



# Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report



Bremer Fayette Clayton



Benton Linn Jones



Marion Mahaska Keokuk Washington Louisa



Lee





## Letter from the Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director

July 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 July quarterly performance report. This report builds on the RIO's first quarterly report that was submitted in April. In this edition, we have included additional information on the activities and efforts associated with the state's recovery from the 2008 tornadoes and floods through June 30, 2009. We have also specifically outlined the strategy and methods we are using to ensure a prudent, yet timely recovery process. Our methods include obtaining and expediting disaster recovery funding, further quantifying the impact of the disaster and reaching out to educate Iowans about the disaster and associated relief programs, while asking for public and expert input for improvements.

With guidance and direction from the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC), the RIO continues to work with leadership at the local, regional, state and national levels to carry out the 12 recommendations outlined in the RIAC's 120-day report, which was submitted in November 2008. We were pleased to see all the recommendations addressed in some way this past legislative session, but our job is far from over.

This quarterly report shows the areas we continue to focus on, as well as the progress that has been made in each of the respective categories:

- Housing Recovery
- Business & Workforce Recovery
- Infrastructure Investments
- Individual Services & Guidance
- Local Economic Recovery
- Smart Growth Principles
- Mitigation Planning
- Floodplain & Watershed Management and Floodplain Mapping
- Quality of Life
- Emergency Management

The RIO continues to provide leadership, coordination, communication and transparency of the recovery process, while working to secure funding assistance so all impacted citizens, businesses and communities can recover from its most devastating disaster ever.

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 Insurance Division  
Iowa Office of Energy Independence  
Iowa Utilities Board  
Iowa Workforce Development  
State Fire Marshal Division, DPS

## **Table of Contents**

<b>DISASTER OVERVIEW &amp; BACKGROUND</b>	
Disaster Summary	8
Mission, Vision & Goals	10
The RIO & The RIAC	11
<b>ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS</b>	
Obtain & Expedite Disaster Recovery Funding	16
Identify & Quantify Disaster Impacts	18
Regional Planning	20
Outreach	22
Obtain Public & Expert Input	28
Rebuild Iowa Office	32
<b>ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP</b>	
Goal 1: Housing Recovery	36
Goal 2: Business & Workforce Recovery	40
Goal 3: Infrastructure Investments	46
Goal 4: Individual Services & Guidance	50
Goal 5: Local Economic Recovery	52
Goal 6: Create, Promote & Implement Smart Growth Principles	56
Goal 7: Statewide Mitigation Planning	58
Goal 8: Floodplain & Watershed Management	60
Goal 9: Floodplain Mapping	64
Goal 10: Quality of Life	66
Goal 11: Emergency Management	70
Conclusion	71
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
Maps, Charts & Graphs	74
Distribution of Recovery Funding	76
Disaster Recovery Programs & Funding	80
Rebuild Iowa Office Budget & Expenditures	88
Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing	89
Rebuild Iowa Office Contracts	90

---

## Executive Summary

The Rebuild Iowa Office's (RIO) vision of a safer, stronger and smarter Iowa is coming to fruition. Since marking the one year commemorations of the 2008 floods and tornados, we are now able to look back and recognize the progress that has been made. While much work remains to be done, hundreds of displaced Iowans have made it back into their original or new homes, many businesses have reopened their doors and communities are starting to rebuild the infrastructure that was so badly damaged in 2008.

The RIO's July quarterly report provides an update to the statewide recovery programs and activities initially outlined in our first quarterly report, which was issued in April. The RIO's economic recovery strategies and methods are further explained in this report, as well as the specific areas that remain at the forefront of Iowa's long-term recovery effort. These areas include housing, economic revitalization, business recovery, case management, hazard mitigation, floodplain mapping and more.

The RIO is also in the midst of establishing best practices and guidelines for addressing future disasters, by holding workshops and conducting seminars with officials and administrators at all levels of the recovery process to find out what is working, what is not working and what challenges may lie ahead. The results of these meetings are included in this report. However, the information gathering does not stop there.

The RIO played an integral part in marking the one-year commemoration events that took place in dozens of affected communities across Iowa. Staff members had the chance to talk with individual Iowans, hand out surveys and distribute information about disaster-related programs. These one-on-one meetings with impacted Iowans provided the RIO with an even better picture of what issues and bottlenecks remain in the recovery system.

While the RIO will continue to assist individuals through the case management process, it will also continue to rebuild Iowa's economies by providing support and securing funding for businesses, communities and infrastructure. Through FEMA Public Assistance, Community Development Block Grant, Economic Development Administration and other state and federal programs, we will rebuild better than ever before.

The work done so far in Iowa's recovery could not have been accomplished without an unprecedented level of cooperation among local, regional, state and federal governments, private citizens, businesses and non-profit organizations. This report addresses the projects and programs multiple entities have made possible. We look forward to the continued partnership.

# DISASTER OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

In 2008, Iowa experienced the most devastating series of natural disasters in the state's history. Between May 25, 2008, and August 13, 2008, more than 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were impacted by floods, tornadoes and severe weather. This section provides an outline of how the events in 2008 unfolded and explains the magnitude of the destruction that followed.

In an effort to address the disasters, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) were established to coordinate the statewide short- and long-term recovery effort. After the RIO and RIAC's formation, task forces were created to address issues like housing, agriculture, infrastructure, economic and workforce development, hazard mitigation and floodplain management. Since June 2008, there have been hundreds of meetings with local and national experts, as well as impacted Iowans. The discussions have led the RIO to the long-term recovery goals it has outlined today, and will continue to work on in the future.

### Disaster Summary

Between May 25 and August 13, 2008, 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were declared Federal Disaster Areas.



Cedar Rapids



Parkersburg



Oakville

- Severe thunderstorms including large hail, tornadoes, and flooding first impacted Iowa on May 25, 2008. The storms brought heavy rainfall ranging from 4-6 inches, causing flooding and flash flooding. According to the National Weather Service, a large E-5 tornado hit the City of Parkersburg (Butler County), weakened, and caused additional damage north of Waterloo (Black Hawk County) and Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County) areas.
- On June 8, 2008, Mason City (Cerro Gordo County) was impacted with heavy rain and flooding.
- High water overtopped the levee in New Hartford (Butler County) June 8, 2008.
- Saylorville Dam (Polk County) topped the emergency spillway June 10, 2008.
- A tornado struck the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch between Moorhead and Blenco (Monona County) on June 11, 2008.
- Two levee breaches occurred in Des Moines (Polk County) on June 14, 2008, and one in Oakville (Louisa County) on June 15, 2008.

Damages caused by these events defy description. The mere fact that a small state like Iowa could suffer damages to this extent is sobering. This disaster now ranks as high as fifth in the nation in damage to public infrastructure in natural disasters of all time, which presents Iowans with recovery challenges that few states have faced.

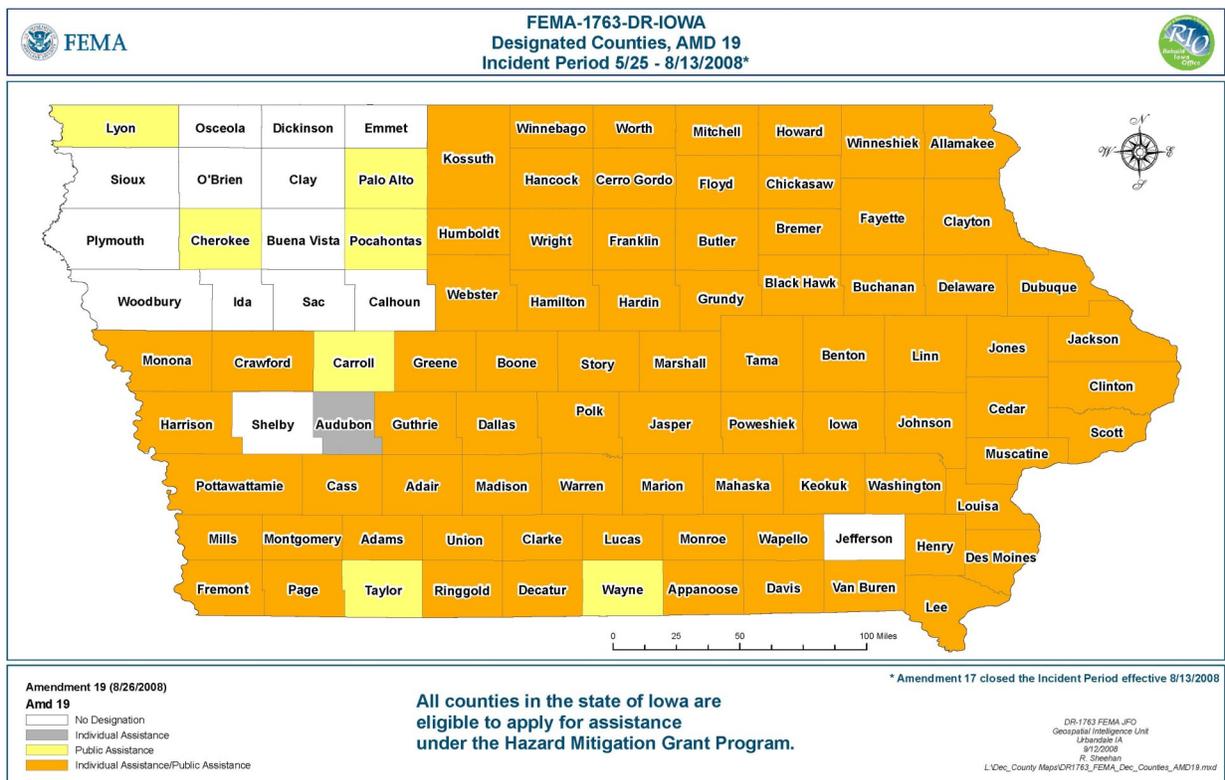
Identifying all of the damages and impacts and placing an exact dollar value on them is impossible. People seeking this precise total dollar figure will be disappointed. Most damage data are estimates and are often not final until many years following a disaster. The data often changes daily and in some cases is never collected in a uniform way. Much of the data collected is based on one specific program and does not provide an overall picture. Some estimated damage figures include:

- Housing – Tens of thousands of Iowans had their housing situation impacted and thousands of those were displaced, nearly \$1 billion in unmet needs was estimated late in 2008

# RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

- **Businesses** – More than \$5 billion in estimated damage, approximately 4,800 non-manufacturing small businesses and 800 intermediate size businesses were impacted
- **Agriculture** - \$2.5 to \$3 billion, estimated total damage to crops and grain, equipment, agricultural infrastructure, and grain storage and handling facilities
- **Infrastructure** – Though it will not cover all of the need, FEMA's Public Assistance program is a good estimate of infrastructure damage and Iowa's estimated funding amount for that program now tops \$1 billion.

## Presidentially-Declared Disaster Counties May 25 - Aug. 13, 2008



### Mission, Vision & Goals

#### 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](http://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.

#### IOWA'S VISION FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

Iowans will thrive in a state that values, safeguards and invests in its sustainable future, resilient communities, welcoming environment, vital economy, treasured lands and natural resources, rich cultural history, global role and its entire people.

#### REBUILD IOWA OFFICE 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.

#### REBUILD IOWA OFFICE 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.

#### REBUILD IOWA OFFICE 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.
- Improve disaster recovery processes at the local, state and federal level.

### The RIO & The RIAC

#### THE REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (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.”

#### 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.

#### TASK FORCES

- **Agriculture & Environment**
- **Cultural Heritage & Records Retention**
- **Economic & Workforce Development**
- **Education**
- **Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation**
- **Housing**
- **Infrastructure & Transportation**
- **Long-Term Recovery Planning**
- **Public Health & Health Care**

#### THE RIAC 45-DAY REPORT

This report assembled by the RIAC included the following priorities and

#### 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

### RIAC MEMBERS

- Lt. General Ron Dardis, Commission Chair
- Gary Anderson
- Bill Bywater
- Jim Davis
- Michael Earley
- Bill Gerhard
- Karris Golden
- Brent Halling
- Tim Hurley
- Linda Larkin
- Nitza Lopez-Castillo
- Carroll Reasoner
- Amy Truax
- Mark Wandro
- Beverly Wharton

### Ex Officio Members

- Jim Fausett
- Mike King

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.

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) Individual Services and Guidance - Iowa will provide advice and support to individuals and families seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a disaster case management framework that has ongoing, lasting organizational capacity and processes in place to be sustained during non-disaster times.
- 2) Housing - State and local governments will place a high priority on ensuring availability of adequate, affordable housing and the availability of individuals and families to rent or purchase those homes.
- 3) The state should provide incentives for Iowa's struggling small

businesses, microenterprises and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.

- 4) Infrastructure Investments - The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding and/or construction.
- 5) The state should identify, create and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.
- 6) The state must invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management - preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation - to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.
- 7) The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life and cultural heritage.
- 8) The state will lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.
- 9) The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.
- 10) The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology. The state will pursue and implement the mapping process and related activities as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.
- 11) Rebuild Iowa Office Roles and Responsibilities - The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.
- 12) All involved agencies, governments and interested parties should promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.

#### **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)

#### **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)  
Geri 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)



# ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS

Even during the initial response phase of the disaster, Iowa's leaders were already looking to the future. They realized the disaster was of the magnitude that state government's usual resources would not be enough. With help from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) was formed. The RIO's main responsibility, through EDA grant funding is to develop an Economic Recovery Strategy for the state. This strategy would help to guide and track disaster recovery progress and suggest strategies, policy, projects and other means by which the state can rebuild safer, stronger and smarter.

Several methods have been and are being employed in order to develop the Economic Recovery Strategy Road Map. These methods will help to determine damages, unmet needs, policy and strategy for Iowa's long-term economic recovery and are outlined in this section.

### Obtain & Expedite Disaster Recovery Funding

#### RIO DISASTER FUNDING CHARTS

RIO has created charts to show the movement of funds from federal and state disaster-aid programs to communities, businesses and individuals in Iowa from the more than \$3 billion which has been promised to the state for disaster relief. The charts, which are updated monthly, detail the movement of these funding sources.

For each specific source of funding, two graphs outline the status of Iowa's progress. The first graph details how much has been allocated to Iowa from the funding source, how much has been approved for state and/or local programs, as well as the amount that has actually been spent within Iowa, the state's communities or on individual Iowans. The second graph focuses on the monthly progress of these funds. These charts highlight more than 17 different sources of disaster aid.

All of the charts can be found on the RIO Web site [www.rio.iowa.gov/funds.html](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/funds.html). Selected charts can be found in the appendix.

*Obtaining and maximizing funding through federal programs, state resources and local revenue streams is vital to recovery. So far, more than \$3 billion has been appropriated for Iowa's disaster recovery through state and federal programs (see Disaster Programs Guide in Appendix). This funding is at various stages in the process of being committed to specific projects and individuals and being expended.*

One critical, flexible source of funding to the state is Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Iowa has received four separate allocations of CDBG funds totaling almost \$800 million. While Iowa received the bulk of the total first allocation, we were disappointed in our state's share of the second two allocations. We worked diligently with HUD staff spanning two administrations to provide information and examples of better formula methods for distributing the funding among eligible states. This work resulted in HUD making several changes to the most recent allocation that resulted in a greater and more equitable share of the funds for the State of Iowa.

State of Iowa officials have also worked with HUD staff to request and receive every possible waiver to expedite and maximize CDBG funds. We have also made several suggestions for overall changes to use of CDBG funds in disasters and other federal disaster recovery programs. Not only have these waivers resulted in Iowa spending CDBG funds at a rate more than four times faster than other states with major disasters, we have also begun an important national dialogue on the federal disaster recovery system that we believe will result in changes that improve the system for all future natural disasters nationwide.

Since the beginning of our disaster recovery process, we have worked to continuously review program design and features and be responsive to public and other input into those programs. We have on several occasions made major program changes as a result of that input and review. For example, in the fall of 2008, a new "Jumpstart Express" program was created to allow for home repairs under \$25,000 that would avoid costly and time-consuming restrictions such as lead paint abatement. This new program has enabled many impacted homeowners to move back into their damaged property more quickly.

One of the state's most important lessons learned in this disaster is that many federal sources of funding are not designed for disaster relief. Therefore, these funding sources are difficult to administer and do not meet

many of the needs of disaster victims.

There are currently more than 30 different programs from a variety of state and federal agencies providing support for disaster recovery. These partnerships are vital but tracking and properly explaining these funding sources and where they are in the process is very challenging. With so many programs providing funding to individuals and businesses, extensive duplication of benefit checking is required to prevent fraud and wasted resources. While these checks are critical, they often delay funding and sometimes prevent unmet needs from being fulfilled. This system needs to be better defined and coordinated, particularly among federal agencies.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Ensure needed state and federal funding is obtained to rebuild and recover.
- 2) Monitor funding progress and unmet needs and communicate that information across all levels of government and to the public.
- 3) Advocate for further funding to meet unmet needs.
- 4) Ensure program design is effective in reducing “red tape” and expediting funding and ensure that funding is prioritized to meet the most pressing needs and fairly distributed both programmatically and geographically.

The chart below outlines the time it took for Iowa to begin disbursing CDBG funds in comparison to Texas’ progress with the same funds in a longer time frame. Many federal agencies have commented on the fast pace Iowa has had in disaster recovery progress.

