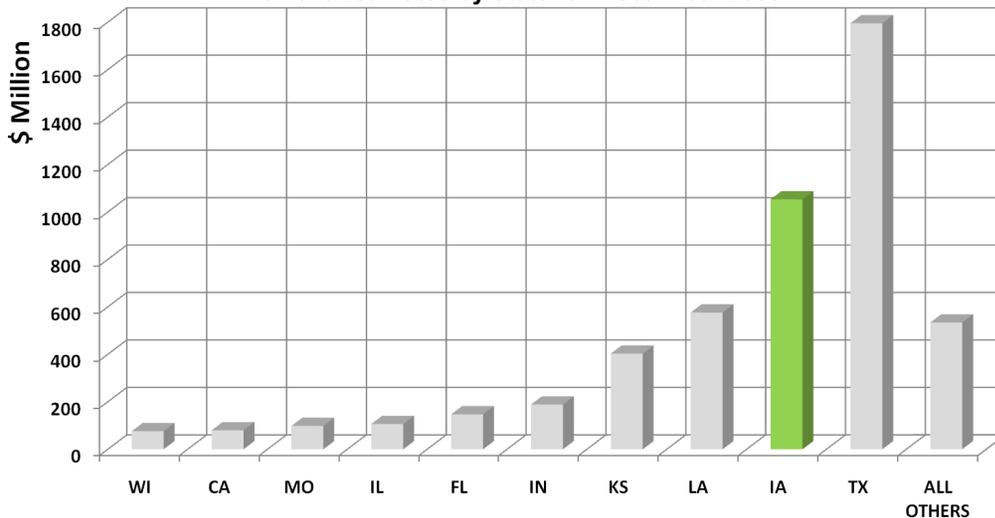
including the impacts of the 2008 disasters. This study will help the state to continue to focus and prioritize funding for infrastructure improvements and consider infrastructure projects beyond the usual definition of road, bridges and buildings to include natural resources, energy and telecommunications.

Top 10 U.S. Disasters According to FEMA Public Assistance Figures

	Disaster Description	State	Disaster Number	Total Obligated	Federal Share Obligated
1	Hurricane Katrina	LA	1603	\$7,020,372,507	\$6,945,262,475
2	Terrorist Attack (9/11)	NY	1391	\$4,675,507,202	\$4,651,418,717
3	Hurricane Katrina	MS	1604	\$2,924,927,656	\$2,892,412,076
4	Hurricane Wilma	FL	1609	\$1,588,363,000	\$1,567,400,761
5	Hurricane Ivan	FL	1551	\$693,985,075	\$685,084,790
6	Hurricane	FL	1545	\$650,260,751	\$638,565,758
7	Hurricanes Charley/Bonnie	FL	1539	\$622,351,814	\$612,889,045
8	Hurricane Rita	LA	1607	\$560,666,197	\$552,961,997
9	Flooding*	IA	1763	\$530,973,455	\$530,973,455
10	Hurricane Jeanne	FL	1561	\$527,503,036	\$518,462,291

*Iowa's current total as of Feb. 2009. Iowa is expected to be the fifth largest disaster by the end of the recovery with more than \$1.1 billion obligated for projects.

How Iowa Compares to Other Disaster-Impacted States in 2008 According to FEMA Public Assistance Figures Current Estimates by State for Fiscal Year 2008



Mitigating Future Disaster Impacts

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires a FEMA-approved local mitigation plan in order to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project funding. These plans must be updated every five years.

Currently 300 Iowa communities have approved plans and more than 600 have new plan reviews in progress. Communities are required to document planning processes and identify hazards, potential losses, and mitigation needs, goals, and strategies. They must demonstrate proposed mitigation actions based on sound planning processes accounting for inherent risks and capabilities of individual communities.

There are many long-term benefits of mitigation planning in addition to access to FEMA funding, including:

- an increased understanding of hazards faced by communities;
- more sustainable and disaster-resistant communities;
- financial savings through partnerships that support planning and mitigation efforts;
- focused use of limited resources on hazards that have the biggest impact on a community; and
- reduced long-term impacts and damages to human health and structures and reduced repair costs.

As Iowa rebuilds, we have the opportunity to do so in a way that lessens the impact of future natural disasters. By building safe rooms for shelter from tornadoes, building homes and businesses outside of the flood plain and creating infrastructure to protect homes and buildings, we can help protect the state and its people from future damage of this magnitude.

FEMA PROGRAMS

Iowa is one of only nine states that has a FEMA-approved Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan. Those states with the Enhanced designation have demonstrated development of a comprehensive mitigation program. The mitigation plan demonstrates the state's commitment to reducing risks from all hazards, natural and human caused, and serves as a guide for state decision-makers in committing resources to reduce the effects of these hazards.

The State of Iowa has been proactive in hazard mitigation planning and activities since the 1990's. The state's planning process is driven by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and is synchronized through the coordination and integration of local hazard mitigation planning with interagency planning of the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT), which was established by an Executive Order of the Governor in 1990.

Iowa's State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) leads in a statewide capacity and is directly responsible for coordination with representatives from Federal and State agencies, local governments, private business and political representatives. The State Mitigation Section coordinates, implements, manages and delivers state-wide multi-million dollar hazard mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), and the Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC). The SHMO serves on a National Committee for the Hazard Mitigation External Stakeholders Workgroup. This workgroup makes recommendations for changes in rules, regulations, procedures, and operating methods.

Over the past years the State Mitigation Section has:

- Completed 350 hazard mitigation projects totaling \$90 million
- Acquired 1,447 properties as a result of 130 hazard mitigation projects

Currently the State Mitigation section is:

- Implementing the largest scale electrical utility retrofits (Rural Electric Cooperatives) nationwide,
- Implementing the largest acquisition project in Iowa's history
- Opening Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding (see sidebar).

Continuing these efforts will assist in protecting the lives and property for the citizens of Iowa making Iowa a better and safer place to live.

LEVEES

Levees damaged in the lower part of the Iowa Cedar Basin and elsewhere throughout the state during the floods of 2008 have required major efforts to repair. Open breaks still exist or a temporary levee is providing protection for levees such as those at Wapello and Oakville.

Levees are part of flood management systems that provide varying levels of protection to agricultural areas and local communities. Levee districts that participate in the public program are eligible for assistance with repairs to flood-damaged systems and flood control projects. To be eligible, a levee system or flood damage reduction project must be inspected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE assistance to repair flood damaged levees is limited to major flood disasters resulting in life-threatening or property damaging situations. The cost of repairs to levees and flood protection projects must also demonstrate a positive benefit-cost ratio for the area and resources being protected from future flooding. Levee Districts are also encouraged to consider Non-Structural Alternatives as solutions to needed repairs to levees. Levee District #11 is one such instance where local Levee District Trustees and county officials are exploring such an alternative with USACE.

After the floods of 2008, the USACE and FEMA formed a five-state Interagency Levee Task Force (ILTF) of federal and state agencies from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa to address needs in individual states and the Upper Mississippi Basin. The ILTF has met monthly and local agency groups, including the Iowa Levee Work Group (LWG), have been meeting weekly or as needed to address mutual concerns, making certain that assistance has been provided where needed. The RIO has been a part of the ILTF and Iowa LWG efforts.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDED PROJECTS

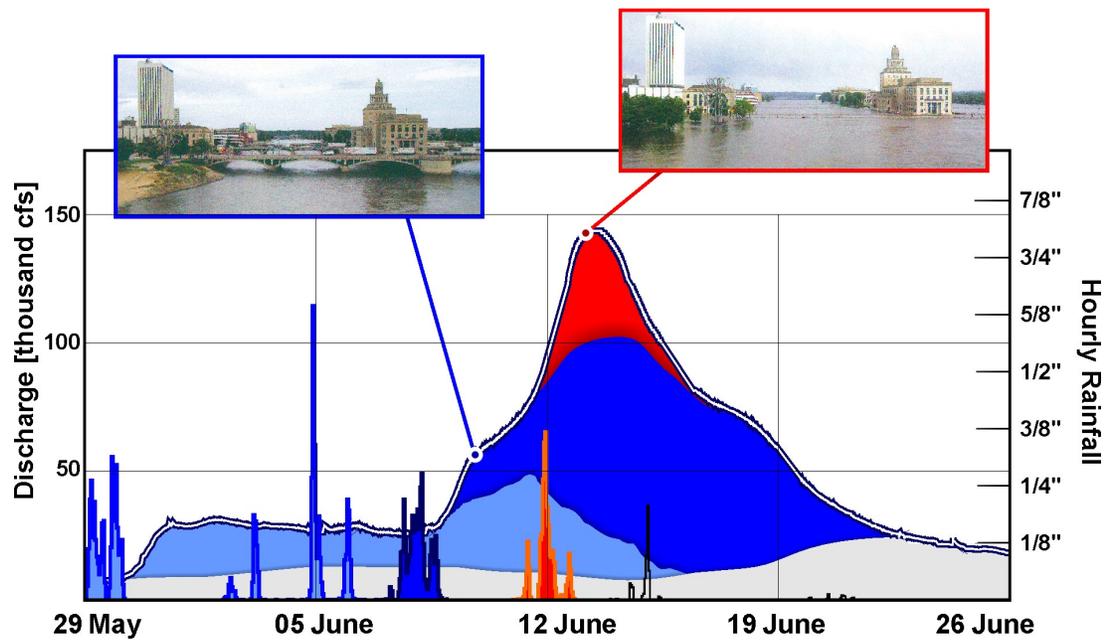
The following mitigation projects in Iowa are being funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms (Multi-functional community or school safe room projects are highly encouraged)
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins)
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system

Forecasting, Mapping & Watershed Planning

In order to protect Iowa in the future, we need to not only focus on protective measures through mitigation, but also utilize technology and planning to predict weather patterns and water flow in a way that will help prevent as much future damage as possible. This includes developing accurate flood plain maps and plans for forecasting so that individuals and communities are aware of their risks and take those risks into consideration on a regional and watershed basis.

