



Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report



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Letter from the Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director

October 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 submits its October 2009 Quarterly Performance Report. This report builds on the progress we have made over the past year and a half and adds to the information provided in the previous two quarterly reports.

In this report, you will find updates on our strategy development methods, including new outreach to impacted Iowans, success in gathering quantifiable data on disaster impacts and recovery progress, and work toward regional planning for this disaster recovery and beyond.

You will also find new information that highlights the progress made and challenges experienced as we all work toward our goals and objectives in disaster recovery. We have built new housing and repaired more homes, but much work remains in the buyout and construction processes and some Iowans continue to reside in FEMA mobile homes. We have provided a variety of business assistance programs and seen the reopening of many impacted businesses, but some remain closed and many continue to struggle. We have awarded state and federal funds to an unprecedented amount of necessary infrastructure repairs and projects, yet much of the work to complete those projects still remains.

In all, this report will show you that the RIO continues to provide leadership, coordination, communication and transparency in the disaster recovery process and for our many partners at the local, state and federal level. Leaders and individual Iowans alike continue to press on to rebuild our state safer, stronger and smarter.

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

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Executive Summary

Much has been accomplished since floods and tornadoes hit Iowa in 2008. Despite the disaster being the largest ever in Iowa and one of the biggest in the nation in terms of damage to public infrastructure, Iowans persist in moving forward. And, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) continues to break new ground in coordinating the statewide disaster recovery effort.

As the state begins its long-term recovery operation, Iowans are showing their resiliency to “come back” bigger and better than before. Since the RIO’s July Quarterly Report, more funding has been allocated to the state, more construction has occurred and more people have moved back into their renovated homes. Additional businesses have reopened their doors, while city and county officials have instituted plans to mitigate future floods.

The RIO’s October Quarterly Report begins to show the results of programs implemented just months, or in some cases weeks, ago. It includes updates and statistics on the number of Iowans helped by programs such as Jumpstart Housing and Small Business, Rental Rehabilitation, Single Family and Multi-Family New Housing Construction, the Small Business Recovery Grant Program and the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program. This report also includes data collected from communities on economic revitalization, business recovery, case management and housing production and repair.

While this Quarterly Report addresses many success stories, Iowa’s recovery is far from over, and challenges do remain. For example, federal funds are still difficult to administer due to federal restrictions and Iowans are still encountering problems with the “duplication of benefits” process, which can cause delays in moving people from temporary to permanent housing. Meanwhile, the RIO continues to advocate with Governor Chet Culver and congressional representatives for changes to the federal process.

Working with more than 25 state and federal government agencies, the RIO continues to keep Iowa’s recovery effort a top priority. Whether it be facilitating visits to Iowa from federal officials, organizing Flood Forums so impacted Iowans can have clarification on the programs for which they may qualify, or working with FEMA on mitigation projects, the goal remains the same: to ensure Iowa rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before.

Iowa is officially transitioning from its short-term recovery objectives to a long-term recovery plan. With that, the RIO has been involved with coordinating funding for the state’s new flood plain maps, ensuring Iowans know about the benefits of flood insurance and organizing public input sessions on future recommendations for water resource management.

However, the recovery effort can not be done by the Rebuild Iowa Office alone. Countless officials from local, regional, state and federal governments, businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens have provided input, support and leadership to make the plans and projects on the following pages possible. The RIO staff thanks everyone involved with this recovery process.

DISASTER OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

In 2008, Iowa experienced the most devastating series of natural disasters in the state's history. Between May 25, 2008, and Aug. 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 flood plain 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 outlined in this report.

Disaster Summary



Cedar Rapids



Parkersburg



Oakville

The State of Iowa suffered its most devastating disaster in 2008.

Throughout the spring and summer, the state was hit by tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, hail and floods. Between May 25 and Aug. 13, 2008, 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were declared Federal Disaster Areas. The following examples demonstrate a portion of the disasters that occurred during this incident period:

- On May 25, 2008, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes hit Iowa. The storms also brought 4 to 6 inches of heavy rainfall, which caused flooding and flash flooding. According to the National Weather Service, a large EF-5 tornado moved through Butler and Black Hawk County. By the time the storm cleared, the City of Parkersburg was devastated and New Hartford had suffered severe damage.
- On June 8, 2008, heavy rain and floods impact Mason City (Cerro Gordo County). The Iowa River surpassed its flood stage of 22 feet. And, water overtopped the levee in New Hartford (Butler County).
- On June 10, 2008, the Saylorville Dam (Polk County) and the Coralville Reservoir (Johnson County) top their emergency spillways.
- On June 11, 2008, a tornado strikes the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch between Moorhead and Blencoe (Monona County). Four people died and 48 others were injured.
- On June 13, 2008, the Cedar River crests at 31.1 feet in Cedar Rapids, almost 20 feet above flood stage. The Iowa River surpasses its 28.52 foot record.
- On June 14, 2008, two levee breaches occur in Des Moines (Polk County).
- On June 15, 2008, a levee breach occurs in Oakville (Louisa County). The Iowa River crests at 31.5 feet.

Iowa's 2008 disaster is one of the largest in the nation's history in terms of damage to public infrastructure. In response to these incidents, Iowa Governor Chet Culver established the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) through Executive Order 7 on June 27, 2008 to coordinate the statewide recovery effort.

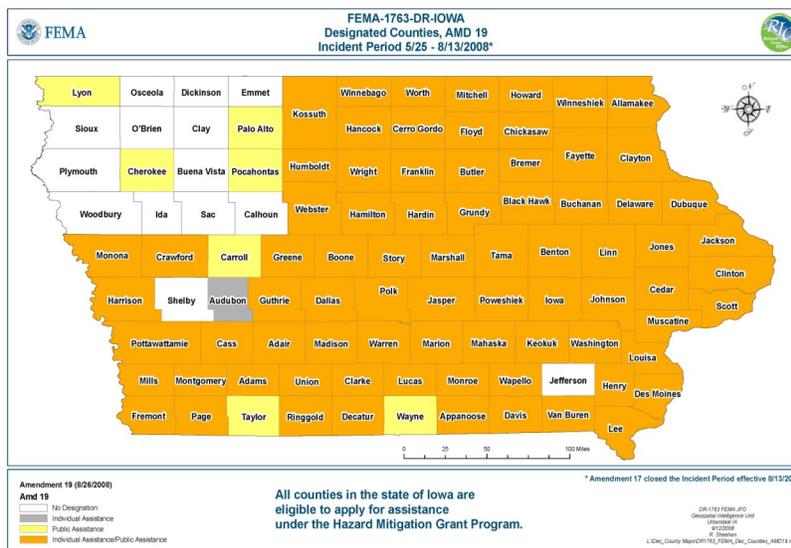
Identifying all of the damages and impacts, and placing an exact dollar value on them, is impossible. People seeking this precise total dollar figure will be disappointed. Most damage data are estimates and are often not

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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. However, it has been estimated that Iowa's 2008 disaster caused approximately \$8 to \$10 billion in damages statewide. Some estimated damage figures include:

- Housing – Tens of thousands of Iowans had their housing situation impacted and thousands of Iowans were displaced. Nearly \$1 billion in unmet needs was estimated late in 2008.
- Businesses – More than \$5 billion in estimated damage, approximately 4,800 non-manufacturing small businesses and 800 intermediate-sized 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 \$1.1 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 25 local Long-Term Recovery Committees helps place struggling Iowans in contact with case workers who help them navigate the steps to a successful disaster recovery.

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

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

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 established as a state agency in House File 64, Iowa legislation which was signed into law on Feb. 2, 2009. This legislation directs 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**
- **Flood Plain Management & Hazard Mitigation**
- **Housing**
- **Infrastructure & Transportation**
- **Long-Term Recovery Planning**
- **Public Health & Health Care**

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

REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION (RIAC)

Members:

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

THE RIAC 45-DAY REPORT

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

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

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

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 flood plain and watershed management.
- 10) The State will complete flood plain 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 will 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.

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 \$3.3 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. 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. Selected charts can be found beginning on page 106 in the Appendix.

Obtaining and maximizing funding through federal programs, state resources and local revenue streams is vital to recovery. So far, more than \$3.3 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.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Monitor funding progress and unmet needs and communicate that information across all levels of government and to the public
- 2) Advocate for further funding to meet unmet needs
- 3) Ensure program design is effective in reducing red tape and expedite funding and ensure that funding is prioritized to meet the most pressing needs and fairly distributed both programmatically and geographically

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Ensure needed state and federal funding is obtained to rebuild and recover
- 2) Advocate for changes to the federal system of funding disaster recovery

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. To date, the state's action plans have been approved for all these funds. The RIO and the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development continue to work with HUD on creative ways to use these funds to address the state's recovery needs wherever possible. Iowa's latest allocation will be used to fund some new and different programs, including business assistance and housing acquisitions. It will also add greatly to the resources available for infrastructure repairs and improvements and the production of new, affordable housing stock.

State of Iowa officials have worked with HUD staff to request and receive every possible waiver to expedite and maximize the use of CDBG funds.

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Officials have also made several suggestions for overall changes in the use of CDBG funds for disaster recovery nationwide, and other federal disaster recovery programs and policies. 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 have proven difficult to administer and in some cases do not meet the needs of many of those impacted.

Currently, there are more than 30 different programs from a variety of state and federal agencies providing support for disaster recovery. RIO staff continues to track the progress and any roadblocks in these programs, and suggest changes and improvements wherever necessary. The RIO also continues to work on defining the state's remaining unmet need in order to determine the resources that may be needed going forward.

Federal Visits

In addition to communicating with federal officials, the RIO staff has helped to facilitate visits from several U.S. secretaries and administrators. In Feb. 2009, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano talked with first responders, city/county officials and impacted Iowans in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. In June 2009, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan traveled to Iowa to view the damage from last year's natural disasters. He stopped in Cedar Rapids to walk through flood-damaged neighborhoods and speak with residents about their recovery efforts. And in Sept. 2009, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate traveled to Cedar Rapids to see what work still needed to be done. During meetings with state and local officials and community leaders, attendees expressed the needs that still remain in Iowa and what issues needed resolution within the recovery effort. Administrator Fugate also saw some of the homes that would be bought out under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The RIO will continue to work with the Governor's Office and Iowa's congressional delegation to make sure the State's recovery remains a top priority at the national level.



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

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.



Black and white marks are left behind after debris is scraped from the curbs in Cedar Rapids.



A volunteer clears debris from flooded homes in Cedar Rapids.



Buildings displaced due to the flood pile against one another in Oakville.

SHORT-TERM 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) Measure disaster recovery progress and gaps, and change programs and policies accordingly

Nationwide, disaster response and recovery activities do not include a centralized system for assessing, verifying, tracking and reporting disaster impacts beyond the initial damage assessments conducted by FEMA for calculation of federal disaster declaration. There is no requirement or mechanism for all entities affected by a disaster to report damages to a centralized office in a standardized manner. Only when people apply for state and/or federal assistance do they become a firm statistic that can be counted. However, for a variety of reasons, not all individuals apply for assistance, therefore, client statistics do not represent a comprehensive representation of disaster impacts. This lack of comprehensive data on disaster impacts in Iowa has made it difficult to measure disaster recovery progress and to identify roadblocks and continuing unmet needs.

Measuring Disaster Impacts

Community Data Collection - To better understand disaster impacts and the status of recovery efforts around the state, RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team expanded a community data collection pilot project started in June of this year. To date, a total of 13 Iowa communities, heavily impacted by flooding in 2008 have agreed to participate.

The objective of the data collection project was to obtain data to:

- Help measure the initial disaster impacts
- Quantify the progress and/or results of recovery efforts and the continuing unmet needs

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Initial information sought on disaster impacts in Iowa centered on housing, business, and government and cultural/arts facilities. The RIO began this project with the understanding that communities, at best, would be able to report a combination of firm and well-informed estimated numbers for their totals. Changes will be seen as data is collected by these communities at several intervals over time. From this information, trends and gaps will be identified. Data which the RIO has collected can be found under the Housing, Business and Infrastructure Goal sections in this report.

The following communities are engaged in this project:

- Cedar Falls
- Cedar Rapids
- Charles City
- Coralville
- Des Moines
- Elkader
- Iowa City
- New Hartford
- Oakville
- Palo
- Vinton
- Waverly
- Waterloo

Economic Impact Study - The Rebuild Iowa Office has contracted with the Iowa State University Department of Economics to lead a study looking at the economic impacts of Iowa's disaster and disaster recovery, with the Rebuild Iowa Office staff assisting by collecting the necessary data for analysis.

The study will analyze Small Business Administration (SBA) data to identify the kinds of industries and businesses damaged, the value of damage, and the location of loss. It will also take into account region-wide industrial effects of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data by county. The examination will be done by industry, looking at before, immediately after, and six months following the disaster to determine which industries, workers, and the workers' wages were most affected. Controls to take the recession into consideration will be built into the study's results. The research will also study any evidence of recovery-driven industrial growth.



Chelsea residents evacuate their flooded home.



Road signs protrude from the rising flood water.



First responders travel the flooded streets by boat in Cedar Rapids.

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)



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.

SHORT-TERM 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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Develop a system that fosters more coordinated regional planning for land use and hazard mitigation

Identifying the best regional divisions for mitigation planning and other initiatives is the first major difficulty in undertaking regional planning efforts. For many of the RIO's purposes in disaster recovery, the structure of the regional Councils of Government (COGs) is useful in regional planning and identifying regional boundaries (see the map of COG regions on page 94 in the Appendix).

COG leadership is actively involved in disaster recovery through the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council. The RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team also continues to coordinate with COG Directors and Disaster Recovery Coordinators at both a policy and program level. Recent RIO interaction with COG staff includes:

- The RIO holds weekly teleconferences with COG/Entitlement City representatives to discuss programs and disaster recovery updates.
- Doug Elliott, Executive Director of East Central Iowa Council of Governments, participated in the Long-Term Recovery focus group at the Road Ahead Workshop, a working session at the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council on July 21, 2009.
- RIO staff speak at the Council of Governments Executive Directors monthly meetings.
- East Central Iowa Council of Governments, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning

Commission disaster recovery specialists provided disaster recovery results data that has helped the Community and Regional Recovery Team at the RIO assess the regional recovery status and determine additional areas of need.