**Texas Hurricane Rita**

Disaster Declaration:  
Sept 24, 2005

**Funding Spent as of June 2008**  
*(33 months after declaration):*  
\$15.6m or **52%** of  
Federal Recovery CDBG  
Funds Awarded to Localities

**Iowa Floods/Tornadoes**

Disaster Declaration:  
June 25, 2008

**Funding Spent as of June 2009**  
*(12 months after declaration):*  
\$100m or **63%** of  
Federal Recovery CDBG  
Funds Awarded to Localities



**HUD Sec. Shaun Donovan takes a tour of downtown Cedar Rapids.**



**Sec. Donovan speaks with affected homeowners in Cedar Rapids.**



**Sec. Donovan announces CDBG funds for Iowa's recovery.**

### Identify & Quantify Disaster Impacts

#### COMMUNITY DATA COLLECTION

A pilot project began in June to gain a better understanding of the impacts of disaster recovery funding on families, businesses and communities. Six communities are participating in the first phase of data collection. These are:

- Cedar Rapids
- Charles City
- Coralville
- Elkader
- Iowa City
- New Hartford

At the time of printing this report, **estimated** data has been received from two communities. Of the preliminary data collected, a total of 540 households were displaced by the disasters of which 78% were renters and 22% were homeowners. Of the homeowners, it is estimated that 78% households are back in their original homes, 13% have moved to existing houses and 9% of households are still considered displaced or have likely been abandoned.

More details will be released by the Rebuild Iowa Office once the initial project survey has been completed by each of the communities.

*In order to determine and measure disaster progress and identify roadblocks and unmet needs going forward, it is critical to develop systems of assessing and monitoring the impacts of the disaster.*

In disaster recovery in Iowa and around the country, there is no coordinated system for tracking and recording disaster impacts. When a disaster occurs, FEMA sends teams into a state to calculate damage assessments. These assessments, however are only done up to the point that they trigger a federal disaster declaration. There is currently no system for determining true losses and damages in a uniform and accepted way. This results in a lack of information about needs and progress that can result in funding and programs that are not addressing these needs or possibly overcompensating for some needs and leaving gaps in others.

In addition to measuring the initial disaster impacts, more data on results and continuing unmet needs is needed throughout the recovery process in order to make data-driven decisions regarding programs, funding and other important measures. There is currently no established practice for gathering this information during the recovery process. While state and federal agencies can often provide information about what projects are funded or which homeowners receive repair funding, they often do not collect information on the results of those funding awards. For example, if a homeowner received \$10,000 in repair funds, does that mean their home is repaired and they have moved back in? This is often not a question that any agency or program can answer.

To that end, we are currently working with pilot communities to gather information on the recovery progress in the areas of housing, business, government and cultural resources. The intent is to have a clearer picture of the results that the funding already in the state has achieved and be able to monitor progress and ongoing unmet needs over time. The pilot communities undertaking this data gathering effort include, Charles City, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Elkader, Iowa City and New Hartford. This data collection effort will be refined upon input from the pilot communities and will be expanded to other disaster-impacted communities. As data is updated periodically by communities, over time trends and gaps can be identified. Compiled data will be included in the next quarterly report.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Gather disaster impact data that assists in better understanding of those impacts and recovery needs.
- 2) Gather information on recovery programs and their results.
- 3) Measures disaster recovery progress and gaps and change programs and policies accordingly.

#### *Economic Impact Study – Iowa State University*

The RIO is partnering with Iowa State University to conduct an economic impact study as outlined in the EDA grant scope of work. The study is now underway and when complete 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 (see right sidebar).

### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISASTER PAYMENTS

The Department of Economics at Iowa State University (ISU) completed an analysis in July of the economic impact of requested federal disaster payments in Iowa. This analysis is just part of a larger economic impact study that the RIO is working on with ISU.

The report helps the state gain a sense of the amount and kind of project payments requested, the location of those projects, and ultimately a measure of the annualized statewide economic impacts that might be inferred as a consequence of the actual disaster and recovery effort spending supported by federal funds.

#### **Analysis highlights:**

- The total approved public assistance projects came to \$585,830,173 at the time of the analysis.
- The core metro areas in the counties of Linn, Johnson, Black Hawk, Polk and Dubuque made up 79 percent of the total approved projects.
- Non-located statewide costs were 5 percent of the total.
- In all, for the first year of recovery, the requested federal funds would have supported \$170.6 million in output in the Iowa economy, \$63.24 million in labor income, and 1,837 jobs.
- In the second year of recovery, it can be assumed that 7,346 total jobs will be supported earning \$252.97 million in labor income.

These results are just a portion of the overall study, which is still being worked on. The RIO will continue to share results as the study progresses.

### Regional Planning

*The state will lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives. (RIAC Recommendation #8)*

Iowa has many different regions defined for different reasons. Identifying the best regional divisions for these planning purposes is the first major difficulty in undertaking regional planning efforts. For many of our purposes, the structure of the Regional Councils of Government (COGs) is useful in regional planning and identifying regional boundaries (see map of COG regions in Appendix).

Iowa has utilized the professional expertise and local knowledge of these Regional COG staffs as key partners in disaster recovery. In addition to their role in disaster program administration, their knowledge and experiences in developing local and multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans, Comprehensive Plans and Land Use Planning provides them with valuable insights into the communities and regions they serve. The effectiveness and pace of community and regional recovery is enhanced by the knowledge of pre-disaster economic and community characteristics, challenges and strengths. With this knowledge and the recovery partnerships at the local, regional, state and federal level assistance in recovery can play to a communities strengths and focus on its goals for the future.

COG leadership is actively involved in recovery at the operational level through the Interagency Coordination Team Meetings and at the policy level as a participant in the legislatively created Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council. The RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning staff continues to coordinate with the COG's Disaster Recovery Coordinators. The type and degree of interaction is dependent on the level of impacts in each COG region and the specific needs of the impacted community and region. For example, RIO staff shared Disaster Recovery Tool Box materials with COG staff, we also held joint community recovery meetings and have worked together to coordinate disaster grants that the COG's administer with the overall goals of each community in recovery.

- The Community and Regional Recovery Planning team met with the COG Disaster Recovery Coordinators on May 8, 2009.
- Doug Elliot of ECICOG represented the COG's at the monthly Inter-Agency Coordination Team Meetings and the first Rebuild Iowa



**Gov. Culver assists the family of a tornado victim in planting a memorial oak tree in New Hartford.**



**General Dardis discusses recovery progress in Mason City.**



**RIO staff attends a community event in Oakville.**

Coordinating Council meeting on May 19, 2009.

- RIO staff is again on the agenda for the next COG Disaster Recovery Coordinators meeting on July 10, 2009.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Identify Iowa regions and their assets, issues and resources
- 2) Work with Councils of Government to link in with their regional planning and assessment efforts
- 3) Develop a system that fosters more coordinated regional planning for land use and hazard mitigation

### RIO's CaRRP TEAM

The RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team began working with the following communities soon after the disaster to help each community plan for its long-term recovery.

- Cedar Falls/Waterloo
- Cedar Rapids
- Coralville
- Iowa City
- New Hartford
- Oakville
- Palo
- Parkersburg
- Waverly

The RIO additionally reached out to the 22 cities below to offer 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

## Outreach

### RIO-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES 2008-2009

December 6-7, 2008:  
Disaster Recovery Conference  
Coralville, Iowa  
245 participants

February 18-19, 2009:  
Housing Working Session  
Coralville, Iowa  
76 participants

February 20, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Palo, Iowa

February 21, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Oakville, Iowa

February 23, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
New Hartford, Iowa

February 24, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Iowa City, Iowa

February 24, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Waterloo, Iowa

February 25, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Parkersburg, Iowa

February 25, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

February 26, 2009:  
LTCR Community Workshop  
Waverly, Iowa

May 18, 2009:  
Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop  
Ankeny, Iowa  
53 participants

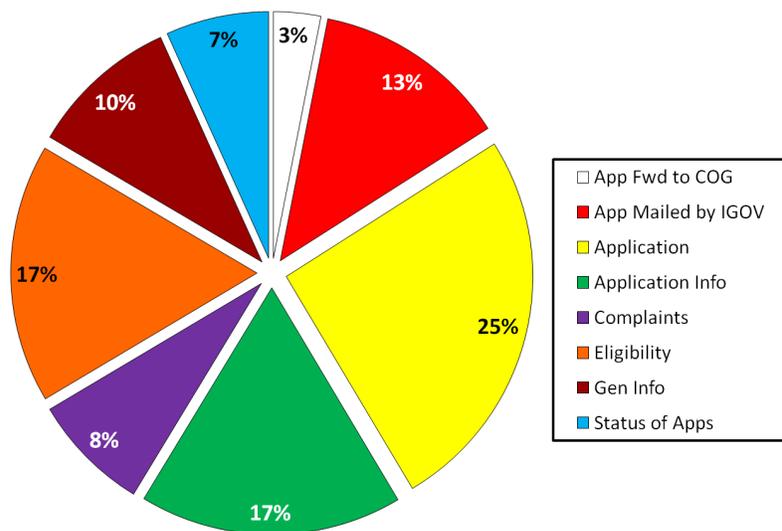
All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters. (RIAC Recommendation #12)

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) Communications Team works 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.

In addition, the Iowa Legislature passed House File 64 which established the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council to facilitate communication between state agencies and the RIO, and requires state agencies to cooperate with and provide support to the RIO to the greatest extent practicable.

**Jumpstart Calls to the RIO by Category\***  
Sep. 2008 - June 2009

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



### OBJECTIVES

1. Provide regular updates to increase awareness of disaster recovery progress and issues
2. Increase disaster preparedness, including the purchase of flood insurance
3. Increase awareness of disaster recovery programs and increase participation in those programs
4. Ensure accuracy through messaging by monitoring third party reports, media stories, etc.

### COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

- The RIO issues frequent press releases. There were 13 press releases issued in April, 14 releases issued in May and 13 releases issued in June.
- Team members participated in one-year disaster commemoration events in communities across Iowa by organizing RIO Resource Booths and special speakers, and taking part in local events. RIO staff worked at the RIO booth to answer questions about disaster assistance programs and visited with the public to address questions or problems with the recovery process. Other state and federal agencies were also invited to distribute information, including FEMA, various state agencies, local long-term recovery committees, Councils of Government/Entitlement Cities representatives and Project Recovery Iowa counselors.
- 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 site for photos/stories, and information on Long-Term Community Recovery efforts, Case management and Task Force Areas. The most recent additions to the Web site include pages on Disaster Legislation and Disaster Assistance broken out by category.
- The RIO Communications team frequently works with other local, state and federal agencies to get information out to the public via press conferences, press releases or through other special events. Examples include the announcement of an additional \$516.7 million

### REBUILD IOWA OFFICE WEB STATS

The RIO Web site ([www.rio.iowa.gov](http://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—June 2009).

#### UNIQUE VISITORS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 3,200 unique visitors every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 7,130 unique visitors.

#### NUMBER OF VISITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 5,500 visits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 12,857 visits.

#### HITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 157,900 hits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 362,296 hits.

#### PAGES VIEWED:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 19,600 pages viewed every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 48,289 pages viewed.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS

### 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 June 30, 2009.

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

<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>2960</b>
Complaint	26
Education	5
Employment	13
Family Farm	30
Federal Issue	103
Flood Plain/Levee	56
Housing	1621
Housing-Rental	184
Insurance	12
IWD/DUI/EJP	36
Jumpstart	1
Legal Aid	5
Local Issue	36
LTRC ONA Unmet Needs	291
Non Profit	27
NOT FLOOD RELATED	26
Public Asst	54
General Recovery Asst	49
Recovery Info & Outreach	137
Small Business	109
Student Aid	6
Taxes	9
Thank you	12
Vendor	79
Volunteer	29
Waiver	4

CDBG allocation with the Iowa Governor's Office and Iowa Dept. of Economic Development, the release of a news release about a new Web site for Project Recovery Iowa, a mental health initiative through the Department of Human Services; the collaboration with the Iowa Insurance Division, FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources on a regional and statewide promotional effort for the National Flood Insurance Program; the organization of special workshops for the EPA's Smart Growth Program with the EPA and FEMA.

- RIO creates on-line charts showing how state and federal disaster money is moving through the system and why.
- 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 1,550 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 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 continues to maintain 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 organizes and handles media inquiries for all Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) meetings and all Task Force meetings.
- The RIO Communication team continued the "Rebuild Iowa Office Legislative Weekly" newsletter through the state's legislative session 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

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

developments directly to lowans in their own communities.

- The RIO played an active role in organizing U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan's visit to Cedar Rapids in June.
- The RIO Communications team scheduled and staffed media tours via TV, radio and newspaper to update lowans about the role of the Rebuild Iowa Office in long-term recovery, and to inform lowans about specific programs.
- The RIO organizes and leads Inter-Agency Coordination Team meetings. The meetings are held every other month with federal, state and local partners to ensure accuracy and consistency in programmatic messaging.

### CORRESPONDENCE EFFORTS

- RIO 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. Meetings are also being held with the new Cedar Rapids Flood CEO, Greg Eyerly.
- 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.
- The RIO Communications team drafts letters to individual homeowners about new assistance programs for which they may qualify.



**RIO representatives at the Disaster Recovery Conference in Coralville, December 2008**



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



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

### COMMEMORATION EVENTS

The RIO organized a committee of various state and federal agencies to assist local communities with marking the one-year anniversary of their disasters. Below is a recap of how the RIO assisted at selected events:

**Parkersburg-** Lt. General Ron Dardis, executive director of the RIO, was guest speaker at an event to dedicate new playground equipment at Miracle Park on May 24. The two-day commemoration event included a Memorial Day Service and American Legion breakfast on May 25, where Gov. Culver gave remarks.

**New Hartford-** On May 25, Gov. Culver helped plant two trees in memory of two rural New Hartford residents who were killed when a tornado hit the community. New Hartford was particularly hard-hit, with flood water inundating the community about a week after being hit by a tornado. All of the 600-plus residents had to be evacuated. The commemoration event included a picnic and other activities. The RIO also assisted in getting the trees donated to the community.

**Palo-** Volunteers gathered on May 30 to load and deliver flowers to all Palo residents as a way to say "Thank You" for staying and rebuilding in the community following the flooding of 2008. The effort was undertaken by the Rebuild Palo Fund committee, which partnered with Anderson-Bogert Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., to purchase and deliver the plants. People of all ages, local officials, RIO staff members, as well as state and U.S. lawmakers, were on hand to deliver the plants.

### CLARIFICATION EFFORTS

- 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](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)), which is maintained by the RIO, to respond to the changing status of recovery and the changing needs of disaster-impacted Iowans. The Web site is updated frequently with new program information, news releases and more.
- Navigation buttons along the side of the RIO Web site allows users to more easily find the most important recovery areas such as Jumpstart Iowa Housing and Small Business program, Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance 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.
- 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.
- RIO staff members attend weekly meetings with Dept. of Economic Development and Iowa Finance Authority to discuss funding issues for homeowners, landlords and small businesses.
- RIO staff members attend once a week conference calls with Council of Government/Entitlement Cities to disburse information about funding issues and recovery.
- RIO staff members take part in weekly conference calls with Long-Term Recovery Committees to discuss case management.
- RIO developed a "Speak Up Iowa II" survey (see Obtain Public & Expert Input section). The survey asked questions about public perception of the disaster recovery and communication efforts, what

programs people had applied for and what programs people needed additional information on. The RIO's Web site also allowed Iowans to submit feedback via the "Speak Up Iowa II" survey.

- 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.

### FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

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

- Further update the comprehensive Disaster Program Manual
- Continue communicating, corresponding and clarifying rebuilding efforts and programs. One media campaign, which will run from July 14-31, will help educate Iowans about the Unmet Needs Program and Jumpstart Housing program.
- Convey more 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.
- Work with FEMA, Iowa Insurance Division and Dept. of Natural Resources on a media campaign to promote a pilot project to get more people signed up for the National Flood Insurance program.
- Organize disaster forums and open houses in five Iowa communities to address various disaster-related topics with multiple state and federal agencies.

### COMMEMORATION EVENTS (CONT.)

**Waverly-** Gov. Culver did a whirlwind tour of five communities on June 13, four of which were hosting commemoration events. He started the day by making an announcement of disaster recovery funds for Charles City in that community. From there he drove to Waverly, where he took part in a playground dedication.

**Cedar Rapids-** Cedar Rapids marked the one-year anniversary of the massive 2008 floods with a three day event titled "RIVERenaissance, A Flood Anniversary." There was a documentary film about the first-responder experience during the flooding, and a Floodstock concert to raise money for flood survivors.

**Vinton-** Vinton residents marked the one-year anniversary with a ceremony, a flag raising and a community picnic on June 13. Gov. Culver visited Vinton to offer remarks on the floods impact to the community. Earlier in the week, on June 6, the premiere of a feature-length documentary on the flooding in and around Vinton was shown at the local theater.

**Oakville-** Gov. Culver ended his disaster tour on June 13 at a pork supper in Oakville, where he visited with residents both before and after he spoke to people in attendance. Oakville's event was in conjunction with an annual community celebration.

**Cedar Falls-** Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis gave remarks on flood response and recovery at a program during an ice cream social at North Cedar Elementary School on June 24.

### Obtain Public & Expert Input

#### SPEAK UP IOWA I

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.

*In addition to the outreach described above, it is critical to seek out and utilize the input of experts related to disaster recovery and members of the public interested in and impacted by the disaster recovery process.*

Throughout the process of creating a recovery strategy for the State of Iowa, we have made several efforts to obtain and utilize input and ideas from those impacted, local officials, experts and a variety of others.