The information below, provides a visual of not just how quickly water overtook downtown Cedar Rapids between June 8 and 13, 2009, it also shows just how difficult predicting flood water levels can be. The blue represents water coming downriver from rain north of the city. With gauges and other measures, it is possible to predict the levels that water will reach and communities can work to take protective measures. In this case, however, what happened in addition to water flowing downstream was another significant rain shower that hit Cedar Rapids at the same time that the highest levels of water flow did. These two unpredictable acts of nature combined and resulted in flooding levels never before experienced that were difficult, if not impossible to plan for or predict.



Cedar Rapids rainfall and river level graph
 Credit: IIHR Hydrosience and Engineering, University of Iowa

BASIN STUDIES

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission's recommendations called for watershed studies in Iowa's primary river basins. Working through the Water Resource Coordinating Council (WRCC) created in 2008, state and federal agencies engaged in natural resource, agricultural, infrastructure and management issues have initiated an Interagency Watershed Study of the entire Iowa-Cedar River Basin, including all tributaries in Iowa and Minnesota. The Iowa Cedar is one of nine major basin areas in the state, all of which need to be evaluated and studied in a similar fashion. The interagency effort will utilize input from local, state and federal interests to set a vision for the basin. Investigations and modeling will be undertaken to identify the magnitude, feasibility, and scope of efforts needed to effect hydrology/flooding, water quality and ecosystem health.

Once completed, watershed management plans for the Iowa-Cedar and the remainder of the state can be incorporated into an Iowa Water and Watershed Management Plan. Both the basin plans and the state plan will serve to guide planning and flood mitigation efforts at all levels. State and Federal agencies on the WRCC will partner with the Rock Island District of the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the Iowa-Cedar Plan.

MAPPING

Nearly all of the RIAC recommendations called for better floodplain mapping of Iowa's flood-prone areas. Likewise RIAC findings called for education programs for making better utilization of new technologies and floodplain maps as they become available to educate all Iowans about flood risk. RIAC recommendations also called for state and federal partners to assess, update and install gauges necessary to better track rivers and river basin activity.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), working with partner agencies, has been able to secure federal funding for the completing new and improved flood maps for the state. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will coordinate the compilation of the maps, and the certification process that follows. DNR will utilize newly acquired imagery made available through LiDAR flights – Light Detection and Ranging. This new technology, using light reflection similar to sonar or radar principles to gather data points, will vastly improve the accuracy of planning maps, especially with regard to



Homes and residences in Cedar Rapids submerged by flood water



Homes in the Cedar River flood plain



Watching the Cedar River rise

**FLOOD STATISTICS:
THE NATIONAL FLOOD
INSURANCE PROGRAM**

- The average policy for Iowans runs about \$722 per year. Iowa currently has more than 13,700 policies. (Statistics from the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources)
- It is important for homeowners to make a decision on flood insurance in March, before spring actually gets underway, because there is a 30-day waiting period before the insurance takes effect.
- A good flood insurance policy may cost as low as a few hundred dollars per year, but the cost will vary depending on the risk a property has for flood loss, the amount of coverage chosen and the type of coverage needed, along with the amount of a deductible.
- About 25 percent of flood insurance claims come from low-to-moderate risk areas, so it is especially important to know where you fall in the flood plain.

elevations and contour intervals.

Once maps have been prepared, DNR will coordinate certification of the maps with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so they can be used as the basis for administering the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP). Once certified by FEMA, the maps become the basis for offering floodplain insurance and are known as FIRM maps – Floodplain Insurance Rate Maps. Floodplain maps that can be used for planning and decision making in local communities should be completed within three years. The certification process for all maps may take longer.

DNR and other state and federal agencies have been collecting LiDAR data for the past two years and expect to have all necessary data by the end of 2009. The compilation of the floodplain maps is expected to take about three years, with certification to follow and will cost approximately \$15 million.

RIO proposals forwarded to the Iowa General Assembly for the start of the 2008 Legislative Session would require communities in flood-prone areas that do not currently participate in the National Flood Insurance Program to join starting in 2013. At the present time, citizens who are required to purchase flood insurance but do not live in a participating community are required to purchase insurance through a private broker and are not eligible to participate in the NFIP program.

TASK FORCE

Recommendation 9 of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission’s 120-Day Report called for an effort to “...move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.” The report also called for the state to develop and adopt a core or base-level land use policy to protect Iowans from the impacts of flooding, and to take the lead in providing technical assistance and support to communities and regions in the development of local land use policies and practices that support floodplain management and hazard mitigation.

The RIAC report also called for formation of multi-agency work groups, with the involvement of federal, local and state program leaders with responsibility for programs related to watershed management land use, and floodplain management. The ultimate goal for these work groups and agency panels would be comprehensive land use and watershed plans at local, regional and state levels that afford all Iowans greater protection from

future disasters, reduce risk and make Iowa its citizens safer and stronger.

Additionally, the report called for the development of state policy regarding smart development principles and green building practices.

As a means of carrying out these recommendations and initiating a dialogue on the policy issues involved, the Rebuild Iowa Office has undertaken the following:

- Enlisted the assistance of the Water Resources Coordinating Council created in 2008 to initiate the development of River Basin Plans for all of the state's major river basins. Work has already commenced on the first such effort, the Comprehensive Iowa/ Cedar River Basin Study and Development Plan.
- Introduced proposed legislation in the 2009 session of the Iowa General Assembly to create a citizen task force on regional watershed, land use and floodplain management policies. The panel would include 15 members appointed by the Governor, and four members of the Iowa General Assembly. The Governor's appointees would include persons interested in and knowledgeable of agriculture, habitat issues, natural resources, water quality, floodplain management, hydrology and other related areas.

The purpose of the task force would be to develop recommendations for comprehensive policies that address regional watershed management, floodplain management and associated land uses. Those policies would be based on principles of preserving and enhancing natural resources, protecting soil and water and following sustainable development and smart growth strategies. The intent of the legislation is that those policies would be used by state and local governments in addressing the same issues. The Task Force would be required to prepare and submit a report prior to the next session of the General Assembly.

A bill creating the task force has been introduced in the 2009 legislative session. Discussion of this proposal and the need for additional dialogue on the policy issues involved will be ongoing as recovery from the 2008 disasters continues.

100-YEAR VS. 500-YEAR

- The "100-year" and "500-year" label strictly describes the probability of a flood event, not the actual rate of occurrence.
- A 100-year flood means there is a 1% chance the flood event will be equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- A 500-year flood means there is a .2% chance the flood event will be equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- If a person lives in a mapped flood plain, he/she has a seven times greater risk of having a flood than a fire.

Quality of Life & Cultural Heritage

In the midst of meeting important and pressing human needs, we cannot forget to protect, repair and replace the things that make Iowa great including our cultural institutions, attractions and our historic sites.