In addition to this regional work, the RIO has also undertaken a significant effort to create a new planning system for the State of Iowa with local, regional and statewide elements. This effort is described in more detail in Goal 6 of the "Economic Recovery Strategy Road Map," beginning on page 70. COGs will play a prominent role in any planning system implemented by the state, both on a regional and local level.

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

Dec. 6-7, 2008:
Disaster Recovery Conference
Coralville, Iowa

Feb. 18-19, 2009:
Housing Working Session
Coralville, Iowa

Feb. 20, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Palo, Iowa

Feb. 21, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Oakville, Iowa

Feb. 23, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
New Hartford, Iowa

Feb. 24, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Iowa City, Iowa

Feb. 24, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Waterloo, Iowa

Feb. 25, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Parkersburg, Iowa

Feb. 25, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Feb. 26, 2009:
LTCR Community Workshop
Waverly, Iowa

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

(continued on pg. 23)

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)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide regular updates to increase awareness of disaster recovery progress and issues
- 2) Increase awareness of disaster recovery programs and increase participation in those programs
- 3) Ensure accuracy through messaging by monitoring third-party reports, media stories, etc.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Increase disaster preparedness, including the purchase of flood insurance

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 are inaccurate so that Iowans can be well-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.”

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

- The RIO issues frequent press releases to keep Iowans up-to-date with the most recent recovery-related news and developments. There were 14 press releases issued in July, eight releases issued in August and eight releases issued in September.

- Team members planned and staffed Flood Forums (see Flood Forum sidebar on page 24).
- 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 and information on Long-Term Community Recovery efforts and Case Management.
- The most recent additions to the Web site include a disaster assistance program section broken out by category, a new tab/area for the Water Resources Coordinating Council Flood Plain Subcommittee, and a resource page that lists details and contact information from the RIO's statewide Flood Forums.
- 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.
- The RIO creates monthly online charts showing how state and federal disaster money is moving through the system and why.
- The RIO Communications team maintains a comprehensive e-mail distribution list for RIO press releases and updates. This current list contains more than 1,500 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.
- 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 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), Task Force and Coordinating Council meetings.
- The RIO Communication team publishes the "Rebuild Iowa Office Legislative Weekly" newsletter during the state's legislative session to inform legislators about the recovery process.

RIO-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES 2008-2009 (CONT.)

July 16-17, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
New Hartford, Iowa

Sept. 29, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Sept. 29, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
West Branch, Iowa

Sept. 30, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Oct. 1, 2009:
Smart Growth Open House
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Oct. 6, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
Ankeny, Iowa

Oct. 6, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
Waverly, Iowa

Oct. 8, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
Lewis, Iowa

Oct. 8, 2009
WRCC Public Input Session
Storm Lake, Iowa

Planned Workshops and Conferences

Nov. 4-5, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
Coralville, Iowa

Nov. 11-13, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
Iowa City, Iowa

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE FLOOD FORUMS

More than 200 Iowans affected by the floods of 2008 met with agency and program representatives during four flood forum events that reached out to eight different communities and the surrounding areas in August and September. Information about the disaster-recovery programs discussed during the forums is accessible to Iowans by visiting the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

"While we know thousands of Iowans have already received flood recovery assistance, we know officials at various agencies are making new contacts every week with flood-affected Iowans who haven't yet applied for assistance or don't realize they are eligible," said Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director. "We at the RIO are doing everything we can to connect the people in need with the programs and people who can assist them with disaster recovery issues."

The flood forums were held initially in the towns of Cedar Rapids, Wapello and Mason City as an additional way to connect disaster-affected Iowans with the services available at the federal, state and local levels. As a final wrap-up, the Rebuild Iowa Office held a Flood Forum which originated at Camp Dodge in Johnston and was broadcast through the Iowa Communications Network to sites in Elkader, Iowa City, Waterloo and Vinton.

- The RIO Communications team schedules and assists in planning press conferences statewide (including press conferences in conjunction with the Governor's office) to bring the latest disaster-related developments directly to Iowans in their own communities.
- The RIO played an active role in organizing a visit in September to Cedar Rapids by Craig Fugate, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The RIO has also assisted in planning visits by Janet Napolitano, U.S. Secretary for Homeland Security and Shaun Donovan, U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.
- The RIO Communications team scheduled and staffed media tours via TV, radio and newspaper to update Iowans about the role of the Rebuild Iowa Office in long-term recovery and to inform Iowans about programs such as the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program.
- The RIO organizes and leads Inter-Agency Coordination Team meetings every other month with federal, state and local partners to ensure accuracy and consistency in programmatic messaging.
- The RIO's Communications Director attends twice-a-month meetings with the Cedar Rapids' C3 team, which is made up of local public information officers within the Cedar Rapids and Linn County area.

CORRESPONDENCE EFFORTS

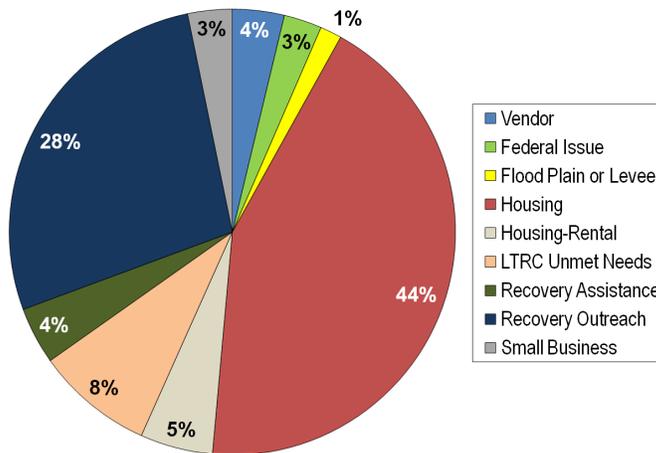
- Constituent inquiries that come in via mail, e-mail and phone calls are answered every day. Team members provide follow-ups via mail, e-mail and phone calls to concerned constituents regarding changes and additions to recovery programs and potential funding.
- Team members answer media inquiries on a daily basis.
- The RIO Web site allows users to submit questions to the Rebuild Iowa Office and contact staff directly.
- 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

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about new assistance programs for which they may qualify.

- 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.

**Common Calls to the RIO by Category
(Top 9 categories - represents 3,693 calls)
June 2008 - Sept. 2009**



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.
- The RIO Web site is updated daily with new program information, news releases and more.
- Navigation buttons along the side of the RIO Web site help users locate some of the most important recovery areas.
- RIO staff members attend weekly meetings with the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development and Iowa Finance Authority to discuss funding issues for homeowners, landlords and small businesses.
- RIO staff members participate in weekly conference calls with Councils



Flood Forum participants discuss recovery in Cedar Rapids, August 2009.



Attendees speak with RIO staff at the Wapello Flood Forum, August 2009.



Attendees speak with state housing representatives at the Wapello Flood Forum, August 2009.

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 June 2008 through Sept. 2009.

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

TOTAL CALLS	4,442
Complaint	27
Education	6
Employment	13
Family Farm	33
Federal Issue	111
Flood Plain/Levee	63
Housing	1,746
Housing-Rental	212
Insurance	18
IWD/DUI/EJP	50
Legal Aid	6
Legislative	1
Local Issue	35
LTRC ONA Unmet Needs	343
Non Profit	32
NOT FLOOD RELATED	58
Public Asst.	64
General Recovery Asst.	167
Recovery Info & Outreach	1,104
Scheduling/Commemorations	1
Small Business	130
Student Aid	6
Taxes	17
Thank you	12
Vendor	151
Volunteer	32
Waiver	4

of Government/Entitlement Cities to disburse information about funding issues and recovery programs.

- RIO staff members take part in weekly conference calls with Long-Term Recovery Committees to discuss case management issues.
- RIO developed a "Speak Up Iowa II" survey (see Obtain Public & Expert Input section). The survey asked questions about the public's 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 electronically 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.
- The RIO issues monthly updates on funding and disaster recovery programs to show movement of funds.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

The RIO Communications team is currently working on the following activities/goals to keep Iowans informed about the recovery process:

- Increase awareness of how disaster recovery programs and funds are assisting individuals, businesses and communities recover from the state's worst disaster. In October, the RIO started a weekly "Working to Recover" series of news releases, which highlight how local, state and federal agencies, as well as local organizations, businesses and volunteers are "working to recover." The releases are issued every Thursday (See the sidebar on page 63 for an excerpt.)
- Continue to communicate frustrations or problems within programs and help the greater RIO team and other agencies work together to smooth out recovery processes.
- Further update the comprehensive Disaster Program Manual which can be accessed on the RIO Web site.

- Plan another Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol in 2010 to update legislators about disaster recovery progress.
- Plan another Housing Conference in 2010 with program administrators from Councils of Government/Entitlement Cities and state officials to address bottlenecks within housing programs and potential issues that may arise during the buyout process.
- Work with federal lawmakers to convey Iowa's suggestions and recommendations for a "disaster track" for federal funds. The RIO continues to advocate for federal funds with fewer restrictions so assistance can flow faster to disaster-impacted individuals and communities in need.
- Work with FEMA, the Iowa Insurance Division and the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources to promote a pilot project which serves to increase the number of Iowans that purchase flood insurance.

Statewide Mitigation Campaign

The Iowa Insurance Division, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Rebuild Iowa Office are working on a flood outreach campaign to serve Iowa over the next three years. The goal of the multi-year effort is to maintain a steady level of awareness for flood mitigation efforts at the state, community and individual levels. After a major disaster, like the 2008 floods, Iowans are very aware of flooding and mitigation efforts. However, there is also a considerable decrease in flood mitigation efforts by Iowans in subsequent years following flooding disasters which can lead to dangerous levels of apathy. To prevent this, the campaign will focus in on three key areas: statewide coverage media efforts through Flood Awareness Month activities in March (broad systematic level outreach), door-to-door outreach with door hangers notifying households that they are in a flood plain (individual level outreach), and community panels that discuss mitigation efforts and flood insurance (community level outreach). The statewide, multi-year campaign is expected to begin in 2010 and will be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE WEB STATS

The RIO Web site (www.rio.iowa.gov) is a comprehensive collection of information and the latest developments in Iowa's disaster recovery. Thousands of Iowans have accessed the RIO Web site to get more information about the task forces, disaster recovery programs, recovery reports and the Office itself. The following offers a glimpse of the RIO Web site's traffic (Aug. 2008 - Sept. 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 5,600 visits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record 12,857 visits.

HITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 159,500 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.

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 in 2008, 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 already described, 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.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Ensure that Iowans have had input into the recovery strategy planning

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Create a strategy for the state that is driven by those impacted by the disasters and subject matter experts who can provide valuable input

Throughout the process of creating a recovery strategy for the State of Iowa, the RIO has 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, the RIO has undertaken several different types of input methods in order to help reach the most people on the terms that are best for them.

Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop and Online Survey

The Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop was undertaken beginning in May 2009. The effort is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FEMA National Integration Center, the State of Iowa and the Rebuild Iowa Office. The goal was to conduct a mid-course analysis of actions and processes in Iowa's disaster recovery that worked best, where improvements are needed and what should be continued, as well as best practices to share with other disaster-impacted jurisdictions.

A workshop with officials from local, state and federal levels was held on May 18, 2009. Those participating also identified potential changes needed in national disaster recovery policy. FEMA and the RIO also used two other methods to solicit responses from officials and administrators from impacted communities: an online survey and individual interviews. The endeavor resulted in many meaningful findings that continue to be used to modify Iowa's disaster recovery programs and policies and suggest national-level reforms. A summary of the main Lessons Learned, Recommendations and Areas for Improvement can be found on page 121 in the Appendix.

Speak Up Iowa II Survey Results

When the disasters first hit Iowa, 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 similar survey, called the "Speak Up Iowa II Survey," to citizens in 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 250 surveys were returned. The RIO shared the data collected in the questionnaire during a statewide media tour in July and August. During the media tour, recovery programs and services that survey respondents said they were not aware of – were also publicized again to inform disaster victims about the resources available.

The following questions were asked on the RIO's "Speak Up Iowa II" surveys. More than 250 Iowans submitted surveys, however not every survey submitted was complete. Below are the results based on the percentage of those that answered each individual question.

Q #1: Iowa is on the right track from the disasters of 2008:

Score & Analysis: 79% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that Iowa is on the right track in the recovery process. This is a positive indication of Iowan's satisfaction in the recovery process.

SPEAK UP IOWA II

Speak Up Iowa II surveys were distributed in 11 disaster-affected communities across the state in May and June 2009. The Rebuild Iowa Office distributed the surveys at each community's one-year disaster commemoration events.

- 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

In addition, surveys were available at the Governor's booth at the Iowa State Fair and were distributed during the Rebuild Iowa Office Flood Forums held in Cedar Rapids, Wapello, Mason City, Iowa City, Vinton, Elkader, Waterloo and Johnston.

The survey was also available to be completed and submitted via the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site through Oct. 5.

In total, the Rebuild Iowa Office received more than 250 survey responses.

Q #2: Have you volunteered in the disaster recovery efforts?

Score & Analysis: 50% of respondents volunteered their services or skills during or after the disasters. This is a good indication of Iowan's work ethic and willingness to help their neighbors.

Q #3: Were you directly affected by the Iowa disasters of 2008?

Score & Analysis: 75% of respondents were directly affected by flooding or a tornado. This indicates that those responding to this survey have direct experience that led to their responses.

Q #4: The disasters affected me as a:

Score & Analysis: 49% of respondents were homeowners, 24% were business owners, 8% were renters, 8% were landlords, 6% were non-profits, and 5% were "other."

Q #5: Were you displaced from your home due to the disasters?

Score & Analysis: 52% of respondents were displaced.

Q #6: Was your place of work/employment status directly affected by the disasters?