Through surveys, workshops, conferences and public meetings, we have invited and gathered this information. Information gathered was used to create the 45- and 120-day reports of the RIAC and has also been used consistently by RIO staff in formulating policy and addressing programmatic needs and changes.

Given the personal challenges they are facing, it can be difficult to obtain input from impacted individuals, business owners and even community leaders. Any method of doing so, whether a task force meeting, town hall event or survey requires time and effort from those impacted that they may not have to give. For this reason, we have undertaken several different types of input methods in order to help reach the most people on the terms that are best for them.

#### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create a strategy for the state that is driven by those impacted by the disasters and experts who can provide valuable input.
- 2) Ensure that Iowans feel they have had input into the recovery strategy planning.

#### *Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop and Online Survey*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Integration Center, in partnership with the State of Iowa and the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), conducted the Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa, on May 18, 2009. This workshop was intended to provide a look back at disaster recovery progress after almost a year. More than 50 local, state and federal agency staff and leaders participated in facilitated sessions regarding individual assistance, infrastructure and long-term recovery. The purpose was to conduct a mid-course analysis of what actions and processes in Iowa's disaster recovery worked the best. Each group discussed what actions

could be improved, what should be continued and what can be shared with other jurisdictions and national leaders to suggest changes in national disaster recovery policy. In support of the Workshop, a Web-based assessment survey was made available to all conference participants. The purpose of the survey was to conduct a midcourse analysis of actions and processes in Iowa's disaster recovery phase of the 2008 disasters. To reach an even wider audience an invitation was sent to staff, volunteers, and elected officials in affected communities and counties as well as Council of Governments, Chamber of Commerce, and Long-Term Recovery Committee's to submit input via the survey process.

The primary section of the survey was completed by 88 respondents; of those, 81% also answered a sub survey. Respondents represented 54 cities; the city most represented was Ottumwa (9%). Respondents represented 44 distinct counties, with Scott County (7%) most represented. The largest group of respondents works in the Council of Government/Entitlement City (25%) functional area. Some of the "Other" responses (22%) came from education, religious organizations, and city clerks. The smallest group of respondents was from the Chamber of Commerce, elected officials, and healthcare.

Respondents were asked a number of open-ended questions about their overall experience with the recovery process. These questions covered Communication, Disaster preparedness, Adequateness of Program Funding, Unmet Needs and Shortfalls and Success Stories (see sidebar for preliminary results). Respondents were asked to comment on whether there were unmet needs remaining in their community; only 9% of respondents answered that the needs of their communities were currently met. The remaining respondents remarked on issues such as case management systems, mental healthcare, pre-disaster planning, infrastructure funding, and housing.

Additional survey results information is being utilized by RIO staff and shared with other agencies involved in disaster recovery to help provide further feedback and guidance on where to target resources and how to structure programs.

### IOWA RECOVERY ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

Preliminary results from the workshop and online survey can be found below:

- An overwhelming majority (76%) agreed that their organization was adequately prepared to handle a disaster, with 27% saying they strongly agree. Of the 19% that disagreed, 2% said they strongly disagreed.
- Respondents were asked to rate whether certain programs were in need of additional funding or attention. For all of the areas (housing, economic recovery, infrastructure, individual assistance, long-term community recovery, planning, transportation, communication, public-private partnerships) most respondents agreed that there was no need for additional funding or attention, except for Transportation, where respondents disagreed that there was adequate funding or attention. Private-Public Partnerships might also be an area where funding or attention might be spent with a score slightly below the Agreed level.

### SPEAK UP IOWA II

Speak Up Iowa II outreach sessions were held in 11 disaster-affected communities across the state in May and June.

- May 24, 2009 – Parkersburg
- May 25, 2009 – New Hartford
- May 30, 2009 – Waterloo
- June 6 & 13, 2009 – Vinton
- June 7, 2009 – Mason City
- June 12, 2009 – Oakville
- June 12 & 13, 2009 – Cedar Rapids
- June 13, 2009 – Waverly
- June 20, 2009 – Atalissa
- June 23, 2009 – Elkader
- June 24, 2009 – Cedar Falls

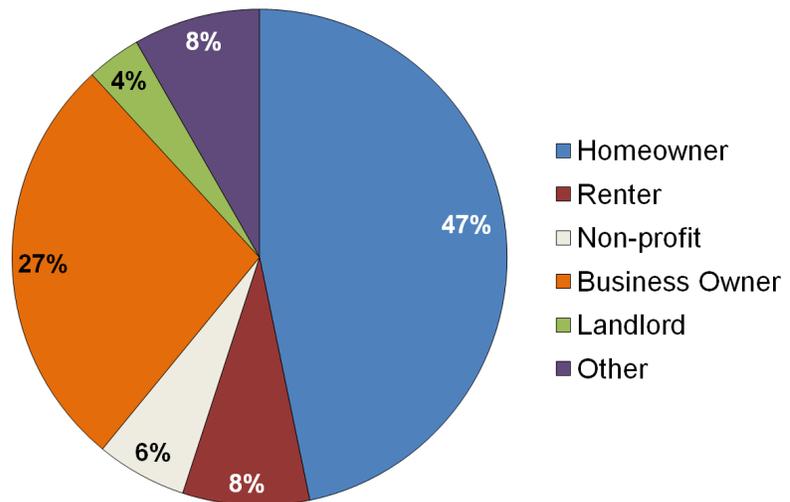
The Rebuild Iowa Office received more than 200 survey responses through the RIO Resource Booths and the online survey. Additional outreach activity is planned for later this summer at the Iowa State Fair.

### SPEAK UP IOWA II SURVEY RESULTS

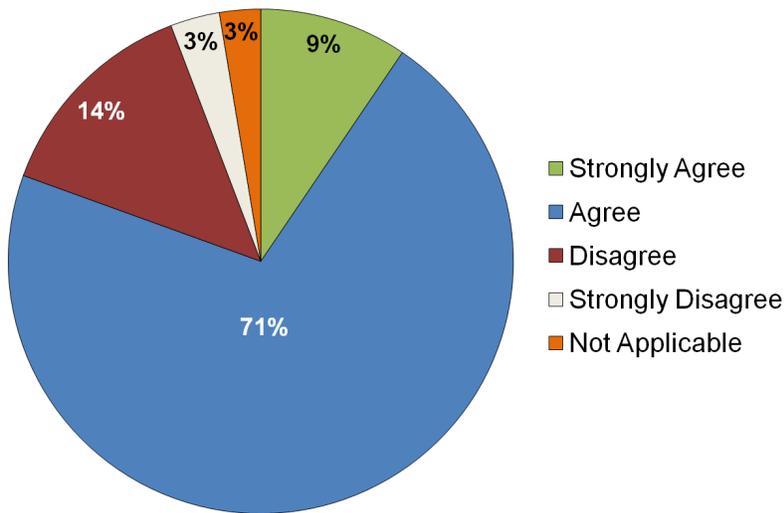
One year ago when the disasters first hit, the Rebuild Iowa Office held “Speak Up Iowa!” public input sessions across the state to allow Iowans to share how they had been impacted and what their immediate needs were for recovery. One year later, the Rebuild Iowa Office distributed a survey, called the “Speak Up Iowa II Survey,” to citizens in 11 impacted communities across Iowa to see if the state was on the right track. The survey was filled out by various groups of people including disaster victims, business owners, volunteers, etc. It asked questions about public perception of the disaster recovery and communication efforts, what programs people had applied for and what programs people needed additional information on. More than 200 surveys were returned. The RIO will be sharing the data collected in the questionnaire during a statewide media tour planned for July and August. During the media tour, recovery programs that survey respondents said they were not aware of – will be publicized again to inform disaster victims about the resources available.

The following charts show some of the questions that were asked on the “Speak Up Iowa II Survey” and how Iowans responded.

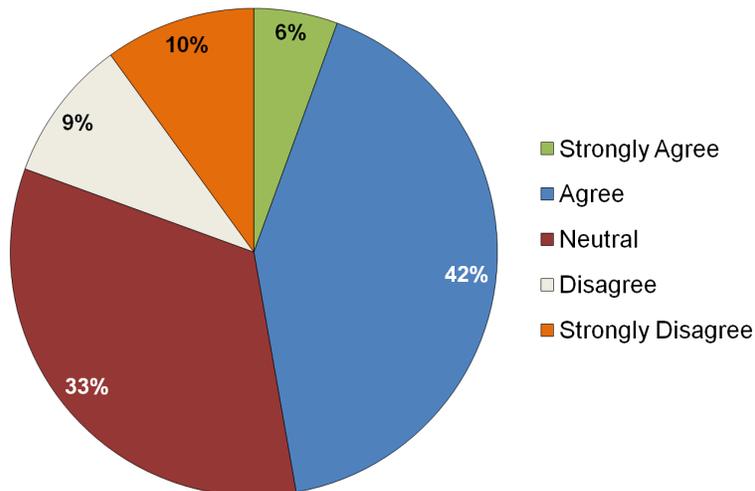
*The disaster affected me as a:*



*Iowa is on the right track to recover from the disasters of 2008.*



*I feel informed of Iowa's disaster recovery progress.*



### Rebuild Iowa Office

#### RIO COORDINATING COUNCIL

Rob Berntsen, Iowa Utilities Board  
Elisabeth Buck, IWD  
Pat Callahan, The League of Cities  
Bob Donley, Board of Regents  
Doug Elliott, Governor's Appointee from the Councils of Government  
Pat Grassley, Legislator  
Rob Hogg, Legislator  
Judy Jeffrey, Dept. of Education  
Jim Kenkel, Dept. of Public Safety (Fire Marshall)  
Charlie Krogmeier, DHS  
Rich Leopold, DNR  
John McCalley, Dept. on Aging  
Dave Miller, HSEMD  
Bret Mills, IFA  
Karen Misjak, ICSAC  
Terrence Neuzil, Iowa State Association of Counties  
Tom Newton, IDPH  
Bill Northey, IDALS  
Dick Oshlo, DOM  
Cyndi Pederson, DCA  
Kim Reynolds, Legislator  
Nancy Richardson, DOT  
Tom Schueller, Legislator  
Roya Stanley, OEI  
Mike Tramontina, IDED  
Ljerka Vasiljevic, DPS (Director's Representation)  
  
Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director  
Jacqui DiGiacinto, RIO Staff Lead

*The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery. (RIAC Recommendation #11)*

As a result of unprecedented levels of devastation and destruction caused by the 2008 disasters, 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 (RIO) through Executive Order Number Seven on 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 a sunset date of June 30, 2011. It also called for quarterly reports to "include an updated budgetary and financial analysis include full-time equivalent positions, and progress in obtaining goals, benchmarks, and objectives established." This entire report serves as an outline and update on the goals, benchmarks and objectives of Iowa's disaster recovery.

While it is a considerable accomplishment to establish the RIO officially in state code, there are hurdles that remain. The RIO's budget through FY2010 is covered with the Economic Development Administration grant funding, Community Development Block Grant administration funding and state funds. Further state funds will still be needed for FY2011. The RIO has worked hard to cut costs wherever possible and is working toward the goals and objectives of disaster recovery utilizing minimal staff.

In addition to funding challenges the RIO office also has the ongoing need to continue to educate other agencies and local government entities about the role of our office in order to continue to maximize recovery and provide assistance wherever possible.

HF64 establishing the RIO in code also established the RIO's new Coordinating Council. This council, made up of state agency representatives, local leaders and legislators, was charged with facilitating "communication between state agencies and the Rebuild Iowa Office." The council met in May 2009 and is scheduled to meet again on July 21, 2009. For this second meeting, the group will be participating in a "Road Ahead Workshop". This workshop will allow members of the council to discuss key aspects of the disaster recovery process and outline best practices, suggested improvements and goals and benchmarks going forward. The council will meet twice more in 2009 and will be discussing disaster recovery priorities for the 2010 legislative session.

Prior to the establishment of this council, the RIO had undertaken several efforts to bring state and federal agency staff together to discuss disaster recovery operations and policy and encourage communication and collaboration. Since the summer of 2008, Inter-Agency Coordination Team meetings involving state and federal agency staff and covering major policy issues and Point of Contact meetings involving state agency staff to collaboration on program operations, have been held on a monthly basis.

Information regarding RIO's staffing, current budget and contracts can be found in the appendix.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Coordinate overall recovery efforts.
- 2) Provide damage assessment and impact information.
- 3) Complete overall disaster recovery strategy.
- 4) Provide transition plans and information to carry disaster strategy forward after sunset.
- 5) Coordinate state and local agency activities, policies, programs and plans.

### RIO REPORTS

The Rebuild Iowa Office has released many significant reports about the 2008 disaster recovery effort. All can be found on the Office's Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

- Speak Up Iowa!" Public Input Report – August 2008
- Unified Task Force Report – August 2008
- RIAC 45-Day Report to the Governor – September 2008
- RIAC 120-Day Report to the Governor – November 2008
- Quarterly Report – April 2009
- EDA Progress Report – April 2009
- Quarterly Report – July 2009



# ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

The goals and objectives of Iowa's economic recovery were developed through Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission and associated Task Force meetings in the summer and fall of 2008. Input was also obtained through the initial "Speak Up Iowa" Listening Sessions and surveys. Through funding from the Economic Development Administration, the RIO and other state agencies are using this input to implement an economic recovery road map to help Iowa recover from the 2008 disasters.

## Goal 1: Housing Recovery



The newly-renovated Brown Apartments in Cedar Rapids



A home being constructed in Parkersburg



Flood-damaged homes, like this one in Oakville, are still being gutted and rebuilt.

*State and local governments will place a high priority on ensuring availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent or purchase homes. (RIAC Recommendation #2)*

Housing has been and continues to be a top priority in Iowa's recovery. Many thousands of Iowans were displaced by the 2008 disasters and many of those remain displaced. Some people 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.

One of the first challenges of this was creating a program to assist individuals with their home repairs. While many received FEMA housing assistance within a few weeks of the disaster, it was often not enough to completely repair their home and return it to a state in which they could move back in. State and federal funds were combined to create the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program and many have already received the repair funding needed to return to their damaged home.

Two other major phases of housing replacement are now under way and will remain challenges for the state for years to come. There are two major programs responsible for acquiring flood-damaged properties that will not be repaired. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requires the purchase of these properties can pass a benefit-cost analysis and that the property be converted to green space and not redeveloped. Acquisitions done with CDBG funding are more flexible and can allow for redevelopment in some cases. Many FEMA acquisitions have already been approved. Applications for the CDBG acquisition funding have been released and are due July 31, 2009. \$255 million has been budgeted for this activity.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide incentives and gap funding to enable the building of new, affordable housing to replace what was lost in the disaster.
- 2) Provide assistance that allows people to repair their homes and be able to live in them again.
- 3) Provide assistance that allows landlords to repair damaged rental units.
- 4) Helping people living in FEMA trailers find a permanent housing solution by the end of 2009.

- 5) Develop plans to ensure mitigation of housing damage and impacts in future disasters and state policy regarding development in floodplains.
- 6) Work to ensure that new housing meets quality standards, long-term sustainability and energy efficiency goals.
- 7) Review state and local policies that may expedite action in times of disaster, and where needed create waivers and/or special conditions to benefit housing response and recovery.

#### MEASURES

##### *Progress on Property Acquisitions*

As of the end of June 2009, FEMA had officially approved 23 property acquisition projects at more than \$43 million through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. It is anticipated that over \$100 million in these acquisitions will eventually be approved. In most cases, this funding goes to a city or county government and allows them to purchase a flood-destroyed home or other property at its pre-flood value. In addition to this program, the application process is currently underway for acquisitions under the CDBG program. This program currently has budgeted for more than \$200 million in such acquisitions.

##### *Progress on New Housing Production*

Current plans estimate that more than 1,000 housing units will be demolished following property acquisitions. Many of these demolitions are already underway and this process leaves a major gap in housing availability for Iowans. For this reason and a general need to create more affordable housing, we have several programs designed to incent production of new, affordable units.

To date, nearly \$18 million in funding from the CDBG program has been awarded to 15 communities and is expected to supplement the development of nearly 350 new single-family housing units. These units will meet affordability standards and production on several of them has already begun. The state is currently working on exact budget amounts, but plan to continue making awards for this purpose in the months to come to meet the housing need.

#### JUMPSTART HOUSING PROGRAM

The Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program is administered through the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

This program uses state and federal funding to help disaster-impacted homeowners make a down payment on a new house, repair their current home or maintain their mortgages while waiting for a potential buyout. For down payment assistance and housing rehabilitation assistance, a receding loan is issued and will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the house for 5 years.

Below are the statewide figures as of July 9, 2009.

##### Jumpstart Housing Update:

- Total number of applicants: 4,104
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$70.2 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 2,881
- Total amount obligated: \$49.3 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$37.2 million
- Average award: \$17,097
- Applications ineligible for the program: 509

### BROWN APARTMENTS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

The Brown Apartments project at 1234 Fourth Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids serves as a model of what financing for similar apartment projects will look like in the future and how they can be accomplished.

The development group used Federal Housing Tax Credits and State and Federal Historic Tax Credits to help finance a major renovation.

Refurbishing Brown Apartments has helped begin to ease the shortage of affordable housing in Cedar Rapids which became even worse after the 2008 floods.