Many historic structures were impacted during the 2008 disasters



Simon Estes Amphitheater in Des Moines



Flood-damaged National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

During the 2009 Iowa Legislative Session, RIO sponsored bills to enhance Iowa's high quality of life and ensure that our cultural heritage has greater protection in the face of future disasters. Bill highlights:

- A bill pending before the Legislature would increase the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program from \$20 million to \$50 million annually. The bill would set aside 20% of these credits for properties that were impacted by the natural disasters of 2008. These credits will facilitate greater redevelopment in Iowa's downtowns and older neighborhoods, protect communities' unique identities, increase cities' tax bases, create jobs and promote sustainable building practices. The additional tax credits will ensure that these investments happen sooner in disaster-impacted communities.
- The RIO also supported legislation that was passed allowing greater flexibility for the Historic Site Preservation Grant program to respond to emergency situations.
- A third bill would allocate financial resources and one staff person to coordinate best practices and technical assistance for local records retention activities. These resources are needed to protect historical documents and ensure that local government can continue to operate during disasters or emergencies.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SCIENCES GRANT

The RIO is also proud to serve as a consultant to a consortium of groups which were awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) to develop a statewide disaster preparedness and response plan for cultural resources in Iowa. The primary goal is to marshal resources to act as first responders for cultural entities in the event of a disaster. Specifically, the grant will fund surveys of institutional preparedness and knowledge of resources, geo-reference locations of cultural repositories, raise awareness of the need for disaster response

plans, develop a strategy for establishing first responders and develop a simple, broadly applicable disaster response planning tool. This will ensure that in the event of an emergency situation, Iowa's cultural entities are able to quickly respond and provide safe conditions for collections. The grant funds were sought through collaboration by the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium, State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Museum Association and the State Library of Iowa.



The Science Station in Cedar Rapids submerged by flood water. The complex was "marooned" for six days before anyone could re-enter.

SPOTLIGHT: THE SCIENCE STATION IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Two days before the flood's crest, the National Weather Service anticipated the Cedar River would crest at 24.5 feet in Cedar Rapids. The flood wall was built for 24 feet and stood just 50 feet from the back wall of the Science Station. Two days later, the river crested at 31 feet, seven feet higher than the flood wall.

It took two weeks and \$200,000 to clean out, dry out, and disinfect the Science Station's building and contents. Costs to rebuild are estimated at nearly \$2 million.

Four days after the flood emergency was declared "over," the Science Station resumed the Science Camp three weeks into its eight week program. A local church donated space for a record 800 campers. The Science Station was also assisted by the temporary donation of the *Be the Dinosaur* exhibit from Eureka Exhibits and received funding from ITC Midwest to cover the exhibit costs. Lindale Mall offered space for the new exhibit at a discounted rate. Over 6,000 visited the exhibit!

Recognizing the advantages of the temporary mall location, the *Science Station @ Lindale Mall* was created in a visible location on the main floor, opening with new exhibits and the few exhibits able to be salvaged and rebuilt. Jumpstart Iowa funds were used to build the upper level site, which was scheduled to be open the week of April 6.

For more information:
www.sciencestation.org

Assistance for Local Governments

COMMUNITY DISASTER GRANT PROJECTS

Cities and counties that applied for the Community Disaster Grant Program, created by House File 64 and administered by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, are each finding flood-related projects to fund through this state assistance.

Many communities across Iowa are using the grants to repair and improve their existing sewer systems to help eliminate sewage backup into homes and residences.

Some communities with a history of flooding plan to use their funds to relocate electrical service panels at lift stations.

One community is planning to repair and improve their existing levee system with the Community Disaster Grant. This project includes pumps that will alleviate water being trapped behind the levees during times of increased river levels.

Another community is addressing a long-standing drainage issue by expanding the capacity of their drainage system. In the past, flooding was common during any period of heavy rain, but with the help of the state's disaster grant, this problem can be avoided.

In any disaster, local governments bear much of the weight of decision-making on their community's future and planning for recovery. They also must address funding needs and tax losses. The Rebuild Iowa Office along with other state and federal agencies has worked to ensure that local governments have access to funding sources to meet these needs and planning assistance as they work through their recovery process.

COMMUNITY DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

House File 64 created the Community Disaster Grant Program for the purpose of making grants to cities and counties for disaster related costs not otherwise funded by federal or non-federal resources. The \$22 million in funds is allocated to the cities with a base allocation of \$2,000 for each with the remainder being allocated based on their pro-rata share of their obligated damages from the FEMA Individual Assistance Program and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program. Applications for this grant were due on April 1, 2009.

The funds can be spent in the following six broad categories:

- 1) Non-profit organization assistance
- 2) Assistance for the public purchase of land and accompanying structures if financial assistance for such purchases is not available from the federal emergency management agency or when a nonfederal match is required for a grant involved in the public purchase of land and accompanying structures
- 3) Assistance for the repair, replacement, or upgrade of public infrastructure damaged by the disaster including measures to assist in the mitigation of future damage due to natural disasters
- 4) Assistance for increased costs associated with the revaluation and assessment of property due to a natural disaster occurring in 2008
- 5) Small business assistance
- 6) Assistance for the replacement or rehabilitation of housing.

COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS

The Community Disaster Loan is a FEMA program. It provides loan funding intended to replace operating costs to the local government that is lost due to the disaster. (i.e. lost water or sewer bill revenue, property

taxes, etc.). In February 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that it approved approximately \$5.8 million in loans for Iowa, including the maximum \$5 million loan amount for Cedar Rapids. These funds will be used to assist five Iowa communities as they continue to recover from the disasters of 2008.

- Cedar Rapids (\$5 million)
- New Hartford (\$118,811)
- Oakville (\$51,588)
- Palo (\$304,722)
- Parkersburg (\$385,295)

Loans can be made to any local government in need of financial assistance to perform essential services. CDL applicants may include fire and police departments that provide critical community services during and in the immediate aftermath of disasters, as well as school boards, district court offices and local governments.



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano speaks with Cedar Rapids Mayor Kay Halloran



Cedar River Initiative transition event with FEMA & RIO to present the long-term recovery strategy



U.S. Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announces Community Disaster Loans for five Iowa cities

Long-Term Planning & Coordination

The Rebuild Iowa Office utilizes many avenues to provide assistance to impacted communities to help them with their long term planning for recovery and revitalization as smarter, stronger and safer communities. This assistance comes in the form of disseminating recovery information, the latest on legislative recovery initiatives and recovery tools to impacted communities. This coordination of information between local, state and federal agencies and other entities active in recovery is accomplished through the following means.



**Decision-Making Tool
In Cedar Falls/Waterloo.**



**Communications Mapping Tool
In Cedar Rapids**



**Community Visioning —
Oakville Youth Group**

RIO COMMUNITY & REGIONAL RECOVERY PLANNING

RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team provides outreach and understanding of community recovery issues by utilizing three community liaisons embedded within the impacted communities. One liaison is located in and works with the Cedar Rapids/ Linn County area, one works with impacted communities in southeast Iowa and one works with impacted communities in northeast Iowa. Two recovery planners working out of the central RIO office support the field liaisons on long-term recovery issues focused on community recovery.

The RIO's CaRRP team partnered with FEMA Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 14 – Long-Term Community Recovery to assist severely impacted communities in their long term recovery efforts. FEMA and RIO were able to assist each community with recovery planning specialists to help each community as they moved through the stages of community recovery including:

- Post disaster assessment
- Articulating the communities post disaster vision
- Identify community recovery goals
- Take actions to achieve recovery projects and programs designed for each community
- Implementation of the recovery plan

RIO's CaRRP team initially engaged in long-term community recovery planning with the following ten communities in partnership with FEMA ESF #14 and the local Council of Governments.

1. Cedar Falls – The Cedar River Initiative
2. Cedar Rapids

3. Coralville
4. Iowa City
5. New Hartford
6. Oakville
7. Palo
8. Parkersburg
9. Waterloo – The Cedar River Initiative
10. Waverly

From this engagement with the impacted communities common community needs for recovery were identified and the following recovery tools were developed.

- Communications Mapping tool
- Decision-Making Tool
- Project & Program Development Guide
- Iowa Resources Guide

Workshops were conducted with the ten impacted communities in February 2009 to develop an understanding of what tools are available and how to apply them in their communities. Copies of the plans developed for each community and the recovery tools are available to assist all communities in their long term recovery planning regardless of their level of impact. They are located under the “Long-Term Community Recovery” section of the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

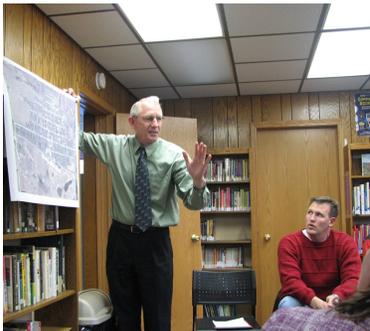
From the lessons learned and best practices developed with the initial 10 impacted communities, RIO’s CaRRP team is outreaching to 22 additional communities to offer recovery assistance. The objectives of this outreach include:

- To provide community leaders the opportunity to share information about their recovery progress and the challenges they face.
- To help ensure communities have access to information and services available to them for planning, recovery and mitigation.
- To identify regional issues.

RIO’s CaRRP: OUTREACH CITIES

The Rebuild Iowa Office has reached out to the 22 cities below, offering individualized assistance for each community’s long-term community recovery planning.

- Anamosa
- Charles City
- Chelsea
- Clarksville
- Columbus Junction
- Davenport
- Des Moines
- Dyersville
- Elkader
- Evansdale
- Greene
- La Porte City
- Manchester
- Mason City
- Oakland
- Olin
- Oxford Junction
- Rochester
- Rockford
- Shell Rock
- Vinton
- Webster City



George TeKippe explains New Hartford's storm water drainage issues at the Smart Growth visit.