Score & Analysis: 52% of respondents had their employment affected in some way.

Q #7: Have you sought out and received mental health assistance since the disasters?

Score & Analysis: Less than 1 percent of respondents wanted any mental health assistance. It is possible that brief educational session or one-on-one interactions that these individuals experienced with counselors were not seen as "mental health assistance." Therefore, those who received such assistance do not identify it as such. This also may reflect the continued stigma of mental health issues and assistance.

Q #8: As an affected homeowner or rural resident, what disaster recovery program or support did you apply for?

Score & Analysis: 45% of respondents applied for Jumpstart/FEMA buyout/SBA loans combined. About 12% applied for Red Cross/Non-profit and other recovery programs.

Q #9: As an affected business owner or landlord, what disaster recovery program or support did you apply for?

Score & Analysis: 30% of respondents used the Jumpstart Business program and SBA to help recover.

Q #10: Did you receive all the recovery program support you applied for?

Score & Analysis: 34% of respondents answered YES, 30% answered NO, 16% answered SOME, and 20% answered N/A.

Q #11: The programs were adequate and helped me recover.

Score & Analysis: 33% of respondents either strongly agree or agree, while 33% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree and 34% were neutral. Comments are mixed and show that there is not overwhelming satisfaction with these programs or with the amount of assistance they provide.

Q #12: I feel informed of Iowa's disaster recovery progress, updates and developments.

Score & Analysis: 45% of respondents strongly agree or agree, while 15% disagree or strongly disagree. Results indicate information and communication processes have been moderately successful, but there is room for improvement.

Q #13: I feel informed of the Rebuild Iowa Office's role in recovery.

Score & Analysis: 27% of respondents agree or strongly agree, 47% remained neutral and 26% disagree or strongly disagree. This indicates a need to increase communication aimed at educating the public about the work of the RIO and connecting it with individual disaster recovery.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS

Q #14: Have you been to the RIO web site for information?

Score & Analysis: 20% of respondents said YES, while 80% said NO. This indicates a need to promote the RIO web site as a resource for recovery information for individuals.

Q #15: Where did you receive the majority of your disaster recovery information?

Score & Analysis: 73% of respondents indicated TV and/or newspapers, while the remaining 27% indicated all other sources combined (radio, Web site, newsletters, etc.). This reinforces the RIO's strategy of targeting most communications efforts through local TV and newspaper outlets.

Q #16: Do you receive RIO updates via email?

Score & Analysis: 6% of respondents said YES, while 93% said NO. About 1% said they didn't have e-mail.

Q #17: Does your community/county have a long-term recovery committee?

Score & Analysis: 60% of respondents said DON'T KNOW, while 29% said YES and 11% said NO. This indicates that impacted lowans are not necessarily aware of the work of Long-Term Recovery Committees. If it is to continue and be successful in the long-term, there needs to be greater promotion of the work and services these committees provide.

Q #18: Have you been in contact with your local long-term recovery committee?

Score & Analysis: 19% of respondents said YES, 58% said NO and the remaining 23% said N/A.

Q#19: Are you aware of the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program, if you are eligible and how to apply?

Score & Analysis: 8% of respondents said YES, while 68% said NO and the remaining 24% said N/A. This indicates a need for greater promotion of this program. Following preliminary results of this survey, the RIO launched another media campaign to promote this program which resulted in a drastic increase in the number of individuals applying for this program.

Q #20: Have you attended a meeting to discuss your community disaster recovery plan?

Score & Analysis: 60% of respondents said NO, while 40% said YES. While most said “no,” 40% is still a rather large number to have participated in planning sessions and shows fairly strong community input.

Q #21: Do RIO community liaisons assist your community with recovery guidance and assistance?

Score & Analysis: 55% of respondents said DON'T KNOW, while 23% said YES and 22% said NO. These results are not surprising given that liaisons generally work with community staff and leaders, and not impacted individuals.

Q #22: Are you familiar with RIO's community recovery tools that are available?

Score & Analysis: 67% of respondents said NO, while 21% said SOMEWHAT and 12% said YES. This is also not surprising given that the tools are generally used by community staff and leaders, and not impacted individuals.

Q #23: The current Iowa recovery process is rebuilding a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa.

Score & Analysis: 65% of respondents either strongly agree or agree, while 14% disagree or strongly disagree with the remaining 21% answering N/A. This is a positive indicator of Iowa's recovery programs, processes and communication efforts. However, there is always room for improvement.

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
BG Tim Orr, DPD
Dick Oshlo, DOM
Cyndi Pederson, DCA
Kim Reynolds, Legislator
Nancy Richardson, DOT
Tom Schueller, Legislator
Roya Stanley, OEI
Fred Hubbell, 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)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Coordinate overall recovery efforts
- 2) Coordinate state and local agency activities, policies, programs and plans

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide damage assessment and impact information
- 2) Complete overall disaster recovery strategy
- 3) Provide transition plans and information to carry disaster strategy forward after sunset

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 was a considerable accomplishment to establish the RIO officially in state code, there are hurdles that remain. The RIO's budget through FY 2010 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 FY 2011. The RIO has worked hard to cut costs wherever possible and is working toward the goals and objectives of disaster recovery utilizing minimal staff.

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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 the Office in order to continue to maximize recovery and provide assistance wherever possible.

HF64 establishing the RIO in code also established the RIO's 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 has so far met twice in 2009, with additional meetings scheduled in Oct. and Dec. At the May meeting, attendees each discussed their role in the disaster recovery process. Involvement ranged from areas of housing, economic recovery and flood plain management to education, cultural, energy and utility issues. Representatives were then asked to explain what concerns needed to be addressed to make the recovery effort more efficient and effective. Conversation included increased communications at the local, state and federal level, further clarification on disaster assistance programs, the inflexibility of federal funds, the need for a disaster track so federal dollar can move faster and the lack of sharing information and databases between agencies. At the July meeting, the group participated in a "Road Ahead Workshop". This workshop allowed members of the Council to discuss key aspects of the disaster recovery process, outline best practices and suggest improvements, goals and benchmarks going forward. The next Coordinating Council meeting is Oct. 13, 2009. At this meeting, the group will discuss disaster recovery priorities for the 2010 legislative session, as well as review the recovery process suggestions compiled from the July meeting.

Prior to the establishment of Coordinating 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. From June 2008 to June 2009, Inter-Agency Coordination Team meetings involving state and federal agency staff reviewing major policy issues and Point of Contact meetings involving state agency staff to collaborate on program operations, had been held on a monthly basis.

Information regarding the RIO's staffing, current budget and contracts can be found beginning on page 118 in the Appendix.



Members of the Rebuild Iowa Office Coordinating Council meet on May 19, 2009.



RIO Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis presents to the Coordinating Council.



Members of the Rebuild Iowa Office Coordinating Council meet on May 19, 2009.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

The goals and objectives of Iowa's economic recovery were developed through the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and associated Task Force meetings in the summer and fall of 2008. Input obtained through "Speak Up Iowa" Public Input Sessions and surveys was also utilized, along with the continuing work of the RIO team assigned to creating Iowa's Economic Recovery Strategy through funding from the Economic Development administration.

Goal 1: Housing Recovery

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)



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.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide assistance that allows people to repair their homes and be able to live in them again
- 2) Provide assistance that allows landlords to repair damaged rental units
- 3) Help those living in FEMA mobile homes find a permanent housing solution

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide incentives and gap funding to enable the building of new, affordable housing to replace what was lost in the disaster
- 2) Develop plans to ensure mitigation of housing damage and impacts in future disasters and state policy regarding development in flood plains
- 3) Work to ensure that new housing meets quality standards, long-term sustainability and energy efficiency goals
- 4) 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

Housing has been, and continues to be, a top priority in Iowa's recovery. 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 in this recovery 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.

According to community survey data, more than 6,200 households were reported displaced by the 2008 flooding in the 13 communities participating in the RIO's data collection project. The communities estimated that of the total number of households displaced, 62% were **homeowners** and 33% **rented** their home or apartment, with the homeowner/renter status unknown on 5% of those displaced.

- Of the estimated 3,800 **homeowners** originally displaced, close to 40% are now back in their original home after clean up and repairs; about 1% have completed construction of a new home and are living in that home; about 25% have moved into an existing home (or unit) in the same community; 9% have abandoned their property; and almost 25% are still considered to be displaced.
 - Of the estimated **homeowners** still considered to be displaced, about 30% are believed to now be renting with no immediate plans to build or purchase; about 10% are living with friends or family; 20% are believed to be living in FEMA mobile homes; and the status of about 40% of the households is unknown or the people have moved away from the community.
- Over 6,300 units of housing stock were estimated to be damaged or destroyed by flooding. Of this amount, 72% was estimated to be single-family houses; 13% were multi-family housing such as condos, duplexes, and townhomes; about 7% were apartment units; 3% were mobile homes; with about 5% unknown. Of the approximately 450 apartment units damaged or destroyed, about 60% are believed to be cleaned and repaired for occupancy. Approximately 200 units are believed to be either constructed or in the planning phase for construction.
- To date, about 530 units of housing have been demolished with another 450 scheduled for future demolition.

Affordable Housing

Many of the homes that were damaged in this disaster were built prior to 1945 and were part of the community's affordable housing stock. Many of the homeowners were over age 65, had lived in their neighborhood for most of their lives, and did not carry any debt on their homes. Their housing costs were taxes, utilities, and insurance. Another subgroup of displaced

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 Sept. 24, 2009.

- Total number of applicants: 4,242
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$71 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 3,051
- Total amount obligated: \$55.1 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$41.8 million
- Average award: \$18,056
- Applications ineligible for the program: 525

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN CEDAR RAPIDS

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) launched a new housing program in July 2009 promoting the construction of single-family homes through the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Single Family New Construction Program was created to help solve housing shortages around the state.

In Cedar Rapids, the program so far has helped fund the construction of 177 new housing units, including 94 single-family homes and 83 condominiums in 2009. Twenty local builders and developers participated in the program. The combined total for all of these construction projects in Cedar Rapids is \$25,718,341.

Through the Single Family New Construction Program, eligible property owners were offered assistance up to 30% of the purchase price of a new housing unit built for less than \$180,000. This program provided a total subsidy of \$7,513,902 for all 177 housing units in Cedar Rapids. Construction has already begun on most of these properties.

Now, a number of other communities across Iowa are utilizing the same program to increase affordable single-family housing. More money will be available for the Single Family New Construction Program in the coming weeks.

To learn more about the Single Family New Construction program, visit www.rio.iowa.gov.

homeowners had been in their homes for over a decade or more, had built up equity, and had manageable mortgage payments relative to their household income. Other homeowners had lived in their homes for less than a decade and financed their homes with adjustable-rate mortgages which were resetting to higher interest rates. This subgroup of homeowners was facing financial problems prior to the flood and the flood event was the tipping point for foreclosure.

One of the issues facing the housing recovery effort is that generally across most of the state, the pre-flood assessed value of damaged homes is less than existing housing on the market; the average pre-flood assessed value for homes damaged is \$89,000. The average gap between pre-flood assessed values for single-family homes compared to existing homes is estimated at \$40,000. The cost of building a new single-family home depends on its location, specific components within the home (upgrades), lot price and lot availability, local sewer and water capacity, and construction financing. The development cost per square foot for new single-family homes varies across the state but averages \$100 per square foot. For multiple-family housing in Iowa, the square footage costs in 2008 ranged from \$98 to \$120. This range is due in part to the number of stories and the exterior materials (brick veneer, concrete block, siding, etc.) used.

Flood Impact on Real Estate Market Activity

According to the Iowa Association of Realtor's Trend Report, the activity comparison for July 2007 was 3,896 sold listings. In July 2008, this number dropped to 3,498 units. In July 2009, there was some upward movement over the previous year to 3,638 units. The demand for housing for displaced households and the first-time homebuyer's \$8,000 tax credit from the federal government has been heralded as being one of the factors in increased sales for 2009. Some of this increased demand has allowed for absorption of unsold newly constructed homes in communities that were overbuilt. To date, almost 400 households throughout the state have received down payment assistance to purchase replacement homes.

Average and Median Sales Price

The Trend Report also indicates that both average sale price and median sale price have dropped in the state of Iowa since 2007. In July 2007, the average sale price was \$154,150 and the median was \$134,700. By July

2009, the average sale price had dropped to \$147,628 and the median was \$130,000. Generally across the state, the fair market value of damaged homes is significantly less than the current average sales price for existing homes on the market. Downward trends may mean that there is a market correction going on and overall housing prices are being adjusted downward to reflect actual current market value. It could also mean that as the existing inventory of more affordable housing market is sold to first-time homebuyers, it will become more difficult to find affordable housing in some communities unless additional housing units are constructed. The challenge for displaced homeowners and renters will be their ability to find the same amount of living space (square footage) in a replacement home or unit in their home community should they choose to return. For those households that previously did not have a mortgage on their home, obtaining a new mortgage on a higher-priced replacement home may be more difficult due to changes in lending practices. This may result in previous homeowners deciding to rent instead of own or seek lower-cost housing alternatives in communities elsewhere in their region that were not flood-affected and where vacancy rates are higher and housing prices are lower.

As property acquisitions (buyouts) continue, more displaced homeowners will be able to choose if they wish to remain in rental situations or purchase replacement housing. Developers are moving forward with building new single-family and multi-family homes for displaced homeowners and renters. The challenge ahead is determining the mix of housing styles, unit size (square footage) and price that may be needed to address the gaps in each locality's housing inventory due to flooding.

Housing Rehabilitation

Some homeowners intend to return to their flood-damaged homes and are continuing to make home repairs. Some property owners have expressed frustration in the initial demand for available, licensed tradespersons and the inability to get the workers to return and finish the work in a timely manner so that the household can move back home and/or get reimbursed for expenses through established assistance programs. A lack of licensed professionals in some communities has caused delays in rehabilitating homes, and the state has worked to expedite licensing issues. Some of the displaced households remain in FEMA mobile homes on their own land while using volunteer labor to complete the rehabilitation of their homes.