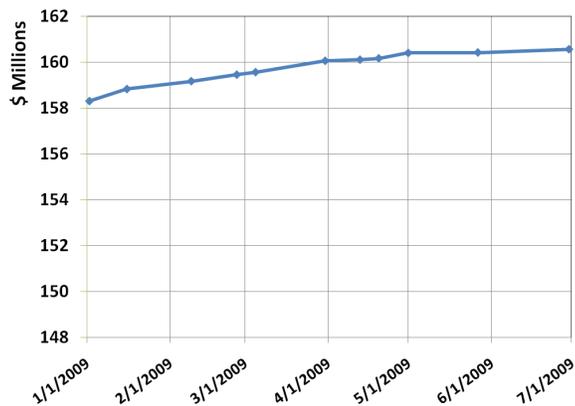
The project will not only provide housing for people who have been displaced by the flood, but also provide a sense of place and a sense of pride as the building was restored to historic specifications.

In addition to single-family production, more than \$400 million over 10 years in Low-Income Housing Tax Credits have been awarded to several communities to create multi-family housing units. Investments in this area will continue using tax credits as well as CDBG funding.

Energy efficiency and sustainability have been goals in Iowa's disaster recovery from the beginning. The New Housing Production Program attracted proposals seeking to construct more efficient homes for Iowans. For example:

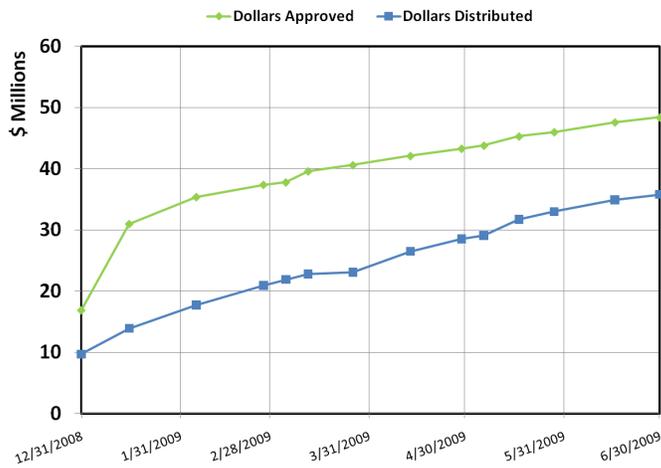
- In Parkersburg, all new homes will be Home Energy Rating System (HERS) tested and rated.
- In Iowa City, an energy rater will review proposed home designs and evaluate the design in terms of energy efficiency and green resources.
- In Waterloo, homes will be built to Mid American Energy Advantage Standards. This program requires certain specifications for features in a home such as windows, ductwork, heating and cooling and insulation.
- Habitat for Humanity is constructing homes in Des Moines that will exceed Energy Star standards, including programmable thermostats, high efficiency furnace and air conditioners, Energy Star rated light fixtures, dishwashers and refrigerators.
- In Cedar Rapids, a majority of the applications approved incorporated raised heel truss system roofs to facilitate energy efficiency.

The chart below shows progress from January 2009 to date in distributing SBA loans. 3,180 Iowa homeowners have now received these low-interest loans to assist in their disaster recovery.

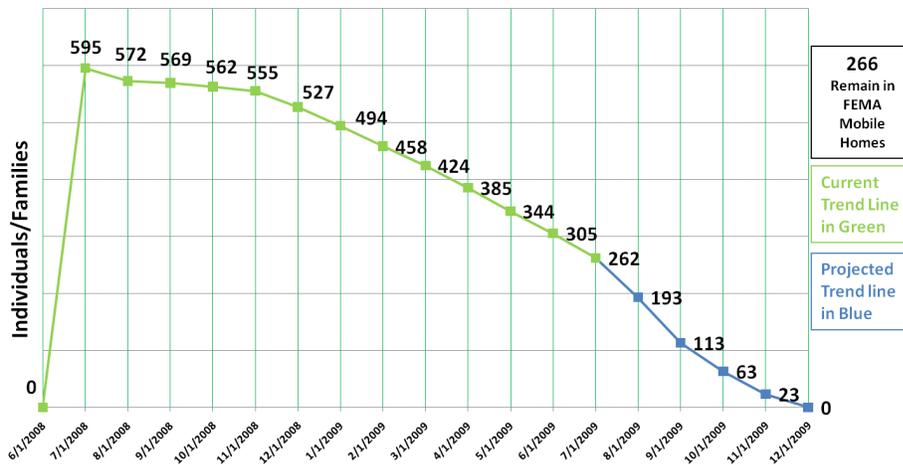


## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

The chart below shows current progress in distributing Jumpstart housing funds. These funds assist homeowners in repairing their damaged home, covering mortgage payments and/or purchasing a new home.



The chart below shows progress towards lowans moving out of FEMA temporary housing in mobile homes and into permanent housing. As of this report, only 262 lowans remain in these temporary units. If the trend line continues, we expect to meet our goal of having all of these households into permanent housing by the end of 2009.



## Goal 2: Business & Workforce Recovery

### JUMPSTART BUSINESS PROGRAM

Through the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program, the Iowa Department of Economic Development provided 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, used 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.

The Jumpstart Small Business Program stopped accepting applications on April 15 due to a reduction in incoming applications. A new assistance program, the Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program was then rolled out April 16.

Below are the statewide figures for the Jumpstart Small Business Program as of May 28, 2009.

Jumpstart Small Business Update:

- Total number of applicants: 1,169
- Total number of applicants approved for the program: 957
- Total amount approved: \$29.5 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$24.2 million
- Average award: \$31,343
- Applications ineligible for the program: 212

*The state should provide incentives for Iowa's struggling small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters. (RIAC Recommendation #3)*

The RIO works in collaboration with local chambers of commerce, statewide business organizations and other business partners in evaluating the needs of disaster-impacted businesses. Businesses have so far received assistance in the form of low-interest Small Business Administration loans, Jumpstart Business Assistance, Business Rental Assistance, Community and Economic Betterment Assistance and a Workforce Development small business grant program.

In order to assist the business community in reopening in disaster-affected areas and remaining open, operations funding to make up lost revenues and added expenses is desperately needed. This funding can also offset other funding sources that come in the form of interest loans and add to businesses debt load.

In addition to these programs, we have continued to work with the business community to identify the best ways to address unmet needs and help businesses reopen, stay open and thrive. After hearing from impacted business owners regarding the burden of repaying SBA business loans and the strain it was putting on their operations, the Rebuild Iowa Office in partnership with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), the Iowa Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and the federal Small Business Association (SBA) collaborated and developed a plan to alleviate and assist with that burden.

With a commitment from the IDED to provide \$200,000 in CBDG funds to the SBDCs to assist in the administration of the program, the SBDCs plan to send invitations to all SBA business borrowers to make an appointment to discuss restructuring options for their loans. During this appointment, the borrower will meet with a business case manager and a loan specialist who will work with them in assessing the current status of the business and develop/redevelop their business plan. Then, the loan specialist will assist the business borrower in restructuring their SBA loan. Options for restructuring range from: 1) extending the amortization schedule to 30 years and adjust monthly payments accordingly, 2) requesting interest only payments for (specific number) of months with subsequent higher payments (which could roll into the DED interest payment program), or 3) reducing payments to (requested number) per month for (requested

number) of months with subsequent higher payments. The SBA has agreed to this system and estimated that loans can be restructured within about 30 days of the appointment.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Help businesses closed by the disaster to reopen and stay open.
- 2) Help businesses reopen with the same number of employees as before the disasters.
- 3) Attract new businesses to disaster-impacted areas.
- 4) Create new jobs in rebuilding and provide skills training to help connect people to those jobs.
- 5) Increase business preparedness and contingency planning for future disasters.
- 6) Develop a set of state and local contingency plans to provide support and assistance to small businesses and non-profits during disaster response and recovery.
- 7) Assist businesses and non-profits in historic buildings and encourage historic preservation and salvage in disaster recovery.

### KEY PROJECTS

#### *Small Business Portal*

Shortly after the flood water had receded from the flood of 2008, the city of Cedar Rapids and the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce began the lengthy process of assessing impacts throughout the community. It was recognized that information about the status of impacted small businesses was limited and a course of action was needed to assess both the damages and unmet needs of this important part of the city's economy.

The Chamber requested the assistance of the Kirkwood Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to create a telephone survey to assess the condition of small businesses affected by the disaster. To electronically house the database of information, the Kirkwood SBDC contacted [www.CorridorRecovery.org](http://www.CorridorRecovery.org) to create a database in which the information collected will be stored in a safe and secure database.

Over 650 businesses were contacted by SBDC telephone surveyors and



**Many disaster-affected businesses rebuilt and reopened after the floods.**



**Owners of Simply Divine Gift and Candy Shoppe in Cedar Rapids work to reopen their store.**



**Downtown Cedar Rapids business space works to reopen after the 2008 flood.**

### CEBA DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) Disaster Recovery program helps finance business operations; including biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information solutions/financial services. The CEBA program provides financial assistance to companies that create new employment opportunities and/or retain existing jobs and make new capital investment in Iowa.

CEBA Disaster Recovery can be used for building construction or reconstruction, land or building acquisition, equipment purchases, operating and maintenance expenses, site development: clearance, demolition and building removal, and for working capital.

To date, the Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded four CEBA Disaster Recovery awards:

#### Penford (Cedar Rapids)

- To clean and make necessary repairs to resume production
- Amount - \$2,000,000

#### Real Deal (Cedar Falls)

- To construct a corporate office and distribution facility
- Amount - \$250,000

#### Aerial Services (Cedar Falls)

- To construct a new building to house the business
- Amount - \$125,000

#### Diamond V. Mills (Cedar Rapids)

- To make repairs in order to sustain the business
- Amount - \$435,000

questions stemming from the status of the business (open, closed, planning to reopen, moved or unreachable) to what kind of assistance is needed during the recovery process were asked. The information collected during the first survey provided important details for the city to use in planning as well as to the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Department of Economic Development to measure the unmet needs of business affected by the disaster – which in turn would aid in developing additional funding programs. A few key statistics regarding Cedar Rapids small businesses from that survey:

- Reopened small businesses have incurred an estimate of about 20-30% of additional debt following the flood
- An estimate of 66 businesses have closed and not reopened since the flood
- Of businesses surveyed so far, 50% have not returned to pre-flood revenue levels

Currently, the database has up-to-date contact information of the small businesses in addition to current debt loads and pre- and post-flood revenue information. The information collected and the system in place is an invaluable tool for future disasters assessment of businesses. Quick assessment of small businesses in a disaster will dictate how quickly the recovery process can begin. It would be beneficial for a statewide agency to house and maintain the confidential information as well as investigating the possibility of duplicating the process in other cities in Iowa to speed up assessment procedures involving small businesses after a disaster.

Funding source(s): Still needed

#### *Cedar Rapids Steam Assistance*

During the catastrophic floods, the Cedar Rapids Sixth Street Coal Generating Plant, which as a byproduct produced inexpensive high and low pressure steam to the downtown Cedar Rapids business community, was damaged along with the miles of infrastructure that provided the distribution system to the downtown area. Eight of the community's largest employers including St Luke's and Mercy Hospitals and Coe College were left without the high pressure steam on which they relied for energy, along with over 200 low pressure small businesses.



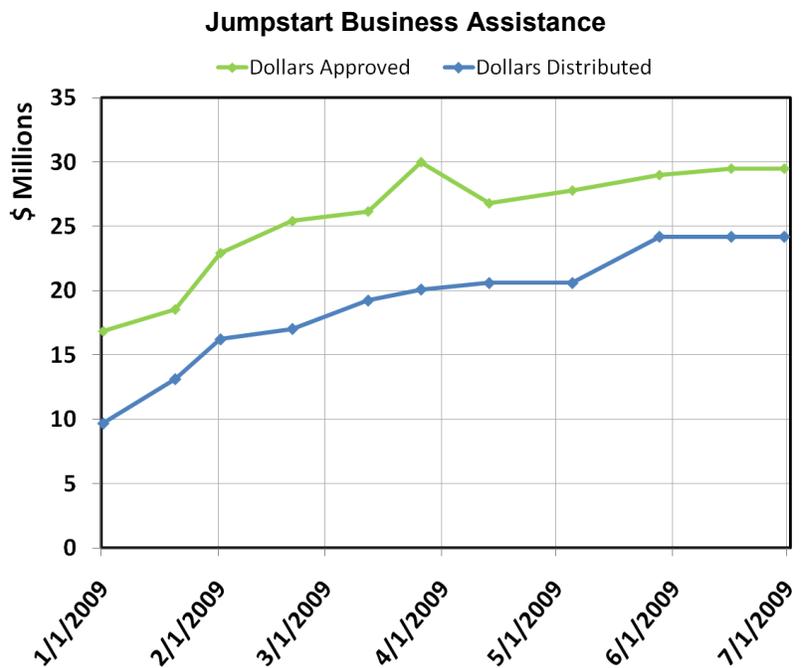
**NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT - EPJ PROGRAM**

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.

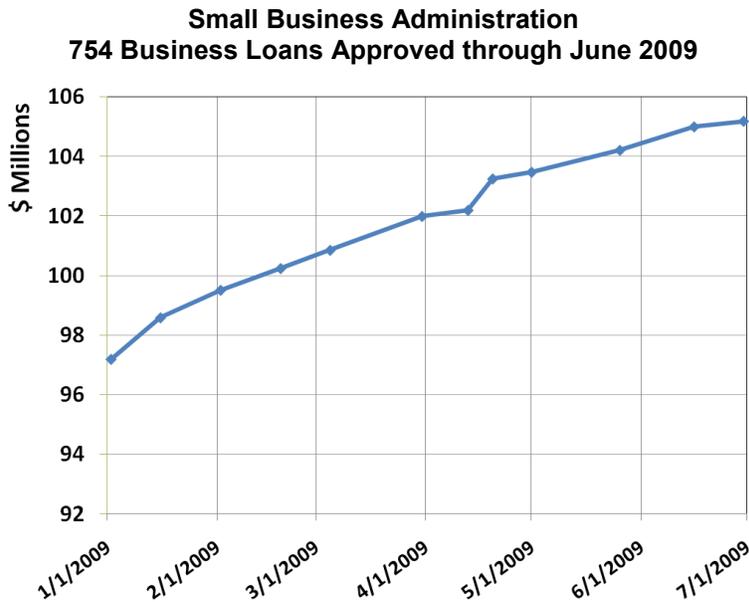
The EPJ program was designed to put Iowans who have lost their job due to the tornadoes or floods back to work (up to 1,040 hours – approximately 6 months). The program is administered through Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and the wages will be paid at the prevailing wage for the worksite.

To date, EPJ has employed nearly 1302 Iowans and has expended over \$12 million dollars. This month, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Iowa an additional \$11.6 million to continue this important program through June 2010.

The chart below shows progress from January 2009 to date in distributing Jumpstart small business assistance funds. These funds assist business owners in need of working capital or to purchase and replace appliances and other features with energy efficient products.



The chart below shows progress from January 2009 to date in distributing SBA loans. More than 700 Iowa business owners have now received these low-interest loans to assist in their disaster recovery.



## DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INFO

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) was coordinated by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). The DUA program provides benefits to persons unemployed due to federal disasters who are not eligible to receive regular unemployment insurance. The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including Iowa farmers.

Those eligible for benefits in addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes may also include:

1. individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster,
2. individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster,
3. individuals who became the breadwinner or major support for a household because of the death of the head of household due to the disaster, or
4. individuals who cannot work or perform services in self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

DUA benefits have since concluded with \$6,681,951 paid to roughly 2,106 eligible claimants out of 3,025 applicants.

### Goal 3: Infrastructure Investments

#### POST-DISASTER SALVAGE

Thousands of structures are being demolished due to the 2008 disasters, particularly in the Cedar Rapids area. The debris and general waste stream created from this activity places great stress on Iowa's landfills. Additionally, many valuable, high-quality materials could be buried and lost forever.

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA) approached FEMA, state agencies and communities to start a dialogue regarding proposed salvaging of disaster-affected historic properties. This activity has never been executed on a large scale following a disaster in the United States.

The RIO convened a group of relevant state and federal agencies to discuss the concept, address concerns, and guide the development of a salvage process. It became clear that there were many obstacles to implementing such a process, including ensuring appropriate safety and hazard precautions, contractual issues from local government and demolition contractor viewpoints, and funding.

IHPA, state agencies, and other partners have been able to overcome many of these obstacles. Spearheaded by IHPA, it appears that salvaging work will take place in many disaster-impacted communities including Mason City, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Waverly and Elkader. The RIO continues to work with other agencies to develop a salvaging plan for future disasters to ensure that we are saving our historic and high-quality building materials and reducing pressure on our landfills.

*The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction. (RIAC Recommendation #4)*

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 replacement of those structures is key to helping Iowa recover. Hundreds of millions of dollars in a variety of funding sources have already been approved for this purpose. It is critical that these funding sources are blended into one overall strategy for improving infrastructure. RIO is working with the state's Department of Economic Development to create that strategy and help guide efforts and project decisions.

A major part of that strategy is rebuilding safer, smarter and stronger. This means incorporating safe rooms in more public buildings, rebuilding outside of the highest risk areas, elevating roads, improving sewer and water systems as they are repaired and much more. In all of our programs, we have structured the decision-making process to place a greater emphasis on projects that meet the needs of this strategy and also have the ability to revitalize local economies and create jobs. The investments we make in Iowa's infrastructure in response to this disaster will greatly impact the state, its communities and their long-term economic future.