Participants discuss rebuilding challenges during a Smart Growth visit in Coralville.



Participants meet in Coralville to learn about a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use project in development.

SMART GROWTH

In a partnership with FEMA, RIO, and the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is bringing its Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program to five Iowa communities: Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Iowa City, and New Hartford. These communities will use this assistance to build upon the community recovery work already completed through the FEMA ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery process. The SGIA program's goals are to foster economic growth while protecting the environment and public health, and enhance community identity. Assistance will focus on policy analysis (development code audits, market analysis, etc.) and public participatory processes (community visioning, design workshops, etc.).

Communities are typically awarded this assistance via a very competitive national application process. This is the first time any Iowa community has been approved for this program. With only approximately 20 communities chosen across the country in the last few years, EPA's work with five Iowa communities represents a major commitment to Iowa's recovery. FEMA ESF #14 is providing \$200,000 to support this work. RIO and IDED are partnering to provide additional resources and compile lessons learned to utilize in communities across the State.

The overall goal for RIO is provide tools and assistance for communities to incorporate sustainable development concepts in recovery plans and introduce green infrastructure methods, particularly as it relates to storm water management. Initial community visits occurred in March. Communities, state and federal partners will work together over the next six months to create a plan of action and implement recommendations.

Smart growth is an urban and regional planning approach that typically embodies the following principles:

- Mixed land uses
- Compact building design
- Diversity of housing opportunities and choices
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas

- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Variety of transportation choices
- Predictable, fair and cost effective development decisions
- Community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION

In February, the RIO Intergovernmental Affairs Director began hosting bi-weekly legislative updates by teleconference to discuss the status of disaster-related legislation with representatives of the 32 cities receiving outreach from the RIO CaRRP team, members of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission and representatives of the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils of Government and the Iowa State Association of Counties.

AGENCY POINT OF CONTACTS (POC)

Point of Contact meetings began in Oct. 2008 as a way to keep officials in key state agencies most heavily involved in disaster-related issues up-to-date on activities, programs and progress in the recovery process. Each department, such as the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Department of Human Services, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and more, each assigned a person to attend the meetings.

Discussions about disaster-related issues and concerns helped those agencies involved in the recovery understand what hurdles and efforts were being made in all areas of state government. Also, department designees shared information about what their agencies were doing so that services were not duplicated, or so one agency could enhance their services with the help of another department. Attendees discussed information such as the status of disaster and recovery bills moving through the Iowa Legislature, debris removal, assistance programs, reports and much more. In May, the Point of Contact meetings will be replaced by the RIO's new Coordinating Council.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION TEAM (IACT)

RIO's CaRRP team facilitates monthly Inter-Agency Coordination Team Meetings for the purpose of information sharing and agency updates; the



State agency representatives gather for a RIO Point of Contact meeting



Agencies discuss disaster-related issues



Steve Castaner of FEMA ESF #14 speaks with other agencies about the recovery

coordination and collaboration of disaster response/recovery activities; and the review and discussion of specific recovery projects. More than 35 state and federal agency partners participate and discuss vital recovery issues. One discussion centered around landfill debris and involved an eastern-Iowa group pursuing salvage and re-use options. The group shared their knowledge of preserving valuable old building materials from disaster-impacted structures, thereby reducing the amount of waste going to Iowa's landfills. Other topics discussed include lead-based paint abatement and farm recovery assistance.

The following projects have been reviewed with feedback provided to the community on feasibility and potential funding sources:

- Waverly Inflatable Dam
- Parkersburg Emergency Services Building
- Parkersburg Plaza
- Coralville Transit Project
- Iowa City Wastewater Treatment relocation
- Cedar Rapids Co-Generation feasibility study
- Cedar Rapids Human Service Campus

RIO COORDINATING COUNCIL

In House File 64, the legislature established a "coordinating council" to facilitate communication between state agencies and the Rebuild Iowa Office. The coordinating council is staffed by the Rebuild Iowa Office, and is chaired by the executive director of the office. The directors of various state agencies, or their designee, are appointed to the council. Other appointees include one representative each from the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties and the Councils of Government; as well as four legislators and other state agency representation requested by the executive director of the Rebuild Iowa Office. The first meeting of the coordinating council is planned for May 19.

RIO LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

A "Legislative Weekly" newsletter has been sent to Iowa legislators and their staff on a weekly basis throughout the 2009 legislative session, and all

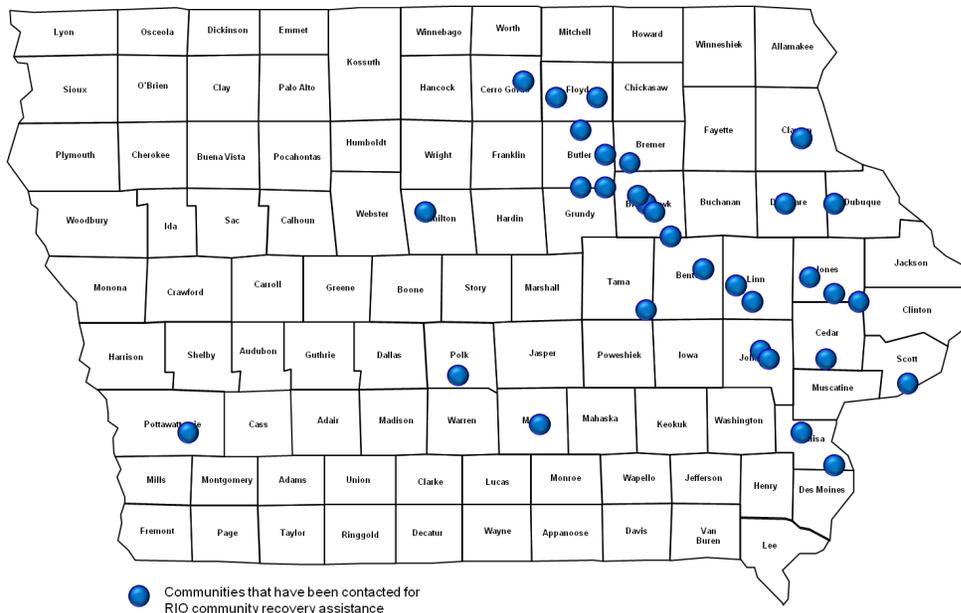
RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

past issues are posted for public view under the “News & Events” section of the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov. This has allowed the RIO to communicate with all legislators about recovery-related activities, progress and challenges including the status of programs funded in House File 64.

FEDERAL COORDINATION

Both Governor Culver and Lt. General Ron Dardis have participated in several meetings with the newly appointed Secretaries of federal agencies participating in Iowa’s disaster recovery including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security (including FEMA). Multiple conversations have also taken place with President Obama and key leaders of his White House staff. These dialogues have assisted in cutting through some of the red tape associated with disaster recovery programs. In addition to improving assistance for Iowa’s immediate disaster recovery, the state also has the long-term goal of assisting in the reform of federal disaster recovery programs with the hopes of making them more effective and efficient for future disasters.

**Rebuild Iowa Office Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP)
32 Outreach Communities**



Identifying & Quantifying Disaster Impacts

FLOOD FACTS

Timeline:

May 25 – August 13, 2008

The official “incident period” for the devastating Iowa storms and floods of 2008 began on May 25 with the tornado that hit Butler and Black Hawk Counties, and ended on August 13, when all rivers in Iowa had fallen below flood stage.

Governor-declared disaster counties: 86 counties

(covering roughly 45,000 square miles and almost 700 cities and towns).

Presidentially-declared disaster counties: 85 counties

(77 counties eligible for both IA and PA; 7 counties eligible for PA only; 1 county eligible for IA only)

Number of state roads closed during the disaster: 24

Number of highways closed during the disaster: 20

Number of secondary roads closed during the disaster: More than 1,000

Sandbags distributed: More than 6,000,000 (Six million)

Gallons of water distributed: More than 300,000 gallons

Amount of debris removed from affected communities: 166,680 tons

(includes construction & demolition materials and vegetation debris)

Source: State/FEMA Joint Field Office, Sept. 3, 2008

Number of animals placed in rescue shelters as a result of the flooding and tornadoes: More than 1,500

In any disaster, it is important to understand its impact on commerce, revenue, individual lives, schools and local and regional communities. It is also vital to quantify the impacts and remaining unmet needs from the disaster. This helps determine recovery priorities and defines when the disaster recovery work is “done.” The Rebuild Iowa Office has been working to gather and analyze this information and will continue to do so.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Iowa State University will be partnering with the RIO to conduct the economic impact study as outlined in the EDA grant scope of work. The study will examine economic losses to businesses, property owners and renters and public entities. It will also examine disruptions to privately owned transportation systems, infrastructure and commodity flows.