RIO Executive Director Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis discusses housing production in Cedar Rapids.



Residents utilizing the housing production program speak at a Cedar Rapids press conference.



Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis discusses the Single Family New Construction housing program in Cedar Rapids.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

According to federal and state Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program information, as many as 1,825 homeowners have now received funding to repair their home. This funding combined with FEMA and other home repair assistance has allowed for many of these homeowners to return to their flood-damaged property and to normal life. While many have been helped, there remains a need for this assistance and will continue to provide repair assistance as long as there is a demand and available funds.

Also receiving repair and rehabilitation assistance are those owning small (8 units or fewer) and large (more than 8 units) rental projects. To date, 555 small rental rehabilitation projects have been identified using \$11 million in CDBG funds, and 158 large rental rehabilitation projects have been identified using \$2 million in CDBG funds through the Rental Rehabilitation Program.

Two other major phases of housing replacement are now underway and will remain challenges for the state for years to come.

Phase One: Housing Acquisition (Buyouts)

There are two major programs that provide resources for purchasing flood-damaged homes and apartment buildings from their owners. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding for communities to purchase property as long as the space for the property once occupied is converted to green space and never redeveloped. This stipulation helps to ensure that there are fewer structures in high-risk flood areas. Most FEMA acquisitions requested so far have been approved (see chart on page 45) and the process to complete the transaction is under way.

Acquisitions made through HUD's CDBG program are more flexible for the community and generally allow a homeowner to move on from a destroyed home while the community chooses how to redevelop that site.

Applications from communities for this program were received by the Iowa Department of Economic Development in July 2009 and are currently being reviewed for approval. Overall, between these two programs, it is estimated that more than \$400 million will be spent on property acquisition in Iowa.

Phase Two: New Housing Production

Current plans estimate that more than 3,000 structures will be demolished in the state as a result of flood damage. The majority of these structures are housing units. This leaves a major gap in housing availability for lowans in impacted areas. Several programs are now under way to help replace lost housing and create more available affordable housing in the state. For example, the multi-family new construction program has provided 79 projects (fewer than 12 units) with \$4.8 million in CDBG funds.

Approximately 368 new single-family units in a variety of sizes, styles, and prices are currently proposed under the Single-Family New Construction program.

CHARTS & GRAPHS

Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program Summary

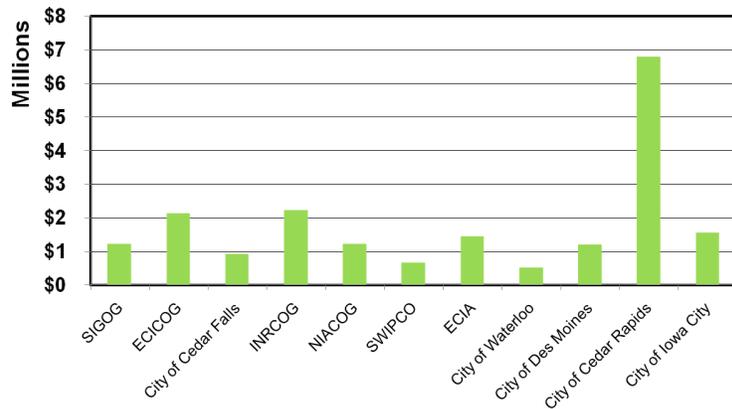
This chart shows total Jumpstart Housing assistance (both state and federal dollars) that has been approved and disbursed for homeowners as of Sept. 24, 2009. Total Jumpstart Housing assistance consists of three activities: interim-mortgage assistance, down payment assistance and repair/rehabilitation assistance. There is a gap between approved and disbursed funds because administrators may be processing paperwork, waiting for receipts to be turned in for reimbursements, etc.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

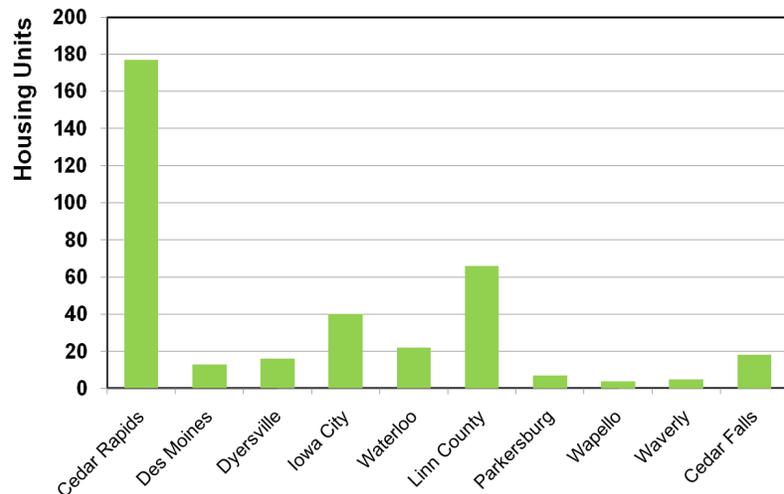
Jumpstart Repair & Rehabilitation Activity

This chart shows how the 11 Councils of Governments and Entitlement Cities that the state works with for this disaster are disbursing funds to homeowners for strictly the repair or rehabilitation activity. The numbers are current as of Sept. 24, 2009.



Single Family New Construction Units

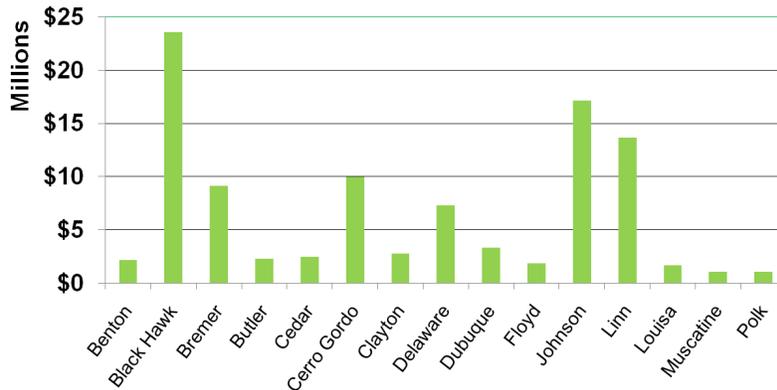
This chart shows units that have been constructed and funded by the Single Family New Construction Program statewide as of Sept. 17, 2009. The program is currently funded with more than \$18 million in CDBG dollars.



RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

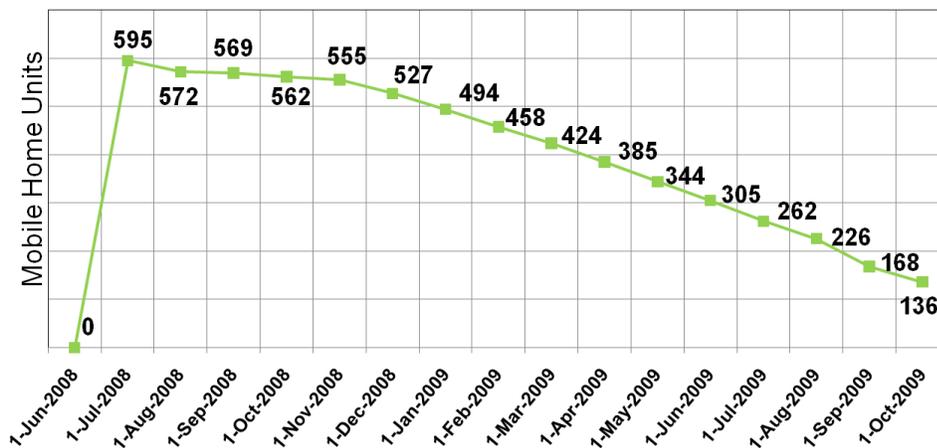
Appropriated Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds

This chart shows Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds that have been appropriated to counties for things such as buyouts, mitigation projects, etc. This chart **only** shows the 15 counties that have received the most funds as of Sept. 19, 2009. Other counties have received funding, however they are not depicted in this graph. Also, numbers will change as buyout applications and other mitigation projects receive approval.



FEMA Mobile Home Units that Remain in Iowa

This chart shows the number of FEMA mobile home units that remain occupied in Iowa. Iowa began with 595 units and is down to 136 units as of Oct. 1, 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 Sept. 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 announced April 16, 2009.

Jumpstart Small Business:

- Total number of applicants: 1,169
- Total number of businesses assisted: 1,020
- Total amount disbursed: \$29,875,662
- Average award: nearly \$29,000

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)

SHORT-TERM 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) Assist businesses and non-profits in historic buildings and increase historic preservation and salvage in disaster recovery

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Increase business preparedness and contingency planning for future disasters
- 2) 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

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 and remaining open in disaster-affected areas, operations funding is desperately needed to make up lost revenues and added expenses. 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, the RIO has 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.

According to the RIO's community survey data from 13 communities, over 2,000 large and small businesses were estimated to have closed due to physical damage to property or a lack of accessibility to the operation for 24 hours or more due to the 2008 floods. It is also estimated that about 2,000 jobs were lost due to the flood, the majority of which are considered to be a permanent loss. At the end of Aug. 2009, over 10% of the flood-affected businesses were still closed. Over 80% of those businesses are thought to be closed permanently.

- Of those that reopened, about two-thirds are in the same location as pre-flood and one-third have moved to a different location or their status is uncertain.
- One-third of the communities report that at least one *new* business has opened in their town as a result of the floods.

Business Rental Assistance Program

The Business Rental Assistance program was created to bring back and promote business in areas damaged by the flooding of 2008. To be eligible, a business has to be moving back into a rental space damaged by the flooding or be moving to the area as a new business occupant. Under the program guidelines, eligible businesses can receive up to a total of \$50,000 in rental assistance for up to six months, plus associated business expenses such as machinery and equipment, office furniture or computer hardware damaged by the flooding. In-home businesses are ineligible.

The program was rolled out in April 2009 so local entities administering it could take applications and collect data from those people who wanted to apply. It also allowed business owners to know whether they qualified for the assistance. Due to the high interest in this program in the Cedar Rapids area, the Rebuild Iowa Office, the City of Cedar Rapids and the State of

BUSINESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program was introduced on April 16, 2009 by Iowa's Dept. of Economic Development. The program provides financial assistance to companies located in, or planning to locate in, rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. The program is meant to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months not to exceed a total award amount of \$50,000.

The award is in the form of a forgivable loan and is provided to a business that has entered into a minimum one-year market rate lease agreement. If the business stays open for the six month time period, the loan will be forgiven.

This program is different from the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program, which provided emergency funds to more than 1,000 disaster-impacted businesses. Instead, this program will assist not only businesses currently located in disaster areas, but will create an incentive and an opportunity to attract new businesses to grow and expand into these communities.

EMERGENCY PUBLIC JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Alicia from Maquoketa was laid off from her last job, a clerical job which paid \$8.25/hr. and had been seeking employment for the past nine months with little success. She heard about the Emergency Public Jobs (EPJ) program and made the call to her local Workforce Development office.

After completing the enrollment paperwork, Alicia was placed at the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) in Maquoketa for disaster-recovery related work. Alicia learned many new clerical skills and successfully completed the following trainings while at NRCS:

- Defensive Driving Course
- USDA Privacy Basics FY08
- USDA Computer Security Awareness Training FY08.

From her work with the EPJ Program, Alicia gained the confidence necessary to go seek and apply for jobs as well as proving herself to be a valuable employee and obtaining wonderful references from both of her supervisors at NRCS.

Alicia successfully completed her EPJ employment at NRCS on Feb. 2, 2009. Following completion of her EPJ employment, Alicia went to school, obtained a State Certification as a CNA and is now working at the Maquoketa Care Center as a CNA.

Iowa have been working to ensure a proper approval system was in place before funds became available to the state in Aug. 2009. Now, program administrators are working with each applicant to ensure they have the proper paperwork required so funds can be disbursed in a timely manner. To date, more than \$2.1 million has been disbursed.

Business Rental Assistance Funding (as of Oct. 5, 2009)

Administrative Entity	Funding	Number of Businesses
Cedar Falls	\$111,084	6
NIACOG	\$41,695	8
ECICOG	\$612,313	24
Cedar Rapids	\$1,393,798	132
TOTAL	\$2,158,890	170

Business Partnerships in Disaster Response

- The Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP) is a voluntary coalition of the state's business and government leaders, who share a commitment to working together to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic events in Iowa. Created in 2007 by the Iowa Business Council and representatives from key state agencies, the partnership will help integrate business resources, expertise, and response plans with those of government during all stages of disaster management.

SIP has developed a web-based catalog of the private-sector resources that businesses may make available to emergency management officials on a paid or voluntary basis in an event of an emergency. The Rebuild Iowa Office acknowledges the importance of SIPs development and implementation of a business resource registry and will assist in development and implementation. The business resource registry provides a streamlined process for businesses to assist local and state officials respond and recover from disasters.

- Through a partnership with Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), RIO, IDED and the SBA, businesses affected by the disasters of 2008 had an opportunity to be assisted by a business case manager through the SBDC's Business Recovery Centers (see the

map on page 92 in the Appendix). Additionally, during the case management appointment the businesses were offered an opportunity to work with loan specialists to review and possibly restructure their SBA small business loans in which payments coming due. Using resources from CDBG funds, SBDCs have so far helped 48 businesses.

National Emergency Grant

The State of Iowa has received a National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for \$28.7 million dollars toward the Emergency Public Jobs Program (EPJ) and the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant.

Emergency Public Jobs Program - This 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 by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and the wages are paid at the prevailing wage for the worksite.

As of the end of Aug. 2009, the EPJ program had 1,521 workers statewide at approximately 500 worksites. Currently, the EPJ program has spent more than \$16.3 million of the National Emergency Grant.

Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant - The Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant (otherwise known as the Business Capitalization Grant) is also part of Iowa's National Emergency Grant. The purpose of the business grant was to assist small businesses with 25 or fewer employees, return to full employment in the aftermath of the disasters. The maximum grant allowable was \$5,000. Because National Emergency Grants are to assist dislocated workers, the focus of the business grant was on the number of workers dislocated and to help the owner return to the pre-disaster levels of employees. The application deadline for the program was Sept. 30, 2009. Forty grants totaling \$198,059 were issued to Iowa small businesses through this program.