Subsequent to the 2008 floods, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has received \$94 million to fund its Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) -- \$83 million for EWP Floodplain easements, and \$11 million for EWP Recovery. Demand is high for both programs, with remaining applications totaling \$254 million of Floodplain easements and \$14 million for flood recovery assistance to local units of government. Individual assistance to landowners to prepare conservation measures and infrastructure following the 2008 disasters totaled \$33.5 million for the 85 declared counties.

#### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Statewide, comprehensive infrastructure plan that provides strategic direction, including goals and priorities for infrastructure investments.
- 2) Repair damaged infrastructure.
- 3) Replace lost infrastructure.

- 4) Build new infrastructure that is safer, stronger, smarter and more protected in future disasters and incorporate smart growth and energy efficiency principles.
- 5) Increase the number of safe rooms in new public construction.
- 6) Reduce waste in disaster damage demolition and encourage the salvage of usable materials.

**KEY PROJECTS**

*Road, Bridges and Railroads*

Tens of millions of dollars in damage was done last year to many of Iowa's road, bridges and railroad infrastructure. In some cases, these have already been repaired, but in others repairs, and in some cases replacement, is still needed. Local entities are also looking at road elevations and other measures to prevent future impacts as they rebuild.

Funding Source(s): U.S. Department of Transportation, state I-Jobs bonding funds, FEMA, etc.

*Cedar Rapids Main Library*

The Main Library sustained substantial damage and is currently being temporarily housed in two locations at Westdale Mall and the downtown Armstrong-Race Building. The city would like to move this facility to a more protected location and has received FEMA approval to do so. They are currently investigating possible locations and plan to begin construction in 2010 with completion in 2011.

Funding source(s): FEMA, state I-Jobs bonding funds

*Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station*

Cedar Rapids' Central Fire Station sustained substantial damage and has been temporarily relocated. The city would like to permanently move the facility to a more protected location. They are currently working to get FEMA approval to fund this move or identify other funding sources.

Funding source(s): FEMA



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



**A levee being rebuilt near Oakville**



**Gov. Culver discusses investing in infrastructure at the Cedar Rapids Public Works building.**

**FLOOD FACTS**

**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 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*

*Cedar Rapids City Hall*

City Hall was also substantially damaged and is seeking funding to move locations. It is currently being temporarily housed in rented space. Approval from FEMA is pending.

Funding source(s): FEMA

*Cedar Rapids Community School District*

The District suffered damage to several schools as well as their administrative buildings. Administrative offices have been housed for the past year in trailers constructed with FEMA funds at Kingston Stadium. They are currently holding public input meetings to help determine a new location, and anticipate having a final decision on location by early fall.

Funding source(s): FEMA

*Cedar Rapids Paramount Theater*

This important, historic structure in downtown Cedar Rapids was substantially impacted. Work is needed to replace all mechanical and electrical components and to restore the historic elements to their previous condition. For now, performances are being held elsewhere. The Symphony performances have been in various locations throughout Eastern Iowa. The Follies, the Symphony Guild's Major Fundraising Event, will be performed this year on the University of Northern Iowa campus.

Funding source(s): FEMA, state I-Jobs bonding funds

*University of Iowa*

The University of Iowa suffered hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to campus buildings and facilities including important landmarks such as Hancher Auditorium, Museum of Art Building, Iowa Memorial Union and other key campus facilities. In addition to rebuilding, repairing and in some cases moving these facilities, the University is also looking at measures to mitigate future impacts including elevating sidewalks and roads, moving buildings, creating additional barriers and other strategies.

Estimated Project Cost: Repairing damage alone is expected to cost more than \$200 million with mitigation and improvement measures adding

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

significantly to that cost

Funding Source(s): FEMA, insurance proceeds, state bonding

### *Sewer Repair and Separation Projects*

Sanitary and storm sewer repair, replacement and separation are important needs in many Iowa communities. So far, more than 35 communities have already applied for CDBG infrastructure funding for projects in this category. Flooding caused major damage to already deteriorating systems in many cases, and in others are in need of sewer separation measures. These measures assist communities in managing storm water, preventing flooding and overflow, improving water quality and reducing sewer backup problems.

Funding Source(s): CDBG, FEMA, state I-Jobs bonding funds

The chart below tracks the top ten natural disasters of all time in the nation with regard to public assistance repair and replacement costs. At present, Iowa's 2008 disasters are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of those costs. While our ranking can and will fluctuate, this demonstrates not only the sheer magnitude of our state's disaster, but also our ability to quickly compile information regarding public assistance projects and access federal funding.

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

	Disaster Description	State	Disaster Number	Total Obligated	Federal 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	Flooding*	IA	1763	\$763,815,425	\$632,299,096
6	Hurricane Ivan	FL	1551	\$693,985,075	\$685,084,790
7	Hurricane Frances	FL	1545	\$650,260,751	\$638,565,758
8	Hurricanes Charley/Bonnie	FL	1539	\$622,351,814	\$612,889,045
9	Hurricane Rita	LA	1607	\$560,666,197	\$552,961,997
10	Hurricane Jeanne	FL	1561	\$527,503,036	\$518,462,291

\*Iowa's current total as of June 2009.  
Iowa is expected to reach \$1.1 billion. Chart does not include Hurricane Ike (TX)

### Goal 4: Individual Services & Guidance

#### 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)

*The state will provide advice and support to individuals and families seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a disaster case management framework that has ongoing, lasting organizational capacity and processes in place to be sustained during non-disaster times. (RIAC Recommendation #1)*

Individuals and families impacted by last summer's disasters continue to feel the effects of lost and damaged homes, lost possessions, lost jobs and income, lost neighborhoods and schools and extreme mental stress. We have established several programs to assist those impacted and make their individual recovery easier. One of the most important was the statewide case management system. This system provides one-on-one support to disaster victims as they navigate and maximize programs available to them to assist in their recovery and make decisions that will allow them to go forward.

This support has been established through case managers employed by local county-level (in most cases) Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs). LTRCs are comprised of non-profit organizations and other local leaders. Their work helps to bring together state, federal, local and charitable funding sources to create a complete recovery package for individuals in need of assistance. These committees have been very successful in identifying people with unmet needs and helping them to navigate the available programs (A map of Iowa's LTRCs can be found in the appendix).

In addition to funding available to support housing needs and other issues, we also created an Individual Unmet Needs Grant program in the state to provide additional funding for those who had lost property and other items or had increased costs such as transportation due to the disasters.

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

While we keep our focus on providing these services in this disaster recovery for as long as they are needed, we also must shift our focus to ensuring that a case management framework is adopted that will remain in place between disasters. We must ensure that people impacted next time are able to receive that one-on-one assistance during both response and recovery and that there is a smooth transition between the two and

resources to continue those services.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Set up a statewide case management system with a coordinating entity that can serve impacted lowans access services and funding for their long-term individual recovery.
- 2) Provide financial support for individual and family unmet needs.
- 3) Provide mental health services for all those who need it regardless of income.
- 4) Establish a case management framework that can be in place for future disasters that includes continuity and consistency in practices and training.

**MEASURES**

The most current information collected for disaster recovery case management funding indicates 4,626 clients have been served through the case management funding the RIO has provided to 8 different entities.

The chart below details the number of contacts made by Project Recovery Iowa, a crisis counseling group assisting disaster-affected lowans.

**Project Recovery Iowa Contact Counts  
Current June 26, 2009**

<b>Type of Contact</b>	<b>Total</b>
In-person brief educational or supportive contact	45,123
Telephone contact	30,025
E-mail contact	11,136
Material provided to people with no or minimal contact	177,819
Material mailed to people's homes	14,023
Material left in public places	121,983
Community networking and coalition building	32,018
Public education/group counseling sessions held	1,854
Participants attending public ed./group sessions	27,937

**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 program was developed to provide households with a grant of up to \$2,500 for unmet needs related to the disaster. The grants are administered locally through Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRC's) 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. The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and the Department of Human Services provides support to all Long-Term Recovery Committees across the state and are working to address challenges with administering this grant program. The RIO continues to support and provide guidance to these Committees and continues to promote and create awareness of this program to all households in eligible counties across the state.

To date the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program has processed 1,718 applications providing a total of \$2,159,420 to lowans recovering from this disaster.

(DHS Report - July 9, 2009)

## Goal 5: Local Economic Recovery

### 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.

*The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa. (RIAC Recommendation #5)*

Following the disaster, several impacted counties were able to pass a one-cent local option sales tax to provide funding to assist in disaster recovery efforts throughout the next several years. In 2009, legislation was passed that allowed counties designated as federal disaster areas in 2008 and did not already have a one-cent local option sales tax to speed up the process to hold a public vote to impose the tax. Special elections were held in Linn and Johnson Counties, and the tax passed in several communities in those counties, but failed in others.

Most of the new funding has been dedicated to disaster-related projects. In Cedar Rapids, the city council committed 90% of the local option sales tax receipts for housing recovery and 10% for property tax relief. Mayor Kay Halloran said that Cedar Rapids had already collected \$1.6 million in April and May of 2009. Iowa City Mayor Regenia Bailey estimates the new tax will generate \$9 million per year for four years for a total of approximately \$36 million, which will be applied to projects that will replace the Park Street Bridge, elevate Dubuque Street, and relocate the north wastewater treatment plant. The Iowa City projects are estimated to cost \$95 million so additional funding is being pursued. The defeat in Coralville means the city will be looking to other potential funding sources as their ballot identified \$54 million in proposed projects, including flood mitigation projects such as flood walls and berms, and elevating the CRANDIC railroad bed.

In addition to this funding source, local governments have also been able to apply for Community Disaster Loans through FEMA. This forgivable loan is intended to replace operating costs that are lost due to disaster. In February 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that it approved more than \$5 million in these loans for five Iowa communities: Cedar Rapids, New Hartford, Oakville, Palo and Parkersburg.

The RIO also worked with the Governor's office and General Assembly in the 2009 legislative session to pass several measures that provided local governments with additional funding options and other contingency measures in times of disaster.

The first bill signed into law during the session, HF64, appropriated \$56 million for disaster recovery efforts including \$22 million for Community Disaster Grants to cities and counties based on their pro rata share of damage costs associated with the 2008 presidential disaster declaration

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

DR-1763-IA. Eligible counties (85) and all cities in those counties could use the funding for 1) nonprofit organization assistance; 2) public purchase of land and accompanying structures; 3) repair, replacement or upgrade of public infrastructure damaged by disaster; 4) increased costs associated with revaluing property due to natural disaster; 5) small business assistance and 6) assistance for replacing or rehabilitating housing. Grant recipients must report their use of allocated funds to the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management by Jan. 1, 2010.

In SF478, the Standing Appropriations Bill, \$1.15 million was appropriated to seven Iowa communities damaged by tornadoes in 2008. SF478 also authorized cities to collect up to 5% in franchise fees, authorizing that fees collected in excess of inspection and regulation costs for utilities to be used for disaster projects or other specified purposes.

Additional disaster funding was provided in bonding bills. SF376, known as the I-Jobs Bonding Bill, provided:

- \$165 million for disaster-related projects including \$46.5 million for specific projects, and \$118.5 million for competitive grants for local infrastructure projects related to disaster and flood rebuilding and prevention;
- \$13.5 million to DNR for purposes including construction or repair of structures for purposes including mitigating flood damage or the threat of flood damage in areas most severely affected by the 2008 flood;
- \$5 million to IFA for Disaster Damage Housing Assistance grants to ease and speed recovery efforts from the natural disasters of 2008, including stabilizing neighborhoods, preventing population loss and neighborhood deterioration, and improving health, safety and welfare of persons living in disaster-damaged neighborhoods;
- \$11.5 million to IDALS for purposes including reconstruction or repair of permanent soil and water conservation practices damaged by the 2008 flood;
- \$1 million for a Waterloo railroad bridge damaged by the 2008 flood;
- and makes changes to the bonding authority of the Iowa Board of Regents, allowing them to bond for construction of replacement facilities and flood recovery and flood mitigation expenses resulting from a disaster.



**Lt. Gen. Dardis, Rep. Grassley and Sen. Heckroth present a Community Disaster Grant to Parkersburg.**



**Gov. Culver signs bills to assist disaster-affected communities.**



**Gov. Culver presents a Community Disaster Grant check to the city of Waverly.**

### **\$1.15 MILLION FOR TORNADO-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**

During the 2009 legislative session, Iowa legislators appropriated \$1.15 million to be distributed among the following: Marion county (to benefit Attica), Dunkerton, Fairbank, Hazleton, New Hartford, Delaware county (to benefit Oneida) and Parkersburg. The legislation became law when Governor Culver signed Senate File 478 on May 26.

The communities were specifically identified by the National Weather Service as having been damaged by a tornado, not just high winds, during the disaster declaration time period of May 25 through August 13, 2008. The primary purpose for the funds was to equalize a decision made earlier in the 2009 legislative session when \$22 million in Community Disaster Grant funds were distributed to both flood and tornado-damaged communities based on FEMA Individual Assistance and SBA application numbers. This formula disregarded FEMA Public Assistance (PA) applications because many PA applications had not been approved at the time of the allocation and it would have skewed funding unfairly toward communities whose PA applications had been processed and away from those whose applications had not.

Many tornado-damaged communities did not show significant Individual Assistance or SBA application numbers because insurance often took care of their individual and business needs. However, Public Assistance needs were still significant and needed to be addressed.

SF457 provides important financing flexibility to local governments in future disasters. It includes changes for cities and counties affected by disaster related to local bonding, contract letting, lease or lease-purchase contract requirements, loan agreement requirements, definitions of essential county purpose and essential corporate purpose; legalizes certain actions taken in response to natural disaster; and also authorizes disaster recovery housing project tax credits for eligible properties affected by the 2008 disasters

SF81 assists schools with recovering from disaster by changing the approval method for transfers from the emergency fund, modifying other funding provisions related to disaster recovery, and authorizing AEA boards to purchase and lease-purchase property. Two bills, HF414 and SF344, combined to authorize actions taken by the Executive Council to provide funding from various existing state programs for recovery needs in 2008, and to authorize future use of various economic development program funds for disaster recovery needs. SF415 creates an alternative process for cities in 2008 disaster areas to acquire abandoned property damaged by disaster that constitutes a public nuisance and is not feasible to rehabilitate. Under SF336, the Vision Iowa Board was authorized to consider waiving the statutory local and private match requirement for applicants to the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) and River Enhancement CAT (RECAT) programs.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create new revenue options for state and local government in times of disaster
- 2) Connect local governments with programs and funding sources
- 3) Provide local governments with funding to make up lost revenue gaps and additional burdens
- 4) Monitor revenue projections and plan for future local government needs
- 5) Provide help and support for local government planning efforts
- 6) Provide state and local level contingency options for disaster times to allow for expedited response and recovery

### MEASURES

While there is not yet a direct measure of local economic recovery, a few activity statistics help show our progress towards this goal:

- New revenue options and increased funding for local governments were created through local options sales tax changes, Community Disaster Loans, Community Disaster Grants, tornado community funding, I-Jobs bonding funds and changes to local bonding provisions.
- Through our work with communities, RIO has worked in collaboration with other agencies and groups to connect local communities with information on all available disaster-related funding opportunities.
- As outlined in this report, RIO staff has also worked with local communities to assist in their planning efforts to help ensure that they maximize available funding to meet their goals.
- Several contingency options now and in future disasters are outlined here and were achieved in the 2009 legislative session.

## Goal 6: Create, Promote & Implement Smart Growth Principles

*As part of the integrated regional planning initiative, Iowa Smart Growth Principles should be developed.*

Goal of the principles: Iowa shall protect, maintain, and wisely utilize its built and natural environment by incorporating smart growth principles in development and resource management decisions; application of these principles through integration and coordination of policies, programs, and investment decisions will ensure Iowa grows in a manner that improves resilience in the face of natural disasters, grows and adapts our economy, protects our natural resources, and safeguards our quality of life. The proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles, one component of the integrated regional planning framework, will be shared with various interest groups and experts in July and August for feedback and revision.



**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.**

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improve Iowa's energy efficiency, sustainability, community identity and quality of life
- 2) Create Smart Growth Principles
- 3) Promote and implement these principles across disaster recovery programs
- 4) Create a plan to maintain these principles in the state beyond disaster recovery

### PROJECTS

#### *EPA Smart Growth*

The RIO's partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program continues to move forward with five selected Iowa communities.

Below is a brief summary of the scope of work for each community:

#### *Cedar Falls*

Identification and in-depth analysis of three corridors for redevelopment that incorporates smart growth components and fosters revitalization; examine relevant plans, codes, and other guidelines related to street design, lighting and bikeways to identify options for incorporating smart growth concepts; and conduct public forum to discuss the incorporation and

benefits of smart growth concepts, and conduct urban design charrette focused on one of the selected corridors to visualize the potential for change.

### *Cedar Rapids*

Complete an audit and recommendations for incorporating smart growth principles in the City's development policies: comprehensive plan, metro design standards, zoning ordinance, storm water management regulations, and subdivision standards; work with City staff to develop infill strategies, particularly in flood-impacted neighborhoods; and develop options and strategies to implement green infrastructure in existing codes and ordinances.

### *Coralville*

Conduct a market overview and evaluation of redevelopment potential, housing and commercial demand, and the utilization of mixed-use development; analyze the City's planned unit development (PUD) guidelines and recommendation options for including smart growth concepts within that framework; and review the City's subdivision ordinance and streetscape standards to incorporate green infrastructure concepts to manage storm water and improve water quality.