120-DAY REPORT DAMAGE STATISTICS

Calculating the damages of Iowa’s 2008 disasters continues to be a work in progress. With a total of 85 of Iowa’s 99 counties declared Presidential Disaster Areas and damage touching every aspect of Iowans’ lives and communities, gathering a complete damage estimate remains challenging. While we continue to calculate final disaster totals, some information is known or has been estimated:

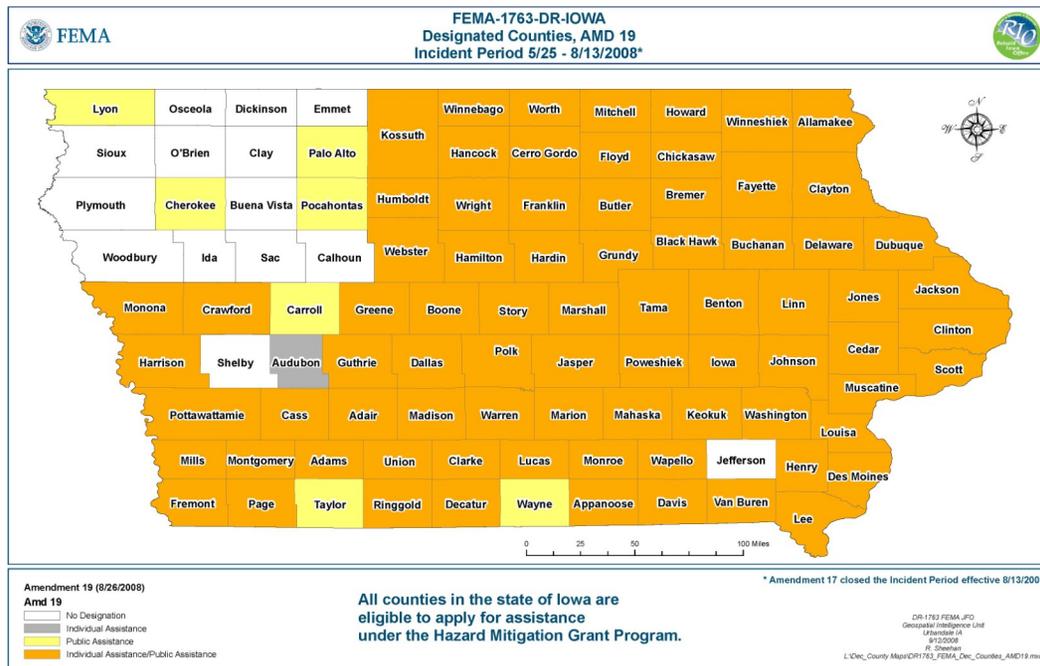
- The total unmet housing need is estimated to be at least \$946 million for single family and multi-family housing.
- Approximately 4,800 non-manufacturing small businesses and 800 intermediate businesses were impacted.
- Large businesses experienced an estimated \$100 million in losses.
- \$2.5 to \$3 billion in estimated total agricultural damage to crops and grain, equipment, agricultural infrastructure, and grain storage and handling facilities.
- \$20 million in damage to Iowa’s libraries, excluding the University of Iowa, according to the State Library of Iowa.

DISASTER IMPACT ON SALES TAX

The impact of a disaster on sales and other taxes can be difficult to quantify, particularly in difficult economic times. While some data shows that sales tax receipts went down in some impacted areas immediately

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

following the disaster, other information shows that it has and will continue to increase due to construction and repair purchases. Part of the economic impact study with Iowa State University will provide greater information and analysis of these impacts. At the same time communities are experiencing disaster-related tax impacts due to business interruption, lost income and increased individual and business financial obligations for rebuilding, they are in need of more revenue due to their disaster-related cost burdens. In response to this, legislation was passed (Senate File 44) authorizing an expedited sales tax vote in disaster-affected areas. Residents in most Linn County communities voted in March to enact a one cent local option sales tax with revenues to be used for rebuilding costs. This tax took effect throughout most of Linn County on April 1. Johnson County voters are scheduled for a similar vote this May. More information and analysis of these issues will be provided in future RIO reports.



Communications & Public Education

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) Communications Team has worked diligently to communicate with the media and constituents, as well as local, state and federal agencies about disaster assistance programs, updates, meetings, concerns and announcements; to correspond in a timely fashion to incoming inquiries and requests for information; and to clarify facts/data that may be misconstrued or inaccurate so that Iowans can be best informed about the disaster impact and recovery efforts.

COMMUNICATION

- The RIO issues frequent press releases. There were 10 press releases issued in January, 11 press releases in February and 14 press releases in March.
- The team frequently works with other local, state and federal agencies to get information out to the public via press conferences, press releases or other special event. Examples include addressing how disaster victims file claims for tax preparation with the Iowa Department of Revenue; mental health awareness and where to go for help with the Iowa Department of Human Resources; the approval of the \$125 million CDBG action plan with the Iowa Governor's office; proclaiming March Flood Awareness Month with the Iowa Insurance Division, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Iowa Department of Natural Resources; the selection of five Iowa communities for the EPA's Smart Growth program with EPA, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the Iowa Department of Economic Development .
- The RIO Web site serves as an additional tool to get disaster-related information out to the people who need assistance. The site includes links to all disaster programs, a video link; submission of photos/stories; information on Long-Term Community Recovery; Case management information; and Task Force Areas.
- The RIO Communications team built and now maintains a comprehensive e-mail distribution list for RIO press releases and updates. This current list contains more than 1,600 e-mail addresses which include members of the media, flood victims, county emergency managers, community leaders and officials working with flood recovery, general constituents, Rebuild Iowa

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE WEB STATS

The RIO Web site (www.rio.iowa.gov) is a comprehensive collection of information and the latest developments in Iowa's disaster recovery. Thousands of Iowans have accessed the RIO Web site to get more information about the task forces, disaster recovery programs, recovery reports and the office itself. The following offers a glimpse of the RIO Web site's traffic (Aug. 2008—March 2009).

UNIQUE VISITORS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 3,500 unique visitors every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 7,130 unique visitors.

NUMBER OF VISITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 6,200 visits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 12,857 visits.

HITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 175,900 hits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 362,296 hits.

PAGES VIEWED:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 22,270 pages viewed every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 48,289 pages viewed.

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

Advisory Commission members, Task Force members, lawmakers, plus anyone else who has an interest in the RIO.

- The “Iowa Recovery Times” newsletter is issued monthly to the RIO e-mail distribution list. It is also posted to the RIO Web site. In addition, RIO’s Long-Term Community Recovery Teams distribute the newsletter directly to Iowans impacted by the disaster via community meetings.
- RIO maintains a social media presence on sites such as Twitter and Facebook to distribute information and news releases from the Rebuild Iowa Office. This helps us further engage Iowans in new, creative ways outside of the everyday media.
- The staff organized, staffed and handled media inquiries for all Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) meetings and all Task Force meetings.
- Staff created the “Rebuild Iowa Office Legislative Weekly” newsletter to inform legislators about the recovery process in their area.
- The RIO Communications team schedules and assists in press conferences statewide (including press conferences in conjunction with the Governor’s office) to bring the latest disaster-related developments directly to Iowans in their own communities.
- A visit to Iowa City and Cedar Rapids by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was orchestrated by the RIO Communications Team.
- The RIO Communications team scheduled and staffed media tours via TV, radio and newspaper statewide for flood-related mental health awareness campaign and to promote crisis counseling providers in Nov. 2008.
- Team members developed, sponsored and staffed the Disaster Recovery Conference in Coralville on Dec. 9 and 10, 2008.
- The RIO Communications team worked with more than 10 different state and federal agencies, as well as 10 disaster-impacted communities, to host Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol on Feb. 2.



Gov. Culver presents the first Jumpstart Housing check to George and Pat Neal in Cedar Rapids.



A crowd gathers for the opening of the RIO's satellite office in Cedar Rapids



RIO Communications Director Tina Potthoff does an interview with a local TV station

**REBUILD IOWA OFFICE
CALL STATS**

The RIO receives many phone calls regarding the 2008 disasters and recovery effort. Below is a breakdown of the calls by category from July 15, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

(These numbers are strictly related to constituent inquiries and do not include calls that are part of the RIO staff's daily routine.)