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 works to reopen after the 2008 flood.

CEBA DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) Disaster Recovery program helped finance business operations; including biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information solutions/financial services.

The CEBA program provided financial assistance to companies that create new employment opportunities and/or retain existing jobs and make new capital investment in Iowa.

Penford (Cedar Rapids)

- Amount - \$2,000,000

Real Deal (Cedar Falls)

- Amount - \$250,000

Aerial Services (Cedar Falls)

- Amount - \$125,000

Diamond V. Mills (Cedar Rapids)

- Amount - \$435,000

The CEBA disaster program has closed and has been replaced (as of July 1, 2009) with the Grow Iowa Values Fund Disaster Recovery Component. There has been one award through this program:

Accent Media Corp (Cedar Rapids)

- Amount - \$5,000

Revolving Loan Funds

The Economic Development Administration's regional offices around the nation award competitive grants to establish revolving loan funds to government, educational and non-profit organizations and agencies, as well as EDA-approved economic development district organizations.

In Iowa, Councils of Government (COGs) are the recipients of these awards. The COGs, in turn, disburse money from the revolving loan fund for loans at interest rates that are at or below market rate. The loans are made to small businesses or to businesses that cannot otherwise borrow capital. As the loans are repaid, the COGs use a portion of interest earned to pay administrative expenses and add the remaining principal and interest repayments to the funds' capital base so there is money to make new loans.

Following the 2008 disasters, COGs were given additional funding for these loans in order to help disaster-impacted businesses. An update of current revolving loan funds follows, or can be found in the appendix on page 95:

East Central Iowa COG

- Received from EDA: \$1.5 million
- Matching Funds: \$85,000 from The Washington County Riverboat Foundation and contributed \$15,000.
- Total to Lend: \$1.6 million
- Loans to Date: \$629,912 to five flood-impacted businesses in Linn and Benton Counties

Iowa Northland Regional COG

- Received from EDA: \$750,000
- Matching Funds: \$250,000 from the Iowa Department of Economic Development (contract pending)
- Total to Lend: \$1,000,000
- Loans to Date: None

MIDAS COG

- Received from EDA: \$354,373.36
- Matching Funds: None
- Loans to Date: \$111,184.81 to three companies

North Iowa Area COG

- Received from EDA: \$460,000
- Matching Funds: None
- Loans to Date: None

Region XII COG

- Received from EDA: \$600,000
- Matching Funds: \$150,000 from the Iowa Department of Economic Development
- Loans to Date: \$300,000 to two companies

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Council

- Received from EDA: \$1,000,000
- Matching Funds: None
- Loans to Date: None

Southwest Iowa Planning Council

- Received from EDA: \$500,000
- Matching Funds: None
- Loans to Date: \$25,000 to one company (loan has not yet closed)

**IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS INCUBATOR**

The Creative Technologies Downtown Business Incubator feasibility study funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) will help Iowa City determine if there is a market for a business incubator that would serve the burgeoning creative technologies industry. If a market is confirmed, the study will also suggest a financial structure that could be used to move forward.

The Creative Technologies Downtown Business Incubator will also help ensure the continued development of the creative culture in downtown Iowa City. As part of an overarching goal to improve the economic health and vitality of downtown Iowa City, enhancing the creative culture is a primary strategy.

It is important to note that the incubator will be developed in concert with the University of Iowa and other partners with economic development-related missions, such as the area Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa City Area Development Group.

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.

However, IHPA, state agencies, and other partners have been able to overcome some of these obstacles. Spearheaded by IHPA, 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 historic and high-quality building materials are being saved and pressure on our landfills is being reduced.

The State should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.

(RIAC Recommendation #4)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Develop a statewide, comprehensive infrastructure plan that provides strategic direction, including goals and priorities for infrastructure investments
- 2) Repair damaged infrastructure
- 3) Reduce waste in disaster damage demolition and increase the salvage of usable materials

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Replace lost infrastructure
- 2) Build new infrastructure that is safer, stronger, smarter and more protected in future disasters and incorporate smart growth and energy efficiency principles
- 3) Increase the number of safe rooms in new public construction

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. The RIO is working with the Iowa 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 flood risk areas, elevating roads, improving sewer and water systems as they are repaired and much more. In all of the programs, the state has 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

made in Iowa's infrastructure in response to this disaster will greatly impact the state, its communities and their long-term economic future.

According to the RIO's community data survey from 13 impacted communities, more than 100 government buildings or facilities and non-profit cultural and arts faculties are believed to have closed due to physical damage to property or lack of accessibility to the operation for 24 hours or more following the floods of 2008.

- Of those buildings and facilities, 82% are estimated to now be reopened, most at the same pre-flood location.
- Five government buildings and seven cultural and arts buildings are still closed today. Of those still closed, about half plan to someday reopen at the same location and about half are thought to be permanently closed.

Comprehensive Infrastructure Study

As called for in Governor Culver's 2008 Condition of the State Address and the state's Economic Development Administration Strategy Grant, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) contracted with State Public Policy Group, Inc. (SPPG) for a comprehensive process of information gathering and planning toward a statewide, strategic infrastructure plan. This plan will ensure Iowa's infrastructure meets the needs of the economy expected for the state in future years. The awarded project period is Oct. 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010.

To date, SPPG has developed draft working papers and supplemental informational resources which are being used with state agency leadership to guide the project. Weekly meetings are currently being held to research and gather information on existing infrastructure plans, initiatives, programs, and forecasted needs for future years. Participants in this weekly meeting are agency directors who will participate in the Cabinet of Advisors:

- Elisabeth Buck, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)
- Jon Gillispie, Iowa Communications Network (ICN)
- Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)
- Rich Leopold, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



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.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) Board of Directors voted Sept. 8, 2009, to build a new exhibition center and library in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village, adjacent to its flood-damaged museum building. However, to mitigate future flood damage, construction plans call for parking to be included below the main exhibition center and library, which will elevate the structure.

The Board's rebuilding decision was informed by a national public input process that gathered opinions and ideas through surveys, public meetings, and small group stakeholder meetings. Over 850 US citizens participated, as well as a few from outside the country.

The new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library building is estimated to cost up to \$20 million. On June 29, 2009, the I-JOBS Board approved \$10 million for the Museum.

Other flood-impacted cultural attractions that have received I-JOBS funding include the Cedar Rapids Public Library (\$5 million), Paramount Theater in Cedar Rapids (\$5 million), and ten University of Iowa structures (\$100 million).

- Bret Mills, Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)
- Nancy Richardson, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Roya Stanley, Office of Energy Independence (OEI)

Member of this Cabinet of Advisors will help to guide the overall process and strategy and will participate in and chair Sector Committees. Infrastructure Sector Committees comprised of private, academic, issue-based, and public representatives were created to provide a diversity of perspectives. These Sector Committees include Natural Resources Sector (Rich Leopold), Energy Sector (Roya Stanley), Telecommunications Sector (Jon Gillespie), Transportation Sector (Nancy Richardson), and Buildings and Vertical Infrastructure Sector (Brett Mills).

The Cabinet of Advisors and other key stakeholders will determine membership of Sector Committees to obtain the best and broadest level of expertise and perspective. Each of the five Sector Committees is responsible for identifying issues and opportunities, based on research, experience and information. Sectors will also consider their interaction and integration with the other sectors in these deliberations. The Infrastructure Task Force will consider the work of each Sector Committee and reach final decisions on the integrated infrastructure strategy.

Public input sessions will also be conducted in early 2010 and a final draft report is expected to be completed in April 2010.

I-JOBS Infrastructure Investment Initiative

Governor Culver's signature initiative, I-JOBS will strengthen Iowa's economy, help the state recover from the natural disasters of 2008, and preserve or create thousands of jobs. The \$830 million three-year program includes several parts, but focuses on the key areas shown below for disaster recovery. The I-JOBS Initiative is funded with bonds to be repaid with existing state gaming revenue, meaning no increase in taxes.

There has been \$118.5 million in competitive grants has been awarded to 58 projects statewide for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities hit by last year's disasters.

There has been \$46.5 million in grants targeted to specific key projects identified in the I-JOBS legislation:

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- Linn County Human Services Resource Replacement Center - \$10 million
- Options of Linn County (Mental Health workshop building) - \$5 million
- City of Cedar Rapids Downtown Steam Energy Solution (Matched by IDED /City) - \$5 million
- National Czech & Slovak Museum, Cedar Rapids - \$10 million
- Paramount Theater, Cedar Rapids - \$5 million
- Cedar Rapids Public Library - \$5 million
- Cedar Rapids Public Works Building - \$5 million
- Palo Fire Station - \$500,000
- Elkader Fire Station - \$500,000
- Charles City Fire Station - \$500,000

Encouraging “Green” Building

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) has selected the Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) to develop, coordinate and publicize green building-related training programs. COSC is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering consumers and professionals to build with a focus on sustainability.

The workshops will build capacity for Iowa’s disaster recovery efforts to rebuild in a more sustainable, energy-efficient manner. Additionally, the workshops will lay the foundation for ongoing training approaches to strengthen Iowa’s ability to design and construct healthier, more durable, more energy efficient and easier to maintain infrastructure, homes, and commercial buildings.

COSC has partnered with other innovative and experienced organizations to offer roughly 60 workshops during late summer and fall of 2009, with additional workshops planned for 2010. Training topics will range from general introductions to green building to detailed trainings on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; materials selection; roofing; assessing and prioritizing rehabilitation for existing homes; historic preservation; windows, doors, and insulation; and stormwater management. Trainings will be targeted to residential and commercial



Gravel-filled railcars were not able to keep this Cedar Rapids bridge from being pulled off its pilings.



A truck dumps a load of rock into a levee breach in Oakville.



An Army Corps of Engineers employee stands on an Oakville road torn apart by flooding.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

properties and to contractors as well as homeowners and building owners.

Partners in this initiative include: One Source Training (community colleges), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Utility Association, Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, Iowa Energy Center, Iowa Department of Public Safety, US Green Building Council – Iowa Chapter, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Greater Cedar Rapids Area Home Builders Association, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, Cenergy, and RDG Planning and Design. More information about the trainings, as well as the training schedule, can be found at www.icosc.com.

KEY PROJECTS

Repair and Rebuilding

One of the State's first and most important priorities in infrastructure is to repair, rebuild and replace buildings and other structures damaged by the disasters. This often includes making improvements to damaged buildings to enhance their resilience, as well as replacing destroyed structures with new, improved buildings located in lower flood-risk areas. Some of these important projects are listed below (**note: final FEMA Public Assistance dollars have not yet been finalized**).

- Coe College and St. Luke's Hospital, both in Cedar Rapids, successfully secured a disaster-related grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA grant will be used to build a steam heating plant that will be shared by the two institutions. Coe College and St. Luke's Hospital were two of eight large users of the inexpensive steam produced by Alliant Energy's Sixth Street Generating Plant, which was destroyed by flood waters (EDA: \$4.65 million).
- Cedar Falls Utilities Flood Protection Enhancement (FEMA Public Assistance)
- Complete replacement of the Benton County Jail (FEMA Public Assistance)
- Complete replacement of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department (FEMA Public Assistance)
- Forest City Public Works Facility, new energy-efficient Street Shed in a lower flood-risk location, Forest City (I-JOBS: \$537,050)

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- Public Works Operation Facility, Council Bluffs (I-JOBS: \$3,869,000)
- National Balloon Museum North Slope embankment permanent repair, Indianola (I-JOBS: \$188,300)
- Operation Threshold Central Office (private, non-profit Community Action Agency), Waterloo (I-JOBS: \$2,003,910; FEMA Public Assistance)
- Linn County Juvenile Law Center & Courthouse, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$3,690,000; FEMA Public Assistance)
- Replacement of Public Works Complex, relocation to lower flood-risk site, Cedar Falls (I-JOBS: \$8,741,250)
- African American Museum of Iowa repair and construction of an elevated storage site to protect collections in future disasters, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$268,510)
- Black Hawk County Conservation Board Administration Office / Workshop, Waterloo (I-JOBS: \$187,791)
- Acquisition and demolition of Brownfield site buildings and clean-up for redevelopment and reinvestment in a culturally-significant neighborhood, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS, Economic Development Grant)
- Ice House Museum restoration and flood-proofing, Cedar Falls Historical Society (I-JOBS: \$545,700; FEMA Public Assistance)
- Demolition of flood-damaged Old Armory for parking and green space, Iowa City (I-JOBS: \$975,000)
- Replacement of Equipment Storage Facility, Mason City (I-JOBS: \$772,500)
- Cedar Rapids Public Library Main Facility relocation and rebuilding, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$5,000,000; FEMA Public Assistance, Vision Iowa)
- U.S. Cellular Center Improvement and Event Center Construction, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$15,000,000)
- Restoration of historic CSPA Hall (a visual and performing arts center), Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$4,800,000; Historic Tax Credits)



FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate discusses recovery at a flooded fire station facility in Cedar Rapids.



Governor Culver discusses flood-affected public infrastructure in Cedar Rapids.



FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate tours a flooded neighborhood with state and local officials.