### *Iowa City*

Conduct a market analysis to assess the demand for housing and mixed-use development, including the densities and mix of uses need to support future transit; conduct a workshop with the public and key stakeholders to set a vision and objectives for the South Gilbert Street Corridor, create preliminary development concepts, and gain feedback; and analyze and make recommendations for including smart growth concepts in policy changes related to zoning, design guidelines, green infrastructure, parking, and other codes.

### *New Hartford*

Conduct a workshop that educates the public and other stakeholders about green infrastructure related to storm water management; and design options for implementing a green storm water management system in the town and outline steps and funding opportunities for implementation.

Funding Source(s): FEMA and EPA

## SMART GROWTH

Five Iowa communities were selected to receive Smart Growth assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Site visits with the five participating communities - Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Iowa City, and New Hartford - occurred in March. These meetings allowed EPA representatives the opportunity to meet community leaders and elected officials, tour flood-impacted areas, and discuss ways in which the EPA could assist with the communities' smart growth efforts.

From April through June, the EPA, participating state agencies, and the local communities came to consensus on the work plans to be completed for each community. These plans are now going through a contracting process at the EPA to hire a team of expert consultants to lead implementation. All work is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

FEMA and EPA are funding this assistance, which is intended to build upon the recovery plans and strategies developed through FEMA's Emergency Support Function #14 - Long-Term Community Recovery.

## Goal 7: Statewide Mitigation Planning

### 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

*Blend traditional mitigation planning with recovery efforts to take advantage of increased focus and mitigate while rebuilding.*

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 309 Iowa communities have approved plans and 640 have new or updated planning initiatives in progress. Communities are required to document planning processes and identify hazards, potential losses, and mitigation goals, objectives, and measures. They must demonstrate proposed mitigation actions based on sound planning processes accounting for vulnerability to specific hazards and capabilities of individual communities.

There are many long-term benefits of mitigation planning in addition to eligibility for Hazard Mitigation project 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.

While these program and planning efforts at the local level have been very successful, there is still a need for this planning to be internally consistent with other policies and ordinances in the jurisdiction, horizontally consistent with plans of neighboring jurisdictions, and vertically consistent with overlapping jurisdictions, such as a region or the State. Our efforts towards Smart Growth and Regional Planning as described in this report are aimed at achieving the goals of that integration and consistency to bolster the already strong mitigation planning that occurs in Iowa.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Make future disaster mitigation a priority in rebuilding efforts.

- 2) Enact more statewide policy on disaster mitigation.
- 3) Increase public education and information that increases individual and community mitigation efforts.
- 4) Encourage more comprehensive and integrated local and regional mitigation planning.

### PROJECTS

#### *Removing buildings from high-risk areas*

A major piece of our statewide mitigation efforts will be the acquisition of properties in the 100-year flood plain that will not be redeveloped. Not only does this program provide support and funding to home and business owners who lost flooded property, it also helps to reduce the number of structures that exist in high-risk areas. This will reduce the impact of future disasters and has many benefits, but is a very expensive and complex system.

Funding source(s): FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and HUD's CDBG funding

#### *Flood protection measures*

A variety of flood protection measures are being considered in Iowa's communities including levees, flood walls, dams and more. While these protections are important, it is also equally important that their impact beyond the immediately surrounding area is considered before funding decisions are made and that the flood protection measures fit into an overall mitigation strategy.

Funding source(s): CDBG, EDA, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## Goal 8: Floodplain & Watershed Management

### WRCC SUBCOMMITTEE 12 REPRESENTED AGENCIES

1. University of Iowa – Iowa Flood Center
2. Iowa State University – Leopold Center
3. University of Northern Iowa – Center for Energy and Environmental Education
4. Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
6. Iowa Department of Transportation
7. Natural Resources Conservation Service
8. Iowa Department of Natural Resources
9. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
10. Iowa Department of Economic Development
11. Rebuild Iowa Office
12. U.S. Geological Survey

*The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management. (RIAC Recommendation #9)*

The first step in addressing this goal was achieved legislatively by passage of HF756. This bill requires Iowa's Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) to submit funding and policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2009, promoting watershed management to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality. The WRCC met on June 12, 2009, and endorsed the concept of establishing a 12-member subcommittee made up of state and federal agency representatives to address the requirements (see sidebar on the left).

An organizational meeting will be held with subcommittee representatives on July 13, 2009, to review the subcommittee's tasks, make preliminary assignments, outline a proposed meeting schedule, and discuss the future meeting format and how to best solicit public input. The subcommittee's recommendations will be presented to the full WRCC in October 2009 to allow time for finalization before the Nov. 15, 2009, deadline for submission to the Governor and General Assembly.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) continues to participate in the Iowa Levee Working Group, and the five-state Interagency Levee Task Force with federal agencies and state government agencies from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Project applications submitted to federal and state agencies are reviewed by the working group and coordinated with other efforts. RIO is assisting in developing an Iowa Flood Risk Management Team and will continue to work with USACE and FEMA to address future policy and mitigation needs.

Coordination and assistance continues to be provided to local units of government and levee districts, particularly in the eastern half of the state and along the Mississippi River. Federal agencies are responding to the floods of 2008 by proposing policy changes, conducting an inventory of levees, and by asking local levee districts to re-certify levees in some instances as revisions of existing flood plain maps are released.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contracts to repair levees damaged or breached in last year's floods are still ongoing. Funds obligated by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for Emergency Watershed Program and Emergency Watershed Program Floodplain Easements are now being assigned to contracts and permanent

easements. Funds were also provided to individual land owners through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency to repair damaged conservation measures, remove debris, and repair fence lines.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Repair and replace damaged and destroyed floodplain management structures.
- 2) Improve the inspection and maintenance of Iowa's floodplain management infrastructure.
- 3) Protect Iowans from the impacts of flooding, based on current data and with involvement of local governments in the process.
- 4) Develop and implement recommendations to encourage regional watershed cooperation and management and overall planning for floodplains that mitigates future disaster impacts.
- 5) Seek opportunities to complete watershed studies for the primary watersheds across the state.
- 6) Provide incentives and develop and promote practices that encourage water retention and reduce urban storm water issues.
- 7) Improve the state's ability to model and predict flooding possibilities.

### PROJECTS

#### *University of Iowa Flood Center and proposed National Flood Center*

Iowa's 2008 legislative session provided funding for the establishment of the Iowa Flood Center to be housed in the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa as part of the Iowa Institute for Hydraulic Research. The Center will assist state and federal agencies and communities by developing models to improve flood forecasting and monitoring. Studies will seek to improve understanding of mitigation needs in Iowa's major river basins to prevent or lessen the effects of future flooding.

The Center will collaborate with the Flood Management Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the National Weather Service, and other state and federal agencies. Tangible products such as flood inundation maps, rain forecasting, and real-time data analysis will be

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

---

specifically developed for Iowa applications.

The University of Iowa has also submitted a proposal to create a National Flood Center on the campus in Iowa City. The National Center, if funded, would have a broad research and education mission to the nation, while the Iowa Flood Center will focus on applications and priorities specific to Iowa.

Funding source(s): State funding

### *Louisa County Levee District #11 Repair*

This levee, breached in the floods of 2008, protects agricultural land, homes and businesses in Southeast Iowa. Since then, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been working with the levee district on pursuing a non-structural alternative to repair this levee. Due to concerns in the area over the past few months regarding delays in this project, Gov. Culver has been in communication with USACE. Elements of the agreement and legal documentation needed are currently being resolved and it is expected that repairs will be completed by December 2009.

Funding source(s): USACE, local match

### *Cedar Rapids Flood Permanent Protection Measures*

The City of Cedar Rapids is developing plans that include several new and/or improved flood protection measures. It will be imperative that these measures are integrated with their plans for housing, business and infrastructure and coordinated with rebuilding and repair efforts. These measures will be critically important in rebuilding confidence in the community's economic stability, improving quality of life and mitigating future damages. These efforts will require cooperation and support among local, state and federal agencies. Temporary protection measures will also be needed given the timeline of the permanent plan. The City's permanent flood management strategy (which includes levees, floodwalls and a greenway) was submitted to USACE in November 2008 for its analysis and study process which is expected to last up to 24 months. When that is completed, Congressional authorization and funding will be needed before construction can begin. Construction is estimated to take 10 to 15 years.

Funding source(s): USACE, others

### MEASURES

#### *Improve the inspection and maintenance of Iowa's floodplain management infrastructure*

The 2008 legislative session appropriated \$2 million to the DNR Floodplain Management Program to add new staff and bolster efforts to implement flood insurance programs, conduct needed dam inspections, and to regulate construction in, and modifications to, the state's flood plains. This increase in funding and staff will improve the maintenance and regulation of the state's flood protection measures.

#### *Watershed basin studies*

State and federal agencies have begun efforts to initiate a watershed study in the combined Iowa and Cedar River Basins. A scope of work has been submitted to the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) to initiate regional planning in the Iowa-Cedar Basin. The Rock Island District of the USACE is facilitating the process. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has made the Iowa Cedar Basin their priority for completing rapid watershed assessments of the nine watersheds in the basin. These assessments will provide a snapshot of needs and concerns in each sub-basin area. Both federal and state agencies on the council plan to conduct public meetings in the basin to seek public input and further identify needs of local governments and economies.

Future plans call for undertaking similar efforts in an additional five to eight basin areas in the remainder of the state. Those studies will involve other USACE districts in Kansas City, Omaha and St. Paul. Regional studies will be added to a state water management plan as they are completed and will serve as a tool for guiding state policy and decision making with regard to both water quality and water quantity concerns.

Concepts developed in this planning process will be added to RIO policy initiatives being developed for Smart Growth, flood recovery, and floodplain management.

### Goal 9: Floodplain Mapping

#### WHAT IS LiDAR

Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) technology collects high-accuracy elevation data (better than 1-foot accuracy) for very large areas very quickly and at lower cost than traditional methods.

LiDAR systems use lasers that pulse tens of thousands of times a second. To turn a laser-determined distance into the elevation of a point on the ground requires sophisticated hardware and software. First, you need to know the location of the airplane to within less than an inch at all times. This is done with a high-precision Global Positioning System (GPS). Next, you must know the orientation of the airplane with similar precision. This is done with Inertial Navigation Units (INUs) so advanced and accurate they are considered military secrets and must be licensed by the government.

What does LiDAR mean for flood mapping? It means that the computer programs (flow models) can simulate floods over the entire floodplain, rather than for just a few dozen cross-sections. In the past, elevation data was collected manually in the field, and due to its cost, only cross-sections were measured. Flow models therefore could simulate flow in one dimension through these cross-sections. With elevation data available for the entire floodplain, flow can be simulated everywhere. This type of simulation, two-dimensional, gives us a much more detailed picture of where water will go during a flood.

*-from the U.S. Geological Survey*

*The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology. The state will pursue and implement the mapping process and related activities as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical. (RIAC Recommendation #10)*

The RIAC recommended legislation to require cities and counties with FEMA-approved maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) or flood hazard boundary maps, that identify flood hazard areas within their boundaries, to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This participation will assist more property owners in purchasing flood insurance through the NFIP.

Legislators and the governor responded to the recommendation by passing a bill that requires cities and counties with current maps to participate in the NFIP by June 30, 2011. Since a statewide mapping project may result in more cities and counties with identified flood hazard areas, the bill requires those newly-identified communities to participate within 24 months of the effective date of such FIRM or flood hazard boundary map. State participation in providing financial assistance for a flood-related disaster will be contingent upon a flood-damaged city or county's participation in the NFIP as of the two-year deadlines outlined in the bill.

The bill also requires the Iowa Insurance Division, RIO and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) to develop recommendations on policies and incentives to expand the availability and procurement of flood insurance in Iowa, and to submit a report to the House and Senate Rebuild Iowa Committees by Nov. 15, 2009.

Efforts are now underway to complete new floodplain maps for the 85 counties that were Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas in 2008. Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated to the state for disaster purposes are being used to pay the \$15 million cost of developing and certifying these new maps. Additional sources of funding will be sought in the future to complete the updated mapping of flood-prone areas for the entire state. Digital elevation maps created from images obtained with LiDAR technology (see sidebar) will be used as a basis for the new maps.

A pilot study has been initiated to test the process for developing flood maps. Interim map products will be available online at the DNR Web site to local communities and private users for planning and flood inundation studies. The schedule calls for mapping all 85 counties in three years and completing the certification of individual maps via the FEMA process as

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

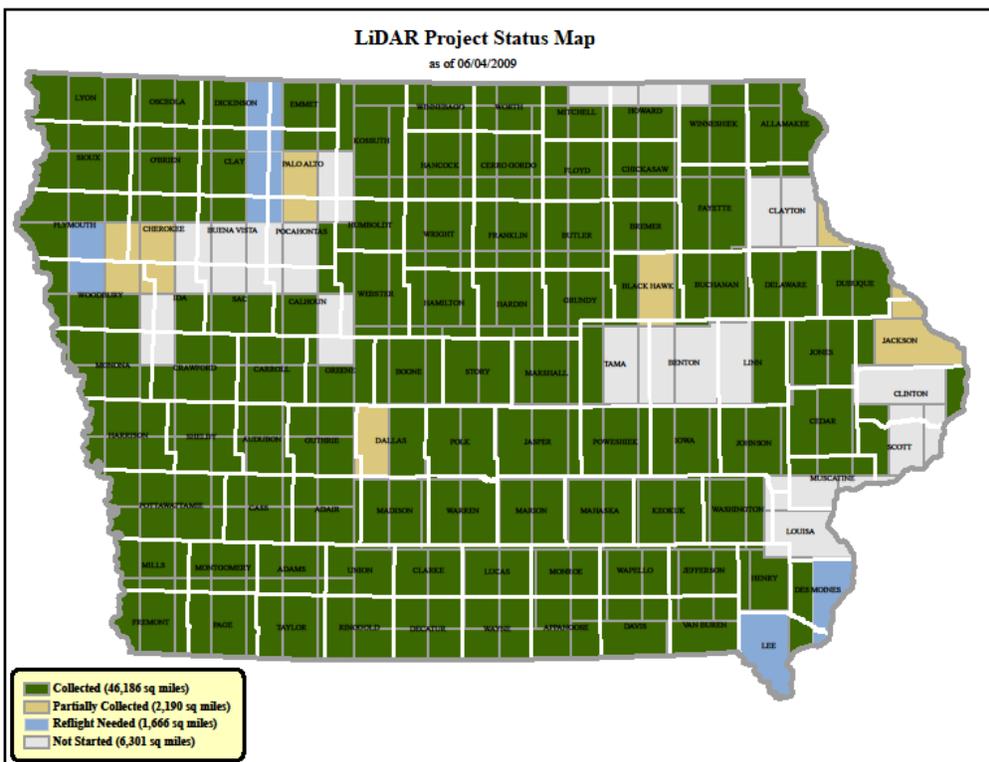
soon as possible.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Identify funding to complete floodplain mapping
- 2) Develop a plan to complete mapping on a timeline
- 3) Provide support to local governments and individuals and understanding and using completed maps

### MEASURES

In addition to securing the funding needed to complete updated floodplain mapping for the state, we can also show progress already made to date in gathering the necessary data to complete these maps. The chart below shows the progress throughout the state in collecting LiDAR data. We anticipate completing this important data collection process before the end of 2009.



## Goal 10: Quality of Life

*The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage. (RIAC Recommendation #7)*

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 historic sites.

During the 2009 Iowa legislative session the RIO advocated for a bill that passed and was signed by the Governor increasing available State Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credits from \$20 million to \$50 million. The legislation reserved 20% of the credits for disaster-impacted structures in declared disaster areas, beginning with disasters declared on or after January 1, 2008. These credits will have a positive impact on Iowa's flood recovery considering the large number of historic districts and individual historic properties that were damaged or destroyed in last year's disasters. The additional credits will ensure that historic properties are rehabilitated at a quicker pace than would have otherwise occurred. The RIO has been working closely with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to draft administrative rules for the program.



**Many historic structures were impacted during the 2008 disasters.**



**Simon Estes Amphitheater in Des Moines**



**Flood-damaged National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids**

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Adopt and incorporate Smart Growth Principles (see Goal 6).
- 2) Provide technical assistance and support to impacted cultural and historic institutions and non-profits.
- 3) Provide incentives for maintaining historic properties and community identity in rebuilding.
- 4) Increase the retention, management, preservation and proper storage of important public records.
- 5) Increase the support of public art associated with construction of new and damaged buildings and the maintenance of those projects.
- 6) Continue to use Iowa's rivers and waterways as an asset to communities and the State of Iowa.

### PROJECTS

#### *Oakville - Oak Village*

When the levee burst in the Iowa River Flint Creek Levee District 16 in Louisa County, rare Indian artifacts, dating from 1,000 to up to 3,000 years old were discovered. Among the items found were arrowheads, hearths, evidence of houses, knives, animal and fish bone and shells. Jim Ross, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers archaeologist, said an ancient trash heap about two-feet thick also was found. The historic find, named Oak Village, is one of only three known "ring" midden American Indian villages associated with the Weaver artifact assemblage. It also is only the second known to exist west of the Mississippi River.

A committee with the goal of developing a visitor's center to ensure that the artifacts stay in Oakville has formed and they are working with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) and other partners to put together a proposal for a visitor's center. The committee has a desire to co-locate a visitor's center with a commercial, profit generating enterprise, as they view co-location as the best way to operate a sustainable visitor's center.