TOTAL CALLS	2356
Buyout	18
Complaint	13
Education	4
Employment	12
Family Farm	23
FEMA HSG	85
FEMA Issue	79
Flood Plain/Levee	33
Formaldehyde	4
HF64 HSEM	9
HF64 IUNDGP	100
Home for Sale	5
Insurance	12
IWD/DUI/EJP	13
Jumpstart	1426
Lead abatement	2
Legal Aid	5
Local Issue	19
LTRC	15
Mold	3
Mortgage	5
Non Profit	20
NOT FLOOD RELATED	11
ONA/Unmet Needs	66
Public Asst	23
Recovery Asst	33
Recovery Info	68
Rental Rehab	89
Renter	8
RIO/Task Force	35
SBA Issue	15
Stimulus Fed	1
Student Aid	4
Taxes	3
Thank you	9
Vendor	59
Volunteer	24
Waiver	3

- The RIO Communications team led efforts to plan and execute Flood Awareness Month activities during the month of March. The event began with a press conference and Governor Culver signing a proclamation declaring March Flood Awareness Month in Iowa City. More than 10 radio interviews were completed during the month, along with interviews with other media, such as The Des Moines Register and Cedar Rapids Gazette.
- The RIO Communications team is actively involved in Point of Contact and Interagency Coordination Team meetings. The twice-a-month meetings with federal, state and local partners help to ensure accuracy and consistency in programmatic messaging.
- The RIO Communications team assisted in planning the initial “Jumpstart Iowa Recovery initiative” statewide public service announcement and advertising campaign in October 2008.
- The RIO Communications team is currently working with numerous state agencies and disaster-impacted communities to coordinate and assist in planning and publicizing one-year anniversary commemoration events.

CORRESPONDENCE

- RIO’s Communication Director is currently working with Cedar Rapids and Linn County officials to improve local communication efforts and to develop faster, easier channels of notifications about disaster recovery issues and rollouts of new disaster assistance programs.
- Constituent inquiries that come in via mail, e-mail and phone calls are answered every day. Team members provide follow-ups via mail, e-mail and phone calls to concerned constituents regarding changes and additions to recovery programs and potential funding.
- Team members answer media inquiries on a daily basis.
- The RIO Web site allows users to submit questions to the Rebuild Iowa Office and contact staff directly through the “Contact” section of the Web site listing staff members.
- The RIO Communications team develops information flyers and pamphlets for RIO’s activities, and assists other agencies involved

in disaster recovery to do the same to help explain programs and disaster-related issues.

- Daily coordination conference calls were held every morning with the Governor's Office and Iowa Homeland Security representatives from July through Nov. 2008 to discuss disaster-related concerns and potential issues.
- The RIO Communications team drafts letters to individual homeowners about new assistance programs for which they may qualify. For example, letters were directly sent to homeowners who were given the maximum amount in FEMA individual assistance to notify them of the Iowa Unmet Needs Grant program.

CLARIFICATION

- Local news outlets and media clips are monitored to ensure accuracy of messaging relating to the disasters and recovery. RIO Communication team members follow up with media outlets that provide misinformation to the public and ask for a correction.
- Team members have developed a Web site (www.rio.iowa.gov) produced in-house to respond to the changing status of recovery and the changing needs of disaster-impacted Iowans. The Web site is updated daily with new program information, news releases and more.
- Weekly RIO updates on funding and disaster recovery programs are sent out via press releases every Friday afternoon. These releases include funding flow charts which can also be found on the RIO Web site. The weekly news release highlights any new information about, or new sources of, funding. It also includes a condensed chart in the body of the release that shows funding flow.
- Navigation "buttons" have been added to the side of the RIO Web site to allow users to more easily find the most important recovery areas such as Jumpstart Iowa Housing and Small Business program; information from Long-Term Community Recovery Teams; Disaster Recovery Case Management; Task Force Areas; and RIO News which provides a link to all RIO news releases since the creation of the office.



Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis cuts the ribbon to officially reopen County Road X99 near Oakville



Families gather with Gov. Culver in Waterloo after receiving Jumpstart Housing checks



Rebuild Iowa Office staff at the Disaster Recovery Conference in Coralville

IOWA COMPANIES HELPING OTHERS

Officials of Allsteel and HON, two Muscatine-based office furniture companies owned by HNI Corporation, are offering deep discounts to flood-affected businesses through 2009, or as long as there is a need. The discounts run from 62-67 percent of list book prices, company officials said.

Allsteel had its dealers knocking on the doors of flood-affected businesses by late summer to see what they could do for them, and HON followed in early fall. Officials with Allsteel began discussing the possibility of using the federal discounts shortly after the tornadoes and flooding in the summer of 2008, said Janice Novick, market manager for Allsteel. HON started offering the discounts in the fall.

"We had quite a few businesses take us up on the program in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City areas, Cedar Falls and southern Iowa," Novick said. "We also helped some businesses in Parkersburg that had tornado damage."

Dave Brunck, HON territory manager based out of Johnston, said "A lot of people told me they really appreciated the fact an Iowa company was willing to go to bat for them—Iowans looking out for Iowans."

HON and Allsteel employ thousands of workers in eastern Iowa, some of whom were directly affected by the flooding, Novick said.

- Team members attend a weekly meeting with Dept. of Economic Development and Iowa Finance Authority to discuss funding issues for homeowners, landlords and small businesses.
- Team members attend once a week conference calls with Council of Government/Entitlement Cities to disburse information about funding issues and recovery.
- Team members attend twice-a-month conference calls with Long-Term Recovery Committees to discuss case management.
- RIO Communications team members organized six "Speak Up Iowa!" meetings across the state to collect public input and hear feedback last summer, at the start of the disaster recovery effort. The RIO's Web site also allowed Iowans to submit feedback for the "Speak Up Iowa!" report.
- The Communications team handles all potential and real crisis communications with state departments and agencies, as well as COGs and Entitlement Cities about disaster recovery issues.
- Team members work closely with the Iowa Concerns Hotline to keep a consistent message with their operators about new disaster recovery programs and contact information.

CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

The RIO Communications team is working on the following to assist in accurate recovery messaging:

- Update the comprehensive Disaster Program Manual
- Assist disaster-affected communities with one-year disaster commemoration ceremonies/events
- Continue communicating, corresponding and clarifying rebuilding efforts and programs
- Convey positive stories of program successes, rebuilding and recovery
- Continue to communicate frustrations or problems within programs and help the greater RIO team and other agencies work together to smooth out recovery processes.

Distribution of Recovery Funding

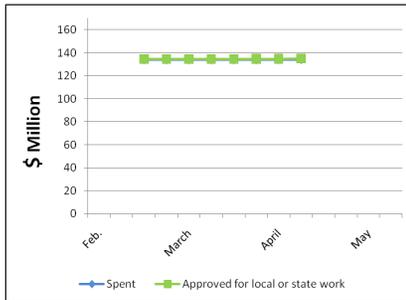
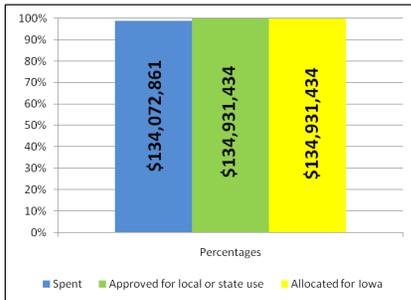
In any disaster, funding sources for recovery and rebuilding are numerous and complex. One goal of the Rebuild Iowa Office is to track and report on the flow of recovery funds and work to ensure that those funds reach Iowans in need as quickly as possible. The RIO works with federal, state and local agencies and governments to identify and eliminate roadblocks wherever possible and continues to identify the unmet needs of individuals, communities and institutions and advocate for funding to meet those needs.

FEMA Housing and Other Needs Assistance Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$134,931,434

Approved for Local or State Use: \$134,931,434 | Spent: \$134,072,861

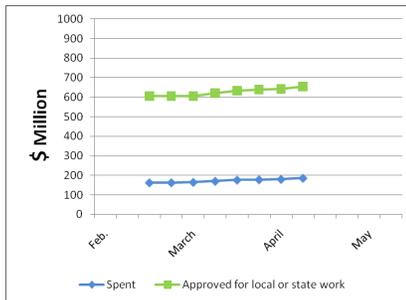
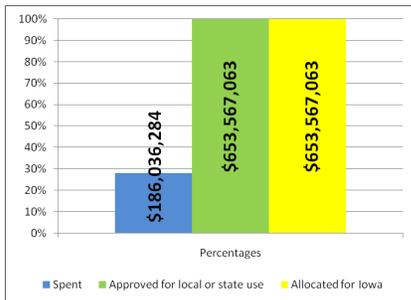


FEMA Public Assistance Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$653,567,063

Approved for Local or State Use: \$653,567,063 | Spent: \$186,036,284

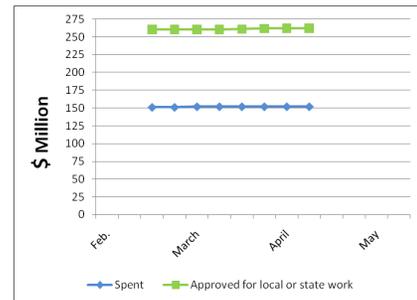
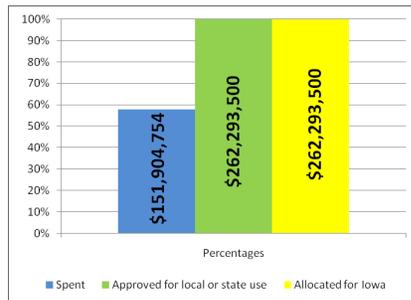