Flood Protection Measures

As the State repairs damaged infrastructure, communities throughout Iowa are also looking at structures that can assist in preventing future damage. In some cases, they are building new structures and in others, repairing what was damaged or destroyed last year. Some important projects include:

- Coralville comprehensive flood protection system including berms, floodwalls, street elevation, bridge elevation, pump stations and stormwater improvements. The total cost of this project is estimated at more than \$36 million (I-JOBS: \$36,284,981; CDBG, EDA).
- Waverly removal of an existing dam structure and replacing with an inflatable rubber bladder dam (CDBG: \$1,082,975 and EDA: \$3,167,923)
- Fayette Concrete Flood Wall, Fayette (I-JOBS: \$53,750)
- Polk County River Place Floodwall Construction, Des Moines (I-JOBS: \$818,750)
- Bench Area Flash Flood Mitigation Project, Marquette (I-JOBS: \$677,048)
- Volga River and Nagle Creek Levee, Volga (I-JOBS: \$16,429)
- Public Works Facility Flood Mitigation, Toledo (I-JOBS: \$727,500)
- Birdland Levee Replacement, Des Moines (I-JOBS: \$2,205,000)

Sewer, Stormwater and Wastewater Systems

Communities throughout Iowa are struggling to improve, repair and replace aging sewer and stormwater systems, as well as ensure that their water treatment plants are protected. These measures are an incredibly important piece of the infrastructure improvements needed in Iowa and will help greatly in mitigating the effects of future flooding and storms. Some important projects include:

- Keosauqua wastewater and stormwater improvements (CDBG: \$732,000)
- Shenandoah storm sewer improvements (CDBG: \$427,500 and local bonding: \$132,500)

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- Essex sewer improvements (CDBG: \$261,600 and local bonding: \$130,800)
- Des Moines stormwater back-up generators and sewer improvements (CDBG: \$2,500,000 and local match: \$500,000)
- Centerville storm sewer replacement (CDBG: \$600,000 and local match \$171,000)
- Farragut stormwater pumps (Funding CDBG: \$300,000 and local bonding: \$357,700)
- Braddyville lagoon system (CDBG: \$211,480 and FEMA Public Assistance: \$28,520)
- Logan stormwater retention system (CDBG: \$245,000)
- Appanoose County sewer system (CDBG: \$69,000 with match: \$59,630)
- Nashua water main system (CDBG: \$1,432,538; FEMA Public Assistance: \$227,362 and USDA: \$150,000)
- Columbus Junction water treatment plant (CDBG: \$920,000 and EDA: \$2,930,000)
- Wastewater Treatment Plant flood mitigation, Anamosa (I-JOBS: \$3,069,000)
- HWY 175 stormwater flood mitigation project, Eldora (I-JOBS: \$261,000)
- Story City storm sewer improvements, Story City (I-JOBS: \$295,680)
- East Side stormwater improvements, DeWitt (I-JOBS: \$300,000)
- Storm sewer on Moore, Stratford (I-JOBS: \$16,586)
- RR ROW Storm sewer replacement, Avoca (I-JOBS: \$203,970)
- Glidden stormwater project, Glidden (I-JOBS: \$287,500)
- Defiance storm sewer construction, Defiance (I-JOBS: \$155,000)
- Wastewater treatment plant project, Iowa City (I-JOBS: \$4,068,792)
- Northeast Creston sewer and storm sewer upgrades, Creston (I-JOBS: \$686,250)



A flooded building at the University of Iowa dries after the flood water recedes in Iowa City.



University of Iowa and FEMA representatives review the flooded Mayflower dorm in Iowa City.



University of Iowa and FEMA officials review flooded ventilation, water and electrical systems.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

- Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) improvement, Spillville (I-JOBS: \$906,225)
- Vine Street drainage improvements, City of Hartford (I-JOBS: \$52,875)

Transportation Infrastructure

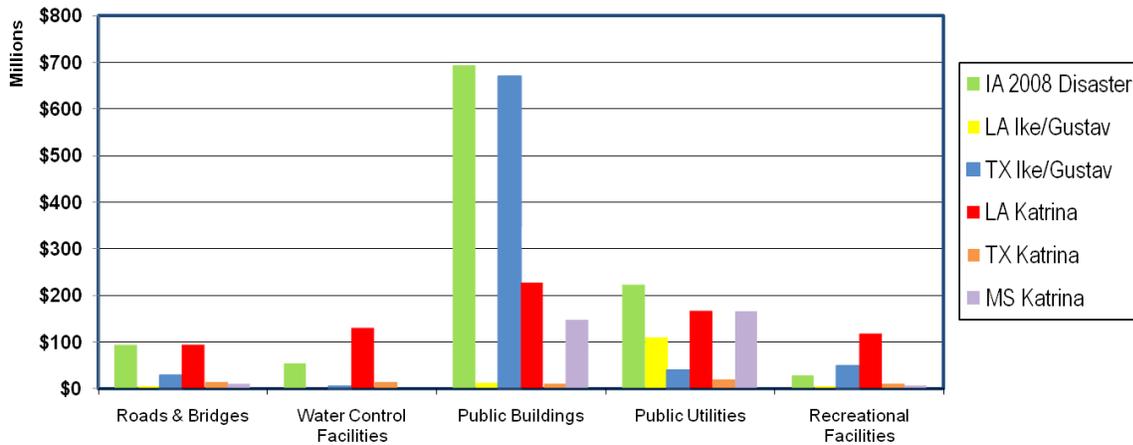
Transportation infrastructures including roads, bridges and railroad facilities were heavily damaged and/or destroyed in last year's disasters. Funding is needed in many communities to repair roads and in some cases improve them with elevation and other measures to prevent future damage or provide more protected routes. Some of these important projects include:

- The City of Coralville was awarded over \$7 million in funds from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$2.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for flood mitigation infrastructure improvements. The improvements will provide the backbone of flood protection for the community's central business district at a level one foot above the 2008 flood. Permanent and removable flood walls, a stormwater pump station, embankments and other work will follow the CRANDIC rail corridor, protecting businesses and the important arterial streets of Highway 6 and 1st Avenue (CDBG: \$2,500,000; EDA: \$7,000,000)
- Louisa County bridges (CDBG: \$1,557,000; EDA: \$11,865,000)
- Tama Road reconstruction, West Burlington (I-JOBS: \$175,000)
- 6th Street SW reconstruction, Cedar Rapids (I-JOBS: \$3,309,375)
- Chillicothe Bridge and Rock Bluff Road rebuilding project, Ottumwa (I-JOBS: \$5,350,000)
- West Ditch (Pershing St. to Hwy 83) reconstruction and improvement, Avoca (I-JOBS: \$203,910)
- Fort Madison Santa Fe Depot redevelopment and reuse, Fort Madison (I-JOBS: \$1,131,344)

FEMA Public Assistance

The chart below shows what categories are receiving FEMA Public Assistance funds. It also compares infrastructure damage from the 2008 Iowa disaster to other recent disasters around the nation.

Current Estimates of FEMA Public Assistance Projects by Disaster as of Oct. 2, 2009



(Roads and Bridges) is the repair of roads, bridges, and associated features, such as shoulders, ditches, culverts, lighting, and signs.
(Water Control Facilities) is the repair of drainage channels, pumping facilities, and some irrigation facilities. Repair of levees, dams, and flood control channels fall under Category D, but the eligibility of these facilities is restricted.
(Buildings and Grounds) includes the repair or replacement of buildings, including their contents and systems; heavy equipment; and vehicles.
(Utilities) is the repair of water treatment and delivery systems, power generation facilities and distribution facilities; sewage collection and treatment facilities; and communications.
(Parks, Recreational Facilities, Other) includes the repair and restoration of parks, playgrounds, pools, cemeteries, mass transit facilities, and beaches.

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)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Set up a statewide case management system with a coordinating entity that can assist 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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Establish a case management framework that can be in place for future disasters that includes continuity and consistency in practices and training

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. Several programs are available to assist those impacted and make their individual recovery easier. One of the most important is the statewide case management system which was established by the RIO. 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 on page 93 in the Appendix).

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

Also, 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.

MEASURES

Case Management

The Rebuild Iowa Office has granted \$1,180,300 in Community Development Block Grant funding to eight agencies that provide disaster recovery case management services to affected Iowans and are part of the Long-Term Recovery Committee structure. These agencies, such as Lutheran Services in Iowa and the United Way of Eastern Iowa, are helping individuals get back to a state of normalcy through providing financial resources and connecting them to community services. Agencies are working to help families rebuild their lives and get back into permanent housing. To date, \$320,000 has been expended. Much of this money goes to support some of the more than 56,000 hours of case management services provided throughout the state.

LTRCs representing 67 of 78 counties declared for Individual Assistance submitted the case management data listed below.

Total number of people assisted	14,402
Number of open cases	5,407
Total number of hours worked by Case Advocates	57,945
Number of outside referrals made	2,187
Total number of dollars given to clients (including private donated dollars; excluding funds from the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program)	\$2,191,571

LOADS OF HOPE

Janet Kendall-Post of Waterloo, appreciates the simple things in life even more since her home was severely damaged by the floods of 2008: hot showers, clean laundry and her own bed just to name a few.

Now, Kendall-Post and husband, William Post, have experienced the best pleasure of all since the disasters of 2008 – moving out of their FEMA mobile home and back into their renovated home.

Kendall-Post says their journey since flooding damaged their home has been assisted by a case advocate with the Black Hawk County Recovery Coalition, a Long-Term Recovery Committee which oversees a number of disaster-recovery programs. The couple also received assistance from the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program.

Kendall-Post and her husband represent just one household that has received locally-donated funds through the Coalition. As of the end of September, the Coalition has given out a total of \$186,055 to disaster victims from strictly local sources.

Kendall-Post has also received national attention due to Tide detergent's "Loads of Hope" commercial. She is also on Tide laundry detergent labels and can be seen talking about her disaster experience on Tide's Web site at www.tide.com.

Kendall-Post used the laundry services a number of times after last year's flooding and was interviewed by "Loads of Hope" workers while her clothes were washing. A clip of her interview was then used on the commercial.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES

In response to Iowa's overwhelming disasters in 2008, more than 25 Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) organized around the state to provide critical services for individuals experiencing loss.

The LTRCs are a consortium of agencies representing community services to assist individuals through the disaster recovery process. Committees provide services based on need through voluntary member organizations and local resources. LTRCs are also the foundation on which disaster recovery case management is provided to individuals with unmet needs.

Voluntary and community organizations most commonly represented on a Long-Term Recovery Committee in Iowa are:

- American Red Cross
- Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Mennonite Disaster Service
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- The Salvation Army
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- United Way

Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program

House File 64, passed on Feb. 2, 2009, created the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program (IUNDGP), 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 a grant of up to \$2,500 to households for unmet needs related to the disaster. The grants are administered through LTRCs.

The IUNDGP is still being administered through LTRCs and will continue through the middle of October with an application deadline of Oct. 16. This program provides grants of up to \$2,500 for households to help provide for assistance in recovering such as replacement of household items, home repair assistance, and other unmet needs related to the disaster. LTRCs have provided assistance to nearly 7,000 individuals in 3,000 households with this program through reimbursements or vouchers for goods and services (IUNDGP data in the table below is current as of Oct. 1, 2009).

Total Expended	\$5,476,219
Total Applications	3,923
Average Grant Award	\$1,396
Number of Counties with Individuals receiving grants	57

Mental Health Service

Project Recovery Iowa - This crisis counseling program is an outreach-oriented approach to helping disaster survivors access and identify personal and community resources that will aid the recovery process. It consists primarily of supportive, educational, face-to-face interventions with individuals and communities in their natural environments.

**Project Recovery Iowa Contact Counts
Current August 30, 2009**

Type of Contact	Total
In-person brief educational or supportive contact	59,589
Telephone contact	36,767
E-mail contact	15,607
Material provided to people with no or minimal contact	232,654
Material mailed to people's homes	17,128
Material left in public places	154,975
Community networking and coalition building	38,139
Public education/group counseling sessions held	2,850
Participants attending public ed./group sessions	47,566

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The Project Recovery Iowa program ended on Sept. 30, 2009. However, a new program called "Ticket to Hope" was launched in its place.

Ticket to Hope - This new mental health program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Services. The Ticket to Hope program provides individuals with up to 8 free counseling sessions that meet the following program criteria:

- An individual who reports that mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder counseling sessions are needed in part due to the impact of the 2008 disasters.
- An individual who lacks health insurance, has no mental health benefits or has maximized their mental health plan benefits.

Ticket to Hope services are available until June 30, 2010. Individuals can receive more information about this program by contacting the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

KEY PROJECT

The Rebuild Iowa Office has held meetings with key stakeholders regarding the institutionalization of disaster recovery case management. Key stakeholders include representatives from state agencies, disaster case management agencies, local Long-Term Recovery Committees, local emergency managers, legislators and RIO staff. It has been agreed upon that a Disaster Recovery Case Management consortium be developed to include the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, non-profit organizations, voluntary organizations and state agencies. This consortium will help set standards for providing services to individuals and families impacted by future disasters.



Case managers gather at a March 2009 LTRC workshop in Cedar Rapids.



Guest speaker Steve Zimmer presents at a March 2009 LTRC workshop in Cedar Rapids.



Discussion at a March 2009 LTRC workshop in Cedar Rapids.

Goal 5: Local Economic Recovery

COMMUNITY DISASTER GRANT PROJECTS

Cities and counties that received grants through the Community Disaster Grant Program, created by House File 64, are funding flood and disaster-related projects and mitigation efforts through \$22 million in state assistance. The program is administered by Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD).

Many communities across Iowa are using the grants to repair and improve existing sewer systems to help eliminate sewage backup into homes and residences. Other communities prone to flooding plan to use the funds to relocate electrical service panels at lift stations or expand the capacity of drainage systems.

The Community Disaster Grant is also helping communities repair and improve their existing levee systems by allowing areas to purchase pumps that will alleviate water from being trapped behind levees during times of increased river levels.

Other communities are using the grants to upgrade emergency systems and equipment, so first-responders can have the necessary tools to respond to a disaster.

All of the \$22 million has been allocated to local communities.

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)

SHORT-TERM 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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide help and support for local government planning efforts
- 2) Provide state and local level contingency options for disaster times to allow for expedited response and recovery

The RIO 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. Communities affected by the 2008 storm disasters in Iowa have acted quickly to put several of these funding streams and financing options into effect.

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 DR-1763-IA. Eligible counties (85) and all cities in those counties could use the funding for the following:

- 1) Non-profit organization assistance
- 2) Public purchase of land and accompanying structures
- 3) Repair, replacement or upgrade disaster-damaged public infrastructure

- 4) Increased costs associated with revaluing property due to natural disaster
- 5) Small business assistance
- 6) Assistance for replacing or rehabilitating housing.