Funding source: SEIRPC is preparing a pre-application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a grant to build a city-owned visitors center on four plots of land totaling 7.7 acres on the southern edge of town.

#### *National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library*

In the 2008 floods, this important part of Iowa's culture and heritage located in Cedar Rapids' historic Czech Village was inundated with water. Much of their collections were lost or damaged, and the building is in need of complete repairs and a plan to store some of the collection outside of the flood-risk area.

Funding source(s): State I-Jobs bonding funds, insurance proceeds, FEMA, etc.

### RECORDS RETENTION

The natural disasters of 2008 illustrated the vulnerability of the records retention system currently in place in Iowa. Public records and archives are not only Iowa's link to the past, but they are also imperative to government continuity. Even while the floods were inundating communities, property abstracts needed to be updated, citizens requested duplicates of personal documents, and many other activities documenting the activities of people, businesses, and government continued. Without adequate systems in place prior to a disaster, those activities can be seriously delayed or, in a worst case scenario, unable to be completed due to the loss of records.

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) acknowledged these issues and called for increasing the State's capacity to provide direct technical assistance and training for records management, preservation, and storage. The RIO is currently serving as a consultant to a consortium of groups that was awarded a \$40,000 grant for the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences to develop a statewide disaster preparedness and response plan for cultural resources in Iowa, including records and archives. The RIO is also working to secure additional, long-term capacities to provide direct assistance and training to records management, preservation and storage organizations.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**Parkersburg resident enjoys playground equipment at the new Miracle Park.**



**Volunteers load flowers for delivery to Palo residents.**



**A flood-damaged campground restored with assistance from the Emergency Public Jobs Program.**

Photo credit: EPJ

### MEASURES

#### *Partnership to Preserve History*

In preparation for housing demolitions under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a Section 106 review is required. In brief, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act documents the effect of federal programs on historic properties. If properties are found to be historic as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, the community in which the property is located, FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will come to agreement on how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect of these two programs on historic properties through a Memorandum of Agreement process.

Most of the communities that were impacted by the disasters had not completed historical surveys in the affected areas. Understanding that the Section 106 review process is federally mandated and requires special expertise and time to complete, FEMA, HSEMD, and SHPO partnered early in the demolition and property acquisition process to begin surveying properties. This early action is instrumental in moving along the demolition and property acquisition process in a more timely fashion; this process may serve as a model for other states following a natural disaster.

According to data from HSEMD and Louis Berger Group, Inc. (serving as consultant to Cedar Rapids), approximately 7,600 flood-impacted properties have been surveyed. Each of these properties is analyzed for historic and architectural importance. To date, 693 individual historic residential properties have been identified, as well as 16 historic districts in 35 cities and counties (not including Cedar Rapids). SHPO and FEMA review and approve the historic determination. This work is ongoing.



## Goal 11: Emergency Management

### IOWA MUTUAL AID COMPACT

With the understanding that disasters transcend political boundaries and often require resources beyond local capabilities, in 2002, the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC) was signed into law.

IMAC is an intrastate program through which political subdivisions within Iowa (including cities, counties, townships, and Emergency Management Commissions) may voluntarily share assistance in a disaster that has been declared either by that subdivision or the Governor. When a political subdivision has exhausted all of its resources and needs further assistance, it can reach out to its neighbors for support. The program also provides for mutual cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing and training.

Closely related to IMAC is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This program is used for sharing resources in Governor-declared disasters with other states. All 50 states are members of the compact and therefore able to assess their needs and request resources such as medical services, animal control, logistics, debris clearance, aviation support, donations management and more.

*The state must invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management – preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation – to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters. (RIAC Recommendation #6)*

Iowa's Emergency Management System is coordinated by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) of the Iowa Department of Public Safety. Local Emergency Management is a commission form of government; each Commission is a countywide governing body and consists of the mayors of all the cities, a member of the Board of Supervisors, and the Sheriff (or the designated representative of any of the above). The Commission establishes an agency to carry out daily operations and hires a Coordinator to lead the agency.

County-level coordinators provide leadership in preparation for, response to and recovery from disasters. Preparation includes training and exercises as well as planning in county-wide emergency response, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery and critical asset protection. Coordinators also facilitate local government and volunteer response operations such as sandbagging, cleanup efforts, and sheltering for families affected by the disaster.

In the event that a community's ability to respond exceeds its capabilities, the county emergency management coordinator works with local officials and HSEMD to request a Governor's State of Emergency Disaster Proclamation, which enables the use of state resources. Assistance can also be requested from other political subdivisions using the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (see sidebar).

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Support and assist local emergency management agencies in expanding their capacity.
- 2) Support and fund local emergency management agencies so all counties meet minimal capacity and grant eligibility criteria.
- 3) Further define the expected responsibilities of local emergency managers to ensure greater consistency in services and planning.
- 4) Educate the public and local leaders on the importance of emergency management and emergency planning.
- 5) Increase the utilization of the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact.

## **Conclusion**

The framework of outlining methods, goals and objectives, and describing and measuring our progress towards them, will be repeated and expanded in future reports. As we continue to tackle these difficult recovery goals, we will continue to report each quarter on the accomplishments and challenges as well as measures and key projects. We will also continue to seek input through public comment, meetings with stakeholders, the RIO Coordinating Council and others as we add to this recovery strategy.

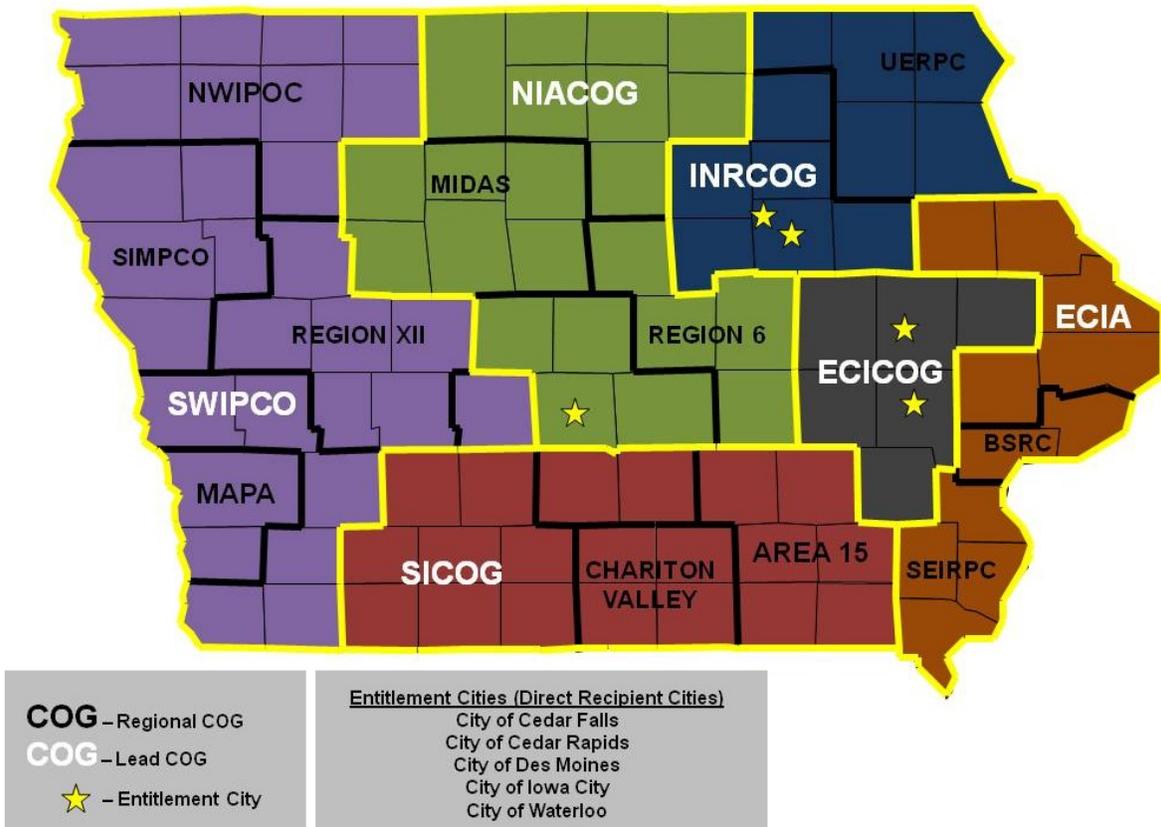
As the RIO looks toward the future and the office's sunset date of June 30, 2011, we will also be adding specific information that will help transition the work of this strategy to other state and local entities. Our final report will serve as a comprehensive outline of Iowa's disaster recovery strategy, progress and future needs and goals. Our goal is to ensure that this strategy is carried on well beyond the lifetime of the RIO and throughout the rest of the recovery process. It is also our goal that these reports be used to help future Iowa leaders, leaders in other states and leaders at the federal level to determine the best way to move forward in future disaster recovery.



# APPENDIX

## Maps, Charts & Graphs

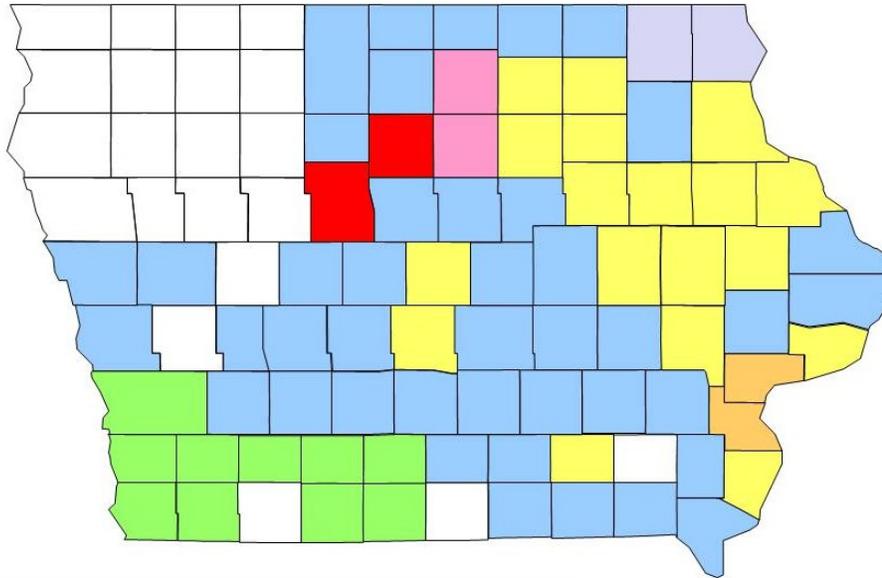
Iowa Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities



Area 15 Regional Planning Commission	641-684-6551
Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC)	309-793-6300
Chariton Valley Planning and Development	641-437-4359
East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)	563-556-4166
East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)	319-365-9941
Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)	319-235-0311
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)	402-444-6866
Midas Council of Governments	515-576-7183
North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG)	641-423-0491

Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission (NWIPOC)	712-262-7225
Region 6 Planning Commission	641-752-0717
Region XII Council of Governments	712-792-9914
Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)	712-279-6286
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC)	319-753-5107
Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG)	641-782-8491
Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)	712-243-4196
Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC)	563-864-7551

Iowa Long-Term Recovery Committees



County	Committee	Phone
Benton	County Disaster Recovery Coalition	319-472-3288
Black Hawk	County Long-Term Recovery Committee	319-272-2465
Bremer	County Recovery Coalition	319-352-8701
Buchanan	County Disaster Recovery Coalition	319-334-3289
Butler	County Disaster Recovery Coalition	319-961-0880
Chickasaw	County Long-Term Recovery Committee	641-394-2406
Clayton	County Disaster Recovery Committee	563-245-3088
Delaware	County Disaster Recovery Committee	563-927-3011
Des Moines	County Long-Term Recovery Committee	319-754-7556
Dubuque	Area Long-Term Recovery Committee	563-588-0558
Floyd	County Long-Term Recovery Committee	641-228-5382
Johnson	Long-Term Recovery Committee	319-351-0140
Jones	County Long-Term Recovery Team	319-465-4531
Linn	Area Long-Term Recovery Committee	319-261-0987
Polk	Central Iowa Recovery Network	211
Scott	Quad Cities Long-Term Recovery Coalition	563-355-9900
Story	County Coalition for Disaster Recovery	515-292-8890
Wapello	County Long-Term Recovery Committee	641-682-7597

Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC)	1-866-363-1974
Southwest Iowa Long-Term Recovery Committee	712-623-2897
Muscatine/Louisa Long-Term Recovery Committee	563-263-5963
Cerro Gordo/Franklin Long-Term Recovery Committee	641-423-7766
Allamakee/Winneshiek Long-Term Recovery Committee	503-956-6720
NWC Regional Disaster Recovery Committee	515-408-5665

## Distribution of Recovery Funding

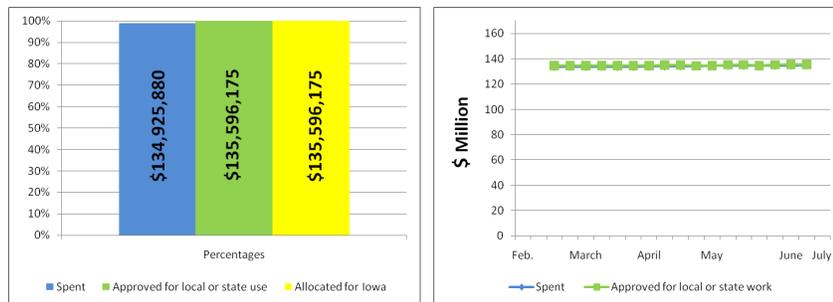
In any disaster, funding sources for recovery and rebuilding are numerous and complex. One goal of the Rebuild Iowa Office is to track and report on the flow of recovery funds and work to ensure that those funds reach Iowans in need as quickly as possible. The RIO works with federal, state and local 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

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$135,596,175

Approved for Local or State Use: \$135,596,175 | Spent: \$134,925,880

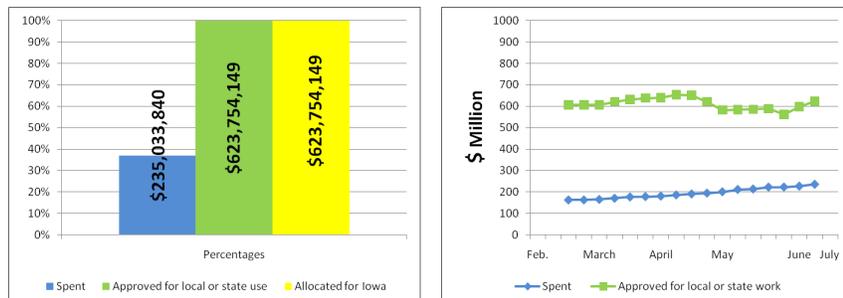


### FEMA Public Assistance Funds

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$623,754,149

Approved for Local or State Use: \$623,754,149 | Spent: \$235,033,840



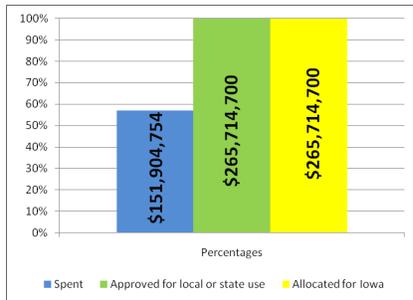
# RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

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

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$265,714,700

Approved for Local or State Use: \$265,714,700 | Spent: \$151,904,754

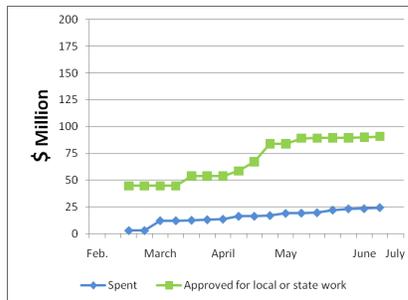
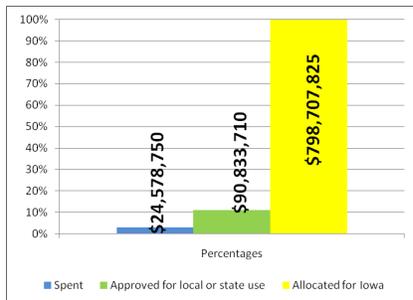


## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$798,707,825

Approved for Local or State Use: \$90,833,710 | Spent: \$24,578,750

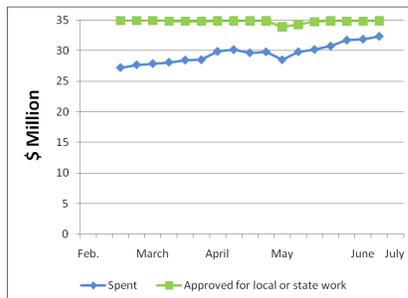
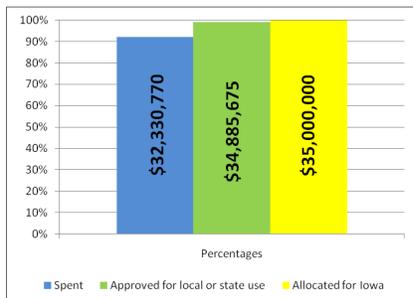