U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$262,293,500

Approved for Local or State Use: \$262,293,500 | Spent: \$151,904,754

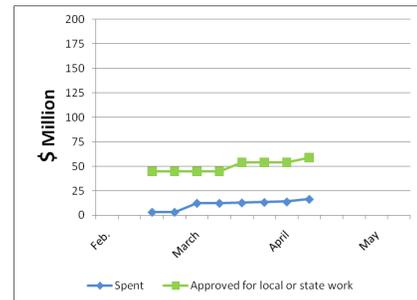
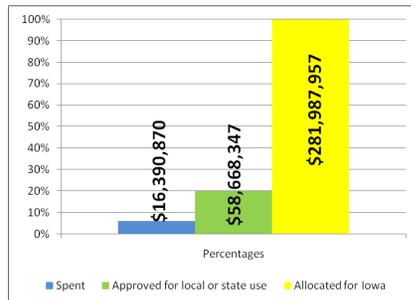


Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$281,987,957

Approved for Local or State Use: \$58,668,347 | Spent: \$16,390,870

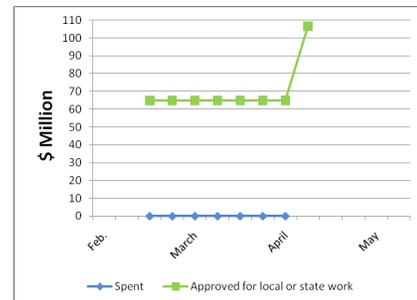
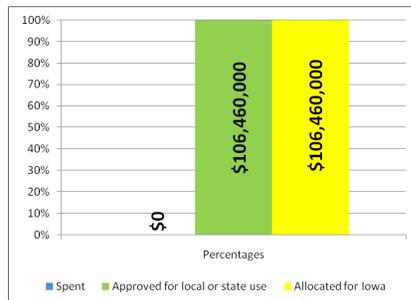


U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$106,460,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$106,460,000 | Spent: \$0



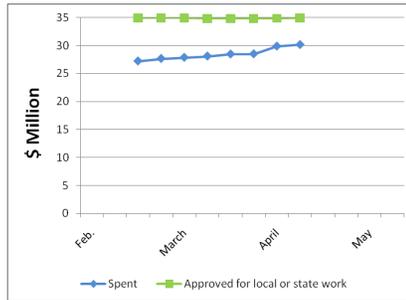
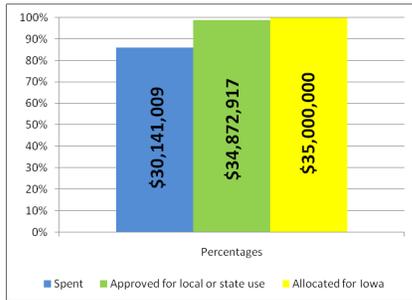
RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

Initial State Jumpstart Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$35,000,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$34,872,917 | Spent: \$30,141,009

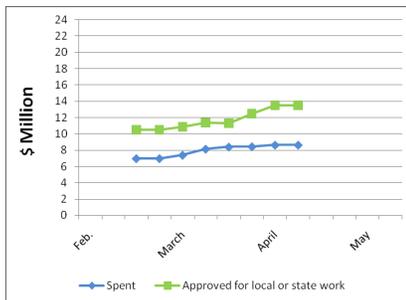
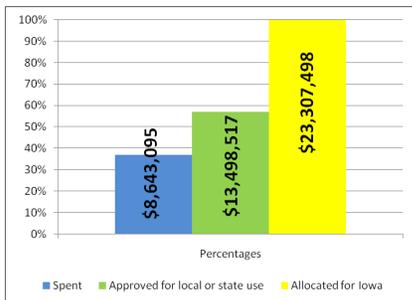


U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$23,307,498

Approved for Local or State Use: \$13,498,517 | Spent: \$8,643,095

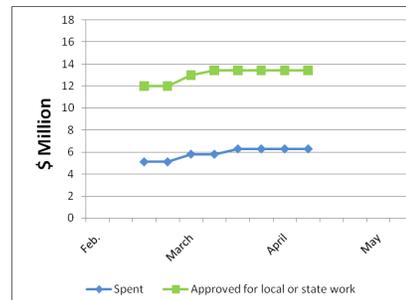
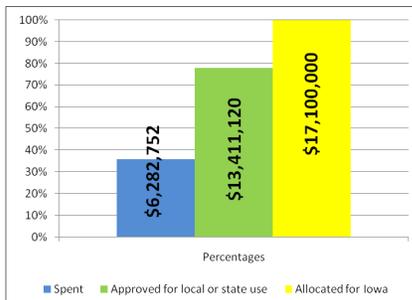


National Emergency Grant Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$17,100,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$13,411,120 | Spent: \$6,282,752

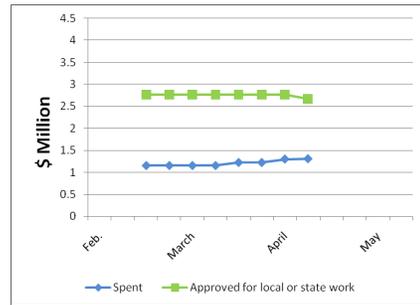
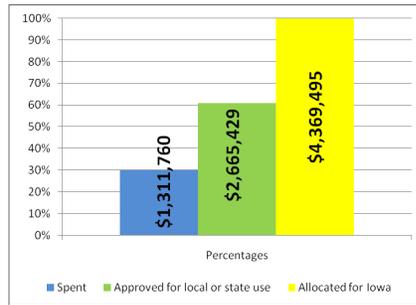


Crisis Counseling Grant Funds

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$4,369,495

Approved for Local or State Use: \$2,665,429* | Spent: \$1,311,760

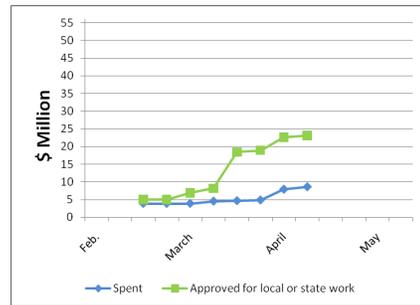
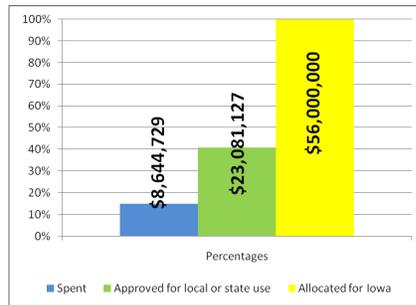


Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$56,000,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$23,081,127 | Spent: \$8,644,729

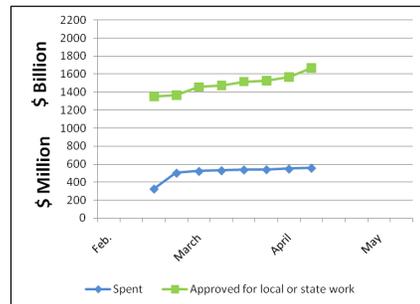
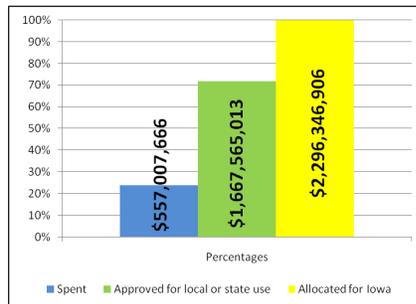


Disaster Revenues and Expenditures Total

April 10, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$2,296,346,906

Approved for Local or State Use: \$1,667,565,013 | Spent: \$557,007,666



RIO Quarterly Report: April 2009

Funding Source	Allocation to Iowa	Approved for Local or State Use	Spent
FEMA Housing & Other Needs Assistance	\$134,931,434	\$134,931,434	\$134,072,861
FEMA Infrastructure Funds (Hazard Mitigation & Property Acquisition)	\$251,000,000	—	—
FEMA Public Assistance	\$653,567,063	\$653,567,063	\$186,036,284
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan	\$262,293,500	\$262,293,500	\$151,904,754
Community Development Block Grant	\$281,987,957	\$58,668,347	\$16,390,870
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$106,460,000	\$106,460,000	—
Initial State Funding for Jumpstart Housing & Business Programs	\$35,000,000	\$34,872,917	\$30,141,009
State Executive Council Action	\$27,955,864	\$27,705,864	\$5,339,270
Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits	\$418,559,200	\$312,594,800	—
U.S. Department of Transportation	\$23,307,498	\$13,498,517	\$8,643,095
National Emergency Grant for Labor/Jobs Assistance	\$17,100,000	\$13,411,120	\$6,282,752
Social Services Block Grant	\$11,157,944	\$11,157,944	—
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951
Economic Development Administration	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$958,331
Crisis Counseling Grant	\$4,369,495	\$2,665,429	\$1,311,760
State College Scholarship & Grant Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64)	\$56,000,000	\$23,081,127	\$8,644,729
National Endowment for Arts Emergency Support	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
CEBA Disaster Recovery	\$2,375,000	\$2,375,000	—
Total	\$2,296,346,906	\$1,667,565,013	\$557,007,666

Funding as of April 9, 2009.