Grant recipients are in the process of wrapping up their projects, and must report their use of allocated funds to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division by Jan. 1, 2010.

SF44 allows counties designated as federal disaster areas in 2008 that 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. Although five Linn County communities failed to pass the tax on the first vote, all approved it on a re-vote taken on May 5, 2009. Nine Johnson County communities approved the tax, but those that did not chose not to request another vote at this time.

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.

SF457 provided important financing flexibility to local governments in future disasters. It legalized certain actions taken in response to natural disasters, so city and county audits will reflect that actions were taken appropriately. SF457 also authorized disaster recovery housing project tax credits for eligible properties affected by the 2008 disasters, which will help to improve available housing stock. Other changes that will help cities and counties affected by disaster are related to local bonding, contract letting, lease or lease-purchase contract requirements, loan agreement requirements, definitions of essential county purpose and essential corporate purpose.

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. It requires a city to attempt to notify the owner at least 30 days before filing a petition to award title to the city, and requires waiting at least 60 days after filing the petition for the city to hold a public hearing. The petition must be dismissed if the court receives a written request from the owner. SF415 requires the city to pay the fair market value of the current condition of the property. If the payment is not claimed within two years, the funds are transferred to the city.



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.

TORNADO-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES AND HOUSE FILE 64

During the 2009 legislative session, Iowa legislators appropriated \$1.15 million to be distributed among the following communities: 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, 2009.

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. 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 a formula that factored in 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 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 in these communities, hence the reason for the \$1.15 million appropriation.

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. 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.

MEASURES

The RIO and its partners continue to help provide communities with the support they need in order to achieve their economic recovery goals. Recent efforts include the following:

- The RIO Community and Regional Recovery Team presented disaster recovery tools including the Communications Mapping Tool, Decision-Making Tool, Project and Program Development Guide and Resource Guide at the Municipal Professionals Academy 2009.
- The RIO provided disaster recovery information to Iowa municipalities at the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference on Sept. 17-18, 2009
- The RIO is exploring grant opportunities to fund the development of a leadership training template. This would be offered to interested communities in order to train and equip them to best confront the challenges of rebuilding and recovery.

Disaster Sales Tax Impact – Two Key Counties

In trying to determine the fiscal impact of a disaster on a community's revenue, one important category to monitor for changes is sales tax. The Iowa Department of Revenue has followed and analyzed sales tax changes in two key impacted counties – Linn and Johnson. In both counties, the trend lines fit with disasters in other states in that sales taxes actually increase in the short-term due to response and recovery-related spending. The analysis below also reflects that the short-term bump is coming to an end and the impact of lost businesses and lost income is starting to show.

Linn County Sales Tax Revenue

- Third Quarter 2008 showed the most significant change in total taxable sales with an **increase of more than \$191 million (22.7%) in taxable sales** over the same period in 2007. This was in part due to the immediate recovery-related spending after the flooding.
- Fourth Quarter 2008 followed this trend with taxable sales showing an **increase of nearly \$109.5 million (12.6%)** over the same period in 2007 due to sustained recovery-related spending.
- 2009 – Most business sectors saw a **decrease in taxable sales** in the first two quarters of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. However, utilities saw a 67.5% increase which drove Linn County to an overall increase of \$50 million (3%). This utilities increase was in part due to former Cedar Rapids steam users switching to more costly alternative energy sources. If the utilities category were to be removed from the analysis, the first two quarters of 2009 would actually have shown a decrease in taxable sales of approximately \$63 million (4.3%).

Johnson County Taxable Sales by Quarter

- 2008 – All quarters showed **modest gains** with the exception of the third quarter, which showed a comparably large increase of about \$39 million (8.6%) over the same period in 2007. Categories to note include an increase in the retail sector of over \$19 million (7.5%) in part due to the replacement of flood-damaged property, a more than \$4 million (33.2%) increase in the building and contractor category in part due to rebuilding and rehabbing flood-damaged homes and properties as well as new construction due to flood-related needs and an approximate \$2.5 million (26.7%) increase in the lodging and campground category in part due to Johnson county residents displaced by the floods.
- 2009 – The first two quarters have seen a **sharp decline in taxable sales**, down approximately \$41 million (4.8%) from the same period in 2008 and nearly \$27.5 million (3.3 %) from the first two quarters of 2007. This is in part due to national trends and the natural decrease in significant recovery-related spending over time.

REBUILDING BETTER THAN BEFORE

Cyndi Ecker calls the 2008 flood that wiped out 90 percent of her floral shop inventory and ruined much of the contents of her building a critical learning experience.

“We realized we needed to reevaluate how we were working and doing business,” said Ecker, who with her family owns Ecker’s Flowers and Greenhouses, 410 Fifth St., N.W. in Waverly.

Ecker decided to reopen in the same location, however, she’s rebuilding with the thought that another flood may occur. This thinking has resulted in:

- A flower cooler that can be jacked up to the ceiling should flood water ever enter the building again
- Organizing a plan with a professional to remove the main mechanical mechanisms of the boiler before a flood hits
- Installing carpet tile that can be popped up and moved in a timely fashion
- Moving the electrical panels and phone system out of the basement and moving them to higher levels of the building
- And, painting the basement floors rather than installing some type of floor covering that would be damaged by flood water.

Ecker has also developed an essential “escape plan” to quickly move her inventory and plants. That means Ecker only stores inventory and supplies in the basement that can be carried out by employees in 90 minutes. The remainder is stored in the upper levels of the building.

Goal 6: Create, Promote & Implement Smart Growth Principles

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

WHAT IS A “GREEN PAPER”?

In Britain, a “Green Paper” is a tentative government proposal without any commitment to specific action. A green paper represents a concept and serves as a discussion document intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation on a particular topic.

The RIO adopted the term and intention of a Green Paper to invite interested individuals and organizations to contribute views, data, and information on statewide planning in Iowa prior to developing a specific policy proposal.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create Iowa Smart Growth Principles
- 2) Create a plan to maintain these principles in the state beyond disaster recovery

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improve Iowa’s energy efficiency, sustainability, community identity and quality of life
- 2) Promote and implement Iowa Smart Growth Principles and associated planning efforts

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Council’s (RIAC) 120-Day Report directed the State of Iowa to engage in integrated, regional, and statewide planning to address disaster recovery in such a way that mitigates future loss, protects resources, and adapts the economy to a changing environment. Additionally, the Report called on the State to develop principles to guide decision-making that align with smart growth and sustainability concepts and ensure that policy and programs sustain and enhance community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.

In response, the Community and Regional Recovery Planning team drafted a “Green Paper” (see sidebar), *Recovering from the Storms, Planning for the Future: A Safer, Smarter, Stronger Iowa*, which proposes an integrated, statewide planning framework for Iowa. The Green Paper begins with a summary of presentations and reports produced by Dr. Galloway, a nationally respected expert on water resources management, that outlines common sense approaches to land use planning and describes a history of inaction, policy implementation and/or land use decision by all levels of government which over the last 100 years have yielded unintended results contributing to increased losses and destruction of property due to flooding. The summary emphasizes that there is a shared responsibility among individuals, communities, states, and the federal government to take serious steps toward mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, and, most

importantly, illustrates the connection between natural disasters (specifically, floods) and the need for comprehensive land use planning.

Iowa Code currently includes no mandates, incentives, or guidance for local or regional planning. In fact, Iowa is one of only three states that do not explicitly list in code the elements that must or should be included in a local comprehensive plan. Many complex issues facing communities, regions, and the state, such as flood mitigation, economic development, quality of life, and many others, are best addressed on a multi-jurisdictional level. Recognizing that robust, integrated, proactive planning processes coupled with strong implementation are necessary to meaningfully address these inter-related issues, the paper proposes the following planning framework:

- Smart Growth Principles (see “Proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles” sidebar on page 72) - The Smart Growth Principles will guide government policy and program development and investment decision-making. The principles may aptly be considered sustainable development concepts as they comprehensively address economic, environmental, and cultural vitality.
- Plan of Action - The Plan of Action outlines a comprehensive set of priorities and strategies for future land use and resource management decisions that are consistent with the proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles. These strategies represent a compilation of RIAC recommendations, consultation with experts, and research, and are divided into three categories:
 - 1) reduce damage from natural disasters and enhance public safety
 - 2) protect and enhance our natural resources, and
 - 3) identify, plan, and manage future growth.
- Statewide Planning Structure - A framework is proposed outlining an integrated local-regional-state planning system and associated tools to assist and encourage implementation. State level planning activities include coordination of services between agencies and the provision of funding and technical assistance to regions and local governments. Regional planning activities include developing specific strategies to address multi-jurisdictional issues and the provision of technical assistance to local governments. Local governments engage in comprehensive planning. The paper emphasizes that the most

THE RIO'S “GREEN PAPER”

The Rebuild Iowa Office issued its “Green Paper” in July 2009 to begin a dialogue about planning in Iowa and to call for feedback on the concepts. The paper is posted on the RIO Web site and staff has been reaching out to stakeholders, experts, and other interested groups to obtain comments, critiques, and suggestions for improvement.

It is expected that the framework described in the paper will be refined based on the feedback collected and a policy proposal will be developed, including a phased-in timeline, for consideration by the Iowa General Assembly in the 2010 and future sessions.

The paper can be downloaded from the “Community and Regional Recovery Planning” section of the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov. Instructions for providing feedback are provided within.

PROPOSED IOWA SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES

- 1) Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions
- 2) Advance Equity: Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions
- 3) Promote Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency
- 4) Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities
- 5) Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
- 6) Expand Diversity in Housing Opportunities & Choices
- 7) Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- 8) Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands
- 9) Incorporate Green Building & Infrastructure Design
- 10) Provide for a Variety of Transportation Choices

important attribute of an effective institutional planning structure is coordination – internally, vertically, and horizontally – between and among various levels of government.

Environmental Protection Agency Smart Growth Partnership Update

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

Below is a brief update for each community:

- *New Hartford* - A workshop on green infrastructure solutions for stormwater management was held in New Hartford on July 16-17, 2009. Numerous partners came together to learn about the local flooding issues caused by heavy rain events (note: flooding from rivers was not addressed in this workshop). Green alternatives or complimentary approaches to typical grey systems (storm sewers, etc.) were introduced at public forums. Ideas for implementing green stormwater pilot projects were developed. The public can review the *Green Infrastructure Playbook* for New Hartford, which includes sources for technical and financial assistance, as well as view example design concepts, educational signage and renderings of potential rain garden and bioswale projects on the RIO Web site (http://rio.iowa.gov/community_recovery/smart_growth.html). Follow-up meetings are planned to construct a rain garden pilot project at a local school.
- *Cedar Rapids* - The Cedar Rapids site visit was held Sept. 9-10, 2009. The scope of the visit: toured impacted neighborhoods and potential infill sites to understand neighborhood character and typical development trends; met with various stakeholder groups to learn about the various planning initiatives underway and to obtain input on potential improvements to development codes and regulations. The EPA will also complete an audit and provide recommendation for incorporating smart growth principles in the City's development policies: comprehensive plan, metro design standards, zoning ordinance, stormwater 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.

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- *Cedar Falls* - The Cedar Falls site visit was held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2009. The scope of the visit: conducted public forum to discuss the incorporation and benefits of smart growth concepts in development codes and conducted a workshop focused on obtaining input from the public to develop a vision for redeveloping Center Street and developing options that incorporate smart growth concepts and foster revitalization. The EPA will provide a summary of the workshop outcomes, as well as suggest options for incorporating smart growth green infrastructure concepts in city development codes and regulations.
- *Coralville* - The Coralville site visit will be held Nov. 4-5, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance: conduct a market overview and evaluation of redevelopment potential, housing and commercial demand and the utilization of mixed-use development in established portions of town south of I-80; analyze the City's planned unit development guidelines and recommend 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 stormwater and improve water quality.
- *Iowa City* - The Iowa City site visit will be held Nov. 12-13, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance: conduct a market analysis to assess the demand for housing and mixed-use development, including the densities and mix of uses needed to support future transit in the South Gilbert Street Corridor; 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 make recommendations for including smart growth concepts in policy changes related to zoning and subdivision ordinances, design guidelines, green infrastructure for stormwater management, parking and other codes.



George TeKippe explains New Hartford's stormwater 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.

Goal 7: Statewide Mitigation Planning

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

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 stormwater 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

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Enact more statewide policy on disaster mitigation
- 2) Increase public education and information that increases individual and community mitigation efforts
- 3) Enact a system for comprehensive and integrated local and regional mitigation planning

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 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 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
- 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. Efforts toward 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.

The statewide planning framework described under Goal 6 includes the integration of hazard mitigation planning and projects within proposed local and regional planning activities. The natural disasters of 2008 vividly illustrate that poor land use decisions can amplify damage and that the decisions of one jurisdiction can significantly impact those in neighboring or downstream jurisdictions. To address these issues, the proposed planning framework calls on communities to consider recommendations within their local hazard mitigation plans to check for consistency with land use decisions articulated within their land use plans and to incorporate hazard mitigation projects into implementation activities and timelines within land use plans.

MEASURES

Iowa has made mitigation a top priority in the public infrastructure repair process in order to ensure that we are rebuilding safer, smarter and strong with more protected infrastructure in the future. To date, 23% of the state's FEMA Public Assistance projects including mitigation measures. When compared with a national average of 9% in other impacted states, it is clear that Iowa is going above and beyond to ensure mitigation measures are included.

WEATHER SAFE ROOMS

Weather safe rooms are multi-purpose rooms in buildings such as schools and other public facilities that are designed to protect people from events such as tornadoes.

Often, these rooms can be paid for using FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. Many Iowa communities have shown a great deal of interest in constructing safe rooms.

Of all the schools in impacted areas, there have been 62 safe room applications. One project with the Nevada school district has already been approved at a projected cost of more than \$2 million.