## Initial State Jumpstart Funds

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$35,000,000\*

Approved for Local or State Use: \$34,885,675 | Spent: \$32,330,770

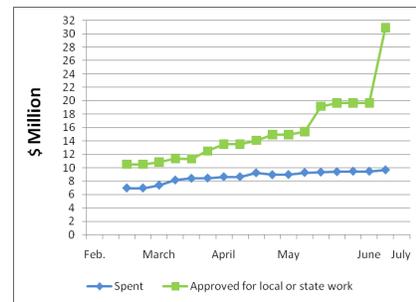
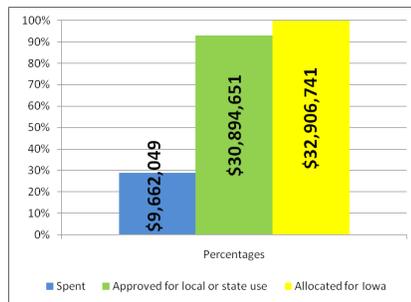


### U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Funds

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$32,906,741

Approved for Local or State Use: \$30,894,651 | Spent: \$9,662,049

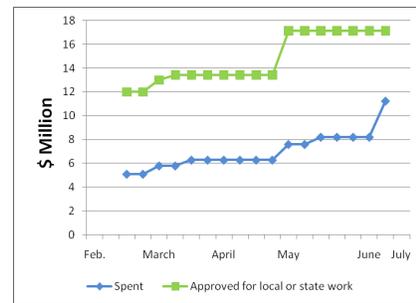
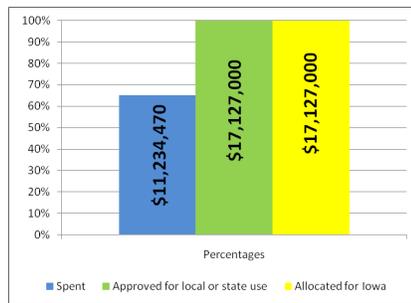


### National Emergency Grant Funds

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$17,127,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$17,127,000 | Spent: \$11,234,470

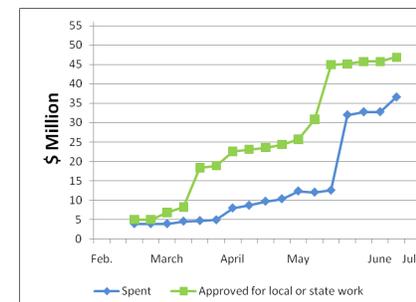
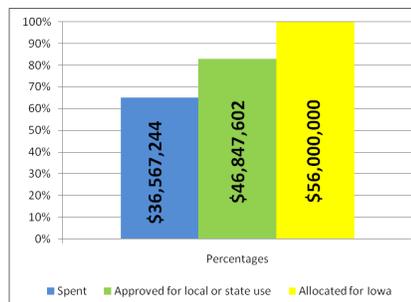


### Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$56,000,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$46,847,602 | Spent: \$36,567,244



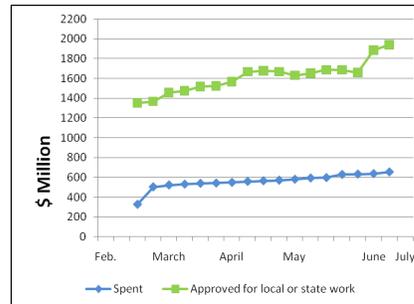
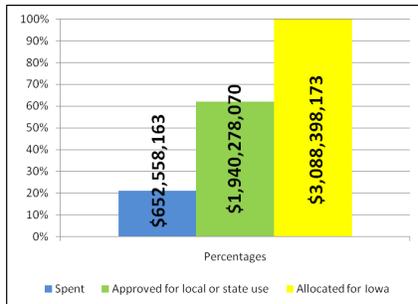
## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

### Disaster Revenues and Expenditures Total

June 26, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$3,088,398,173

Approved for Local or State Use: \$1,940,278,070 | Spent: \$652,558,163



Funding Source	Allocation to Iowa	Approved for Local or State Use	Spent
FEMA Housing & Other Needs Assistance	\$135,596,175	\$135,596,175	\$134,925,880
FEMA Infrastructure Funds (Hazard Mitigation & Property Acquisition)	\$251,000,000	\$43,786,331	—
FEMA Public Assistance	\$623,754,149	\$623,754,149	\$235,033,840
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan	\$265,714,700	\$265,714,700	\$151,904,754
Community Development Block Grant	\$798,701,825	\$90,833,710	\$24,578,750
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$127,500,000	\$127,500,000	—
Initial State Funding for Jumpstart Housing & Business Programs	\$35,000,000	\$34,885,675	\$32,330,770
State Executive Council Action	\$28,261,175	\$28,011,175	\$5,878,449
Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits	\$418,559,200	\$318,753,760	—
U.S. Department of Transportation	\$32,906,741	\$30,894,651	\$9,662,049
National Emergency Grant for Labor/Jobs Assistance	\$17,127,000	\$17,127,000	\$11,234,470
Social Services Block Grant	\$11,157,944	\$11,157,944	\$151,292
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951
Economic Development Administration	\$7,600,000	\$7,600,000	\$1,203,502
Crisis Counseling Grant	\$4,369,495	\$2,665,429	\$1,754,451
State College Scholarship & Grant Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64)	\$56,000,000	\$46,847,602	\$36,567,244
National Endowment for Arts Emergency Support	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
CEBA Disaster Recovery	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000	—
Administration on Aging	\$57,818	\$57,818	\$50,761
Regents Bonding	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000	—
I-Jobs Bonding	\$165,000,000	\$45,000,000	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,088,398,173</b>	<b>\$1,940,278,070</b>	<b>\$652,558,163</b>

Funding as of June 26, 2009.

For weekly updates on disaster recovery funding, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

## Disaster Recovery Programs & Funding

### PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS:

#### Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program

Administered through the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Finance Authority, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program helps homeowners make a down-payment on a new house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgages. The maximum award for down-payment assistance and repair/rehabilitation assistance is a \$60,000 loan which will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the house for 5 years.

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

#### Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program

Administered by the Department of Human Services and local Long-Term Recovery Committees

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program reimburses eligible participants with an income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level for disaster-related expenses.

Assistance is capped at \$2,500 for unreimbursed expenses and current unmet needs incurred due to the disaster.

For more information, contact your local Long-Term Recovery Committee.

#### FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Program

Administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

The Individuals and Households Program, commonly referred to as "Individual Assistance," offers grants to renters and homeowners with eligible, disaster-related damages.

For more information, contact Marvin Shultz with the Department of Human Services at 515-281-8196.

#### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans

Administered by the Small Business Administration.

Iowans who have registered with FEMA for disaster assistance may apply to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help recover from the disasters. The SBA provides low-interest disaster loans for eligible homeowners, renters and non-farm businesses to cover disaster damage to real and personal property.

For more information, contact Richard Jenkins with the SBA at 916-735-1500.

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

---

### Project Recovery Iowa Crisis Counseling

Administered by the Department of Human Services and local/regional counseling agencies.

Iowans have access to Project Recovery Iowa, a mental health program that provides free crisis counseling to those affected by the natural disasters of 2008.

To reach a counselor, call the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

### Emergency Public Jobs Program for Unemployed Workers

Administered by Iowa Workforce Development.

Iowa has received a National Emergency Grant (NEG) designed to hire Iowa workers who have lost their jobs due to the flooding and tornadoes. The NEG creates temporary jobs to assist in the clean-up and restoration efforts.

For more information, contact your local Iowa Workforce Development office.

### Property/Structural Acquisition ("Buyouts")

Administered by local city and county governments

Property or structural acquisitions (or "buyouts," as they're commonly known) is the purchasing of property from private citizens by a government entity as part of a hazard mitigation plan. Local, state or federal funds are used to buy property in areas that are at high risk in order to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event, such as flooding.

For more information about property/structural acquisition, contact your city or county government officials.

### Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Administered by Iowa Workforce Development

DUA provides unemployment benefits and re-employment services to individuals who have become unemployed because of the disasters.

### College Tuition Assistance - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Administered by Iowa College Student Aid Commission

This program offered up to \$5,000 in assistance to Iowa college students impacted by the flooding.

### PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL RESIDENTS

#### Emergency Conservation Program

Administered by local Farm Service Agency committees

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

#### Farm Service Agency Emergency Loans for Disasters

Administered by local Farm Service Agency committees

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

You can obtain information by calling or visiting the County FSA office in your area.

#### Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Administered by local Farm Service Agency committees

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of uninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

For further information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

#### Rural Development Disaster Assistance

In areas affected by natural disasters, USDA Rural Development can help *existing Rural Development borrowers* who are victims of a disaster. Rural Development's regular Business and Utilities Programs can help business owners and communities affected by natural disasters.

For more information, contact your local USDA Rural Development office.

#### Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of flood plain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed.

For more information about the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Program, contact your local NRCS office.

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

---

### Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a program to develop and implement a conservation plan for restoration of wetlands previously altered for agricultural use. Eligible land is that which has been owned for one year and that could be restored to wetland conditions.

For more information, contact your local NRCS office.

### Iowa Workforce Development Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program

Administered by Iowa Workforce Development

Small businesses, family farms and non-profit organizations impacted by the 2008 summer disasters can now apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 for damages incurred from last year's floods and tornadoes.

For more information, contact your local Iowa Workforce Development office.

### PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS:

#### Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program provides financial assistance to eligible businesses located in or planning to locate in a business rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. Assistance will be in the form of rental assistance to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months, not to exceed a total award amount of \$50,000.

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

#### U.S. Small Business Administration Loans

Administered by the Small Business Administration

Businesses who have registered with FEMA for disaster assistance may apply to the SBA to help recover from the disasters. The SBA provides low-interest disaster loans for eligible non-farm businesses to cover disaster damage to real and personal property and economic injury.

For more information, contact Richard Jenkins with the SBA at 916-735-1500.

#### Iowa Workforce Development Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program

Administered by Iowa Workforce Development

Small businesses, family farms and non-profit organizations impacted by the 2008 summer disasters can now apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 for damages incurred from last year's floods and tornadoes.

For more information, contact your local Iowa Workforce Development office.

### Jumpstart Iowa Small Business Assistance Program - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities

This program provides financial assistance to businesses suffering physical damage or economic loss due to the 2008 tornado, floods, and storm disasters. The maximum award is a \$50,000 loan, plus an additional \$5,000 for energy-efficient appliances.

### Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) Program

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development

This program provides loans or forgivable loans for disaster recovery. For disaster recovery, businesses may request a waiver of one or more program requirements provided such requirement is non-statutory. Award amounts will be determined on project-by-project basis.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Economic Development at 515-242-4819.

### High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) Program

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development

A business seeking tax credits and/or refunds may apply to the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) for assistance through the High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) Program. For disaster recovery, businesses may request a waiver of the average county wage calculation.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Economic Development at 515-242-4819.

### Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds

Administered by the Iowa Finance Authority

MDA Bonds, authorized by the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2008, are a new kind of private activity tax-exempt bond designed to facilitate the recovery and rebuilding of areas damaged by the severe weather.

For more information, contact Lori Beary with the Iowa Finance Authority at 800-432-7230.

### EDA Revolving Loan Funds

Administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The EDA's Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) is used to encourage small business development and expansion by local manufacturers. This program provides local businesses with the opportunity to access low interest loans up to \$100,000.

For more information, contact Bob Cecil with the EDA at 515-284-4746.

## RIO Quarterly Report: July 2009

---

### PROGRAMS FOR LANDLORDS:

#### Small Project Rental Rehabilitation Assistance

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program offers assistance to landlords with rental properties affected by the 2008 tornadoes, storms and flooding. This program assists projects of seven units or fewer. Maximum assistance per unit (on the hard cost of rehabilitation) shall not exceed \$24,999 and in no case shall the total CDBG Supplemental assistance exceed \$37,500 per unit (i.e., inclusive of all costs).

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

#### Large Project Rental Rehabilitation Assistance

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program assists projects of eight units or more. This activity does not include those projects for which low income housing tax credits are also sought or that comprise the financial resources of the proposed project's budget.

The maximum assistance per unit (on the hard cost of rehabilitation) shall not exceed \$24,999 in CDBG Supplemental funds and in no case shall the total CDBG Supplemental assistance exceed \$37,500 per unit (i.e., inclusive of all costs).

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

### PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES

#### Public Assistance (PA) Program

Administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

The Public Assistance program is available to state and local governments and to certain nonprofit organizations, and allows them to respond and recover from disasters and to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

For more information, contact Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at 515-725-3231.

#### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funds to local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures, including property acquisition, safe rooms, and other mitigation measures designed to minimize the impact of future emergency events.

Prospective applicants should consult the State of Iowa's Hazard Mitigation Officer for further information regarding specific program and application requirements.

Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) Public Facilities and Infrastructure Assistance

Administered by the Iowa Finance Authority

Communities whose water and wastewater systems were impacted by the natural disasters may be eligible for assistance from the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

SRF Construction Loans fund the creation of public drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects for cities and utilities. These loans have a low interest rate of 3 percent and terms of up to 20 years.

For more information, contact Lori Beary with the Iowa Finance Authority at 800-432-7230.

Community Disaster Grant (CDG) Program - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Administered by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

The Community Disaster Grant (CDG) Program is a \$22 million disaster-relief program established by House File 64 and signed into law on Feb. 2, 2009. Program funds are awarded to eligible cities and counties. The grants are to be used for disaster-related costs not yet covered by other federal or non-federal resources.

Community Disaster Loan (CDL) Program

Administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Community Disaster Loans can be made to any local government in need of financial assistance to perform essential services.

Potential community applicants for CDLs should consult their Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) contact for more information on applying for assistance.

Jumpstart Infrastructure Assistance Program

Administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development

This program provides assistance to cities and counties for the purposes of disaster relief, long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure directly related to the consequences of recent disasters.

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

### PROGRAMS FOR CONTRACTORS & DEVELOPERS

#### Single-Family Unit Production (New Construction) Program

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities

This program works to replace housing stock in Iowa communities and regions affected by the 2008 disasters.

Interested parties should contact the appropriate Council of Government (COG) or Entitlement City administering this program locally.

For more information, contact your Council of Government or Entitlement City housing representative.

#### Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program

Administered by Iowa Finance Authority

This program creates an incentive for developers to invest in the development of rental housing for individuals or families of fixed or limited incomes.

For more information, contact Carla Pope with the Iowa Finance Authority at 800-432-7230.

#### Lead-Based Paint Training Scholarship Program

Administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development

This program helps to build the capacity and meet the demand for trained and certified lead contractors, workers, and inspectors (primarily in the realm of lead abatement).

For more information, contact Cali Beals with the Iowa Department of Economic Development at 515-242-4822.

## Rebuild Iowa Office Budget & Expenditures

### FUNDING SOURCES

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is funded through an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Both funding sources are federal dollars. The EDA funds are for specific tasks such as economic impact studies, disaster recovery planning, damage assessments, and work of the RIAC and its Task Forces. RIO's CDBG funds are earmarked for administrative purposes. Both funding sources can not be used to directly assist lowans impacted by the 2008 disasters, and provide a certain amount of support for the office until June 30, 2010.

The RIO budget outlines necessary funds to keep the recovery efforts continuing through sunset date of June 30, 2011, as authorized by the legislature. State funding is needed in FY 2010 and FY 2011 to support activities required in House File 64 of the 2009 legislative session which can't be paid for with federal funds. These include reports to the legislature and staffing of the coordinating council.

During the 2009 legislative session, RIO was appropriated disaster assistance funds of \$2,150,000. Funds were earmarked for distribution to long-term recovery committees and cities adversely impacted by tornadoes in 2008.

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

**CDBG anticipated funds: \$3,880,000**

**State General Fund anticipated funds: \$1,140,648**

**State Disaster Assistance appropriated funds: \$2,150,000\***

\* \$1 million to Long-Term Recovery Committees in accordance with HF 64

\* \$1.15 million to tornado-damaged communities in accordance with SF 478

RIO All Funds	FY 2009 Budget	Expenditures 07/01/08 – 03/31/09	Expenditures 04/01/09 – 06/30/09	Total Expenditures 07/01/08 - 06/30/09	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Budget
Personnel	\$776,959	\$197,431	\$423,844	\$621,275	\$1,534,165	\$1,385,445
Travel	\$101,000	\$39,961	\$14,544	\$54,505	\$145,205	\$111,600
Supplies	\$55,188	\$23,127	\$2,172	\$25,299	\$41,200	\$27,000
Contractual	\$1,378,267	\$846,905	\$124,934	\$971,839	\$1,455,300	\$300,000
Equipment	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$0	\$6,600	\$42,000	\$0
Other	\$316,497	\$216,735	\$28,181	\$244,916	\$199,808	\$145,014
Disaster Assistance	\$2,150,000	\$0	\$2,061,000	\$2,061,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,783,911</b>	<b>\$1,330,759</b>	<b>\$2,654,675</b>	<b>\$3,985,434</b>	<b>\$3,417,678</b>	<b>\$1,969,059</b>

## Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing

### Rebuild Iowa Office Full-time Equivalent Positions as of June 30, 2009

Position Title	Merit Resources or State of Iowa employee	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	Rebuild Iowa Office	Lynn Zook
Office Support	Merit Resources	Stephanie Kindred
Long-Term Planning Director	Homeland Security	Susan Dixon
Community Planning Specialist	Rebuild Iowa Office	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	Rebuild Iowa Office	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

\*As of 6/30/09, 3 of 12 RIO FTE State of Iowa positions were filled. Sending agencies listed provide staff for operations as the hiring process for the state positions continues.

## 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 6/30/2009) — \$627,342

### 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 6/30/2009) — \$225,069

### 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 6/30/2009) — \$0