For weekly updates on disaster recovery funding, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Ongoing Challenges & Opportunities

In any disaster recovery, the challenges to reaching full recovery and beyond are numerous and the process lasts many years, not months. While Iowa has made significant progress since June 2008, it must be acknowledged that significant challenges remain. Along with these challenges, disaster recovery also presents many opportunities for Iowa to be safer, stronger and smarter. We need to take advantage of these opportunities wherever possible.



Onlookers watch the flood waters rise in Columbus Junctions



The Des Moines River rises in downtown Des Moines



Volunteers sandbag in Iowa City

- While Iowa has or will receive nearly \$2 billion in disaster aid, additional funding will be needed to meet the unmet needs of individuals, businesses and communities. The federal government must continue its support, and the state must continue to make this funding a top priority. This will be especially difficult given the tough economic times the nation is facing.
- As funding is identified for the state, we must continue identifying roadblocks and expediting the flow of funding to individuals, businesses and communities. Federal and state programs come with numerous hurdles, red tape and processes and we must all work together to improve the speed and effectiveness of the delivery of funds.
- One of our most difficult challenges remains ensuring that damaged and destroyed housing is repaired and replaced as soon as possible. This requires a great deal of funding, cooperation and hard work .
- While we continue to focus on individual needs, we must not forget the importance of ensuring that businesses damaged or destroyed are able to reopen, keep employees and stay open long into the future. We need to also assist new businesses in opening in affected areas to help our communities maintain vital economies.
- Although speed of recovery is imperative, we must also maintain our focus on long-term planning and mitigation. We must not forget the impacts of the disaster and must ensure that we have done all that we can to prevent such impacts from occurring in the future.
- Along with that, we must also balance the need to rebuild quickly with the need to rebuild better. Not only with more protection but more affordable, quality housing; thriving economies; quality of life opportunities; job creation and much more.

- While each individual and community is understandably focused on their own recovery, we must continue to encourage and facilitate intergovernmental and regional cooperation. This is the only way we can rebuild stronger and we must work together.
- As government leaders work through the processes of recovery decision-making and funding allocation, they must continue to seek public input in decision-making processes.
- As we improve future preparedness throughout the state, we need to ensure that sufficient technical expertise is available to provide direction and assistance as communities work to comply with federal program requirements.
- Even amid our own recovery, we have an important obligation to provide information to leaders at the state and federal level on improved approaches to disaster recovery funding and programs.
- It is critical to assist local governments with disaster mitigation, which requires investments of time and resources, and can be difficult in the face of immediate recovery challenges.
- Since the RIO is only authorized and funded through June 30, 2011, we need to work to ensure that the overall recovery mission and activities are transitioned and assumed by other entities and carried forward.



Debris left behind from the New Hartford tornado



Impacted Iowans in Palo clean out their homes after the flood



A dog displaced by the floods waits for its owner



APPENDIX

Rebuild Iowa Office Budget & Expenditures

FUNDING SOURCES

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) will be funded through an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Both funding sources are federal dollars. The EDA dollars are only allowed to fund specific tasks such as economic impact studies, disaster recovery planning, damage assessments and the work of the RIAC and its Task Forces. The RIO's CDBG money comes from funds earmarked for administrative purposes. Both sources of funding can not be used to directly assist Iowans impacted by the disaster and only provide a certain amount of support for the office until June 30, 2010.

The budget below outlines the necessary funds to keep the recovery efforts of the office continuing through its final year, ending June 30, 2011, as authorized by the legislature. In addition, state funds are needed in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to support activities required in House File 64 which cannot be paid for with federal funds. These include reports to the legislature and staffing of the Coordinating Council.

The EDA is closely monitoring the success of the RIO, while the office assesses and completes a comprehensive disaster recovery plan. The EDA intends to use the RIO as a model for other states to follow with future disasters. The RIO has already served as a model for a disaster recovery office that is currently being developed in Texas.

EDA Strategy Grant anticipated funds: \$3,000,000

CDBG anticipated funds: \$2,150,000

State General Fund requested funds: \$1,254,898

RIO All Funds	FY 2009 Budget	Expenditures 07/01/08 – 12/31/08	Expenditures 01/01/09 – 03/31/09	Total Expenditures 07/01/08 - 03/31/09	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Budget
Personnel	\$776,958	\$71,314	\$126,117	\$197,431	\$1,295,214	\$858,024
Travel	\$113,000	\$25,709	\$14,252	\$39,961	\$75,001	\$14,346
Supplies	\$56,188	\$13,860	\$9,267	\$23,127	\$43,200	\$21,000
Contractual	\$1,688,728	\$526,005	\$320,900	\$846,905	\$655,300	\$0
Equipment	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$0	\$6,600	\$0	\$0
Other	\$321,497	\$153,955	\$62,780	\$216,735	\$194,808	\$108,114
Total	\$2,962,371	\$797,443	\$533,316	\$1,330,759	\$2,263,523	\$1,001,484

Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing

Rebuild Iowa Office Full-time Equivalent Positions as of March 31, 2009

Position Title	Merit Resources or State of Iowa employee from existing state agency*	Employee
Executive Director	Department of Public Defense	Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis
Chief of Staff	Governor's Office	Emily Hajek
Chief Financial Officer	Department of Administrative Services	Tim Criner
Office Manager	Homeland Security	Lynn Zook
Office Support	Merit Resources	Stephanie Kindred
Long-Term Planning Director	Homeland Security	Susan Dixon
Community Planning Specialist	Department of Cultural Affairs	Aaron Todd
Community Planning Specialist	Merit Resources	Annette Mansheim
Community Liaison	Merit Resources	Ann Poe
Community Liaison	Merit Resources	Natalie Sugira
Community Liaison	Merit Resources	Carissa Swanstrom
Communications Director	Iowa Lottery Authority	Tina Potthoff
Constituent Outreach Director	Governor's Office	Judy Lowe
Media Specialist	Merit Resources	Juli Probasco-Sowers
Communications Assistant	Merit Resources	Adam Bartelt
Strategic Planning Officer	Merit Resources	Ron Randazzo
Intergovernmental Affairs Director	Merit Resources	Susan Judkins Josten
Economic Recovery Specialist	Merit Resources	Jacqui DiGiacinto
Volunteer/Case Management Specialist	Department of Economic Development	Julie Struck
Environmental Specialist	Merit Resources	Ken Tow

State employees borrowed from sending agencies.

*As of 3/31/09, RIO has not been allocated State of Iowa positions (12 FTEs have been requested).

Rebuild Iowa Office Contracts

CONTRACTOR

James Lee Witt Associates (JLWA), a part of Global Options, Inc.

- PURPOSE OF CONTRACT — Disaster management consultant services and expertise to assist the Rebuild Iowa Office in administering and managing its responsibilities under the Governor's Executive Order #7. This included establishing the office, working with the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC), and providing policy and programmatic guidance to state and local officials.
- EFFECTIVE DATES — 7/6/2008 to 2/17/2009
- ESTIMATED CONTRACT TOTAL — \$744,200
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as of 3/31/2009) — \$626,830

CONTRACTOR

State Public Policy Group

- PURPOSE OF CONTRACT — Consultant Services for planning, research, writing and facilitation services focusing on recovery efforts generally and the development of the 120-Day Report to the Governor, specifically. This included planning and facilitation of meetings leading up to the report and research, writing and graphic design for the report itself.
- EFFECTIVE DATES — 9/25/08 to 1/31/2009
- ESTIMATED CONTRACT TOTAL — \$225,925
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as of 3/31/2009) — \$220,074

CONTRACTOR

State Public Policy Group

- PURPOSE OF CONTRACT — Consultant Services for planning, research, facilitation and writing of a comprehensive, statewide infrastructure study. This includes sector planning groups to include experts from all levels of government, business and other stakeholders in natural resources, energy, telecommunications, transportation and vertical infrastructure. While this contract is between SPPG and the IDED, it is described here because it is a partnership between IDED and RIO through an interagency agreement and eventually will be funded through RIO's federal grant funds.
- EFFECTIVE DATES — 10/1/2008 to 12/31/2009
- ESTIMATED CONTRACT TOTAL — \$297,000
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as of 3/31/2009) — \$0



Rebuild Iowa Office
April 2009