Goal 8: Flood Plain & 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 Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
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 flood plain and watershed management. (RIAC Recommendation #9)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) Repair and replace damaged and destroyed flood management infrastructure

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

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

Water Resources Coordinating Council

2009 Iowa legislation, HF756, requires the State's Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) to submit policy and funding recommendations that promote "a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on this state's residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality." Recommendations are due to the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2009. The WRCC established a 12-member subcommittee of state and federal agency representatives to develop initial recommendations (see sidebar).

Bill Ehm of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Chuck Gipp of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship serve as co-chairs of the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee. The RIO has provided staff support, including posting meeting notices, preparing press releases, and hosting Web site information about the work of the

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Subcommittee. Four work groups were established to work on components of the recommendations required by HF756. The work groups included:

- 1) Flood plain management and regulation
- 2) Lowland focus: Wetland protection, restoration and construction; and conservation easements and other land management
- 3) Upland Focus: Perennial ground cover and other agricultural conservation practices; and permanent or temporary water retention structures
- 4) Promulgation and implementation of statewide stormwater management standards; and pervious pavement, bioswales, and other urban conservation practices

As required by HF756, the work groups consulted “with hydrological and land use experts, representatives of cities, counties, drainage and levee districts, agricultural interests, soil and water conservation districts, and other urban and regional planning experts” in developing recommendations.

Public input was obtained at regional public input sessions held in Mount Pleasant (Southeast Iowa), West Branch (East Central Iowa), Ankeny (Central Iowa), Waverly (North Central Iowa), Lewis (Southwest Iowa) and Storm Lake (Northwest Iowa). A survey was also posted electronically on the RIO Web site for anyone to complete. The public input will be considered by the Subcommittee when they finalize their recommendations on Oct. 20, 2009, for consideration by the WRCC at their meeting on Nov. 6, 2009. The WRCC will submit the final recommendations on or before the Nov. 15, 2009, deadline set in HF756. Information regarding the WRCC’s timeline and recommendations are available and regularly updated on the RIO’s Web site (www.rio.iowa.gov/wrcc).

Flood Risk Management

State and federal agencies working collaboratively on the repair of levees and floodworks have transitioned to the Iowa Flood Risk Management Team. Also known as the “Silver Jackets” program, this effort will bring additional focus to long-term watershed management, provide training and planning resources and assistance to local units of government, and continue to coordinate disaster and recovery programs between state and federal programs, with an emphasis on reducing future flood risk through



Attendees discuss flood plain management at the WRCC Public Input Session in West Branch.



Attendees discuss flood plain management at the WRCC Public Input Session in Ankeny.



Attendees discuss stormwater management at the WRCC Public Input Session in Mount Pleasant.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

mitigation and education efforts. The goal of the “Silver Jackets” program nationally is for state and federal partners to work seamlessly and anticipate needs during disaster events.

Meetings of the six Upper Mississippi Basin states (which includes Iowa), along with the Corps of Engineers, FEMA and other federal agencies will continue to be held quarterly. Concerns to be addressed will include levee inventory and certification efforts being undertaken by federal agencies; overlapping lines of authority and jurisdiction between federal programs during disasters; shared responsibility to stream gauging networks; new technologies for flood forecasting; assistance to local units of government for revising mitigation plans; shared data management systems; evaluating new technologies; developing further incentives for non-structural alternatives; coordinating flood easement programs between state and federal agencies; and evaluating requirements, formulas and data inputs used to develop benefit cost ratios (BCR’s) used in conjunction with the expenditure of federal funds.

Most importantly, continued coordination at state and basin levels will maintain a level of preparedness that will facilitate faster response and better coordination of resources in future disasters. Flood risk management teams will work collaboratively to improve processes, identify gaps and leverage resources and information.

MEASURES

Cedar Rapids Permanent Flood Protection

The City of Cedar Rapids is continuing to develop plans for flood protection measures. Temporary protection measures will also be needed given the timeline of the permanent plan. Cedar Rapids has finalized what the City considers to be its preferred option for flood protection. The Corps of Engineers is now in the process of conducting a feasibility study for that option and other alternatives. The feasibility study was started earlier this year and is expected to take about two years to complete. It will examine levee and other flood control options in the Cedar River-Cedar Rapids corridor.

Funding source(s): USACE, others

Improve the inspection and maintenance of Iowa's flood plain management infrastructure

The 2008 Session of the Iowa General Assembly authorized funding and FTE's for seven new positions in the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Flood Plain Management Program, beginning July 1, 2009. Two existing field employees have been re-assigned to flood plain duties. Four of the positions for the five new hires are now on the job and the last position is in the process of being filled.

Federal agencies are also revamping communication and inspection plans in the aftermath of the 2008 floods. The National Levee Safety Program will inventory all levees in the United States, leading to the development of a National Levee Database. Both the Corps and FEMA are ramping up more rigorous inspection efforts, and are working with local sponsors and levee districts to bring the design and construction of existing levees up to current specifications and standards to assure that a uniform level of protection is provided.

Watershed basin studies

State and federal agencies are continuing joint efforts on a watershed study for the combined Iowa and Cedar River Basins. The Iowa Cedar Basin Study will guide future efforts to develop plans for the remainder of Iowa's major river basins, ultimately leading to a statewide plan that will guide state policy and decision-making for both water quality and water quantity concerns.

State and federal partners are also working cooperatively with the Iowa Flood Center and the UNESCO HELP Watershed Project at the University of Iowa. The project designates the Iowa Cedar as a demonstration basin for the adoption of advanced information system technology and data sharing between state, national and international entities. The Iowa Cedar Project is one of five such basins in the United States, and 64 worldwide, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) program.

Status of damaged levees and other flood management structures

Nearly all repairs have been completed for levees and floodworks damaged as a result of the Floods of 2008, for those levees and structures that had been certified and are participating in the Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 program. The 84-99 program covers 100% of the cost for levees and structures built with federal funds, and 75% of the cost for private levees built with non-federal funds, but participating in the program.

Repair of the break in the levee southwest of Oakville has been on-going this past summer and will be completed by Jan. 1, 2010. Two breaks in the levee on the upper end of Louisa County Levee District Number 11 (LD #11) at Wapello along the Iowa River are also being repaired this fall. A contract for the repair was awarded by the Corps of Engineers on Sept. 29, 2009, and both breaks will be closed by Jan. 1, 2010. The levee surrounding LD #11 was breached in seven locations during the 2008 flood. The plan moving forward is to close only the two breaks on the upper end of the watershed, leaving the lower breaks open as a non-structural alternative to restoring the entire levee.

Projects funded by FEMA and CDBG funds to repair levees and other flood damage are continuing as those funds become available. USDA programs to purchase flooding easements, repair damages to conservations practices, and remove debris and sediment deposition are also still on-going.

Iowa Flood Center update

Created during the 2009 Legislative session, the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa is providing valuable input to Iowa's recovery process as well as efforts to prepare for future disasters. The Flood Center was established to provide a multidisciplinary venue for improving decision making and reducing the risk of catastrophic damages from future flooding in Iowa communities. Working with state and federal agencies, the Flood Center will develop tools such as flood inundation maps, flood frequency models, and models of changing climate and land use patterns – all based on best available science and methodologies.

The Flood Center will work closely with the Flood Plain Management Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Witold Krajewski, professor of civil and environmental engineering and research engineer at IIHR-Hydroscience & Engineering, was named director of the new Iowa

Flood Center in June 2009. The Flood Center is assisting with development of tools to be used in conjunction with Iowa's new Flood Plain Mapping Program, as well as the Iowa Cedar River Basin Study being undertaken by state and federal agencies. Additionally, the Flood Center is a strong proponent of better flood warning and forecasting systems, and works closely with agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, National Weather Service and others involved in flood forecasting, as well as users of those predictions and forecasts.

Goal 9: Flood Plain 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 flood plain, 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 flood plain, flow can be simulated everywhere. This type of simulation, two-dimensional, provides a much more detailed picture of where water will go during a flood.

-from the U.S. Geological Survey

The State will complete flood plain 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)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improved river gauge system
- 2) Improve the state's ability to predict, plan for, and respond to flood events

In 2008, 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 (FHBM), that identify flood hazard areas within their boundaries, to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This participation will result in more property owners having the ability to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP.

Legislators and Governor Culver passed HF759, a bill requiring cities and counties with current maps to participate in the NFIP by June 30, 2011. Since a statewide mapping project will result in more cities and counties with identified flood hazard areas, the bill requires newly-identified communities to participate within 24 months of the effective date of the FIRM. 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 that the Iowa Insurance Division, the RIO and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) develop recommendations on policies and incentives to expand the availability and procurement of flood insurance in Iowa, and submit a report to the House and Senate Rebuild Iowa Committees by Nov. 15, 2009.

Efforts are underway to complete new flood plain maps for the 85 counties that were Presidentially-Declared Disaster Areas in 2008. Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated to Iowa for disaster purposes are being used to pay the \$15 million cost of developing and publishing these maps. Additional sources of funding will be sought in the future to complete the updated mapping of flood-prone areas for the entire state. High resolution digital elevation maps resulting from the state's LiDAR collection project (see sidebar) will be used as a basis for the new maps.

A pilot study will test the process that will be used for developing flood maps. Interim map products will be available on the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources Web site to local communities and private users for planning and flood inundation studies. Current plans call for mapping all 85 counties in 5-7 years.

MEASURES

LiDAR Data Collection & Mapping

The DNR intends to complete LiDAR data collection this fall, contingent upon appropriate weather and ground conditions necessary to facilitate high quality collection.

The University of Iowa Flood Center was contracted to perform a pilot flood plain mapping project, developing flood plain maps for Poweshiek County where all LiDAR data has been collected. The Flood Center team will be comparing several modeling methods, evaluating the software and data sets being used to render the maps, and developing customized GIS tools that could be used in the map production process. Using this pilot project, the DNR will then be able to request a proposal for contracts to map the remainder of the 85 counties and eventually the entire state.

As part of additional staffing provided to the DNR in the 2008 Legislative Session for expanded flood plain management efforts, the agency has hired an Environmental Engineer Senior to head up the Flood Plain Mapping Program and a GIS Analyst to support the data needs of the statewide mapping effort.

DNR and participating team members are developing and implementing a communication plan for the Flood Plain Mapping Project. Considerable effort is being made to provide information that is not just a physical map, but can be available on-line and be interactive. Maps developed will be posted to the internet and available to all interested parties.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

Nearly 20,000 communities across the United States and its territories participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing flood plain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP makes federally-backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in these communities.

Flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a year through communities implementing sound flood plain management requirements and property owners purchasing of flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance.

The average flood insurance policy for Iowans runs about \$722 a year. Iowans currently hold more than 13,700 flood insurance policies.

(Source: www.fema.gov and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources)

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)



Many historic structures, like this one in Cedar Rapids, were impacted during the 2008 disasters.



Simon Estes Amphitheater in Des Moines



Flood-damaged National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids

SHORT-TERM 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

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Increase the retention, management, preservation and proper storage of important public records
- 2) Increase the support of public art associated with construction of new and damaged buildings and the maintenance of those projects
- 3) Continue to use Iowa's rivers and waterways as an asset to communities and the State of Iowa

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

During the 2009 Iowa Legislative Session, the RIO advocated for a bill that passed and was signed by Governor Culver 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 Jan. 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.

Non-Profit Organizations

Non-profit organizations in Iowa are vital to our quality of life and often individual survival. These organizations often have a difficult time identifying the funds necessary to recover when impacted by disasters. While it is difficult to determine the complete picture of a disaster on this sector, it is known that 55 non-profit organizations received SBA loans totaling about \$15 million. So far, 172 non-profit organization project worksheets have been completed for FEMA Public Assistance funds. Given current program rules, obtaining an SBA loan is often the first step for any non-profit in need of assistance. Only non-profit organizations providing “critical services” can apply directly to FEMA for Public Assistance funds; all others must apply first to the SBA. This can cause problems due to the time it takes non-profits to obtain assistance, as well as the additional debt load it may add to the organization. Other programs, such as Jumpstart Small Business Assistance were made available to non-profits, but also required that an SBA loan be obtained first.

Impact on Education

Educational institutions at all levels were impacted by last year’s disasters. The State’s first priority was on ensuring that all students would have a place to attend classes throughout 2008 and subsequent school years. The long-term rebuilding of Iowa’s schools is the next big priority for the State.

- University of Iowa - The University suffered damage to several campus buildings during the Floods of 2008. They have estimated repair costs of more than \$142 million. Some buildings will not be replaced as they were, and plans are being made to relocate them to lower flood-risk areas. In particular, FEMA will provide 90 percent of the financing for either the replacement or restoration and mitigation of two major building complexes—Hancher Auditorium, Voxman Music Building, Clapp Recital Hall, and the Art Building East complex. Public forums are now being held by the University to help determine the new location and plans for these buildings. In addition, several other major University buildings damaged by the flood will be eligible for FEMA financing for restoration and mitigation strategies to prevent damage from future flooding. Those include Art Building West, Iowa Advanced Technology Laboratories, Theatre Building, the Iowa Memorial Union, the Museum of Art building, Hawkeye Court Apartments, and the University’s power plant and energy distribution systems.

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



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



Volunteers load flowers for delivery to Palo residents.



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

- Cedar Rapids Community School District - Several district support facilities affected by the June 2008 flood include the Education Service Center (ESC), the ESC Annex, the carpenter/paint shop, the main warehouse and the food service warehouse. These departments are now operating from a variety of temporary locations, including a campus of 35 modular buildings at Kingston Stadium. The district recently held open house events to obtain public input on potential future locations for these facilities. FEMA funding will largely pay for the rebuilding and relocation of these facilities.
- Waverly-Shellrock Community School District - Irving Elementary was substantially damaged by the floods. FEMA Public Assistance funds have been approved to pay for the replacement and relocation of this facility.
- Aplington-Parkersburg Community School District - This district's high school was destroyed on May 25, 2008, when a tornado ripped through the Parkersburg area. Since then, school officials and community leaders have been working to build a new \$19 million facility for students and teachers. Although portions of the new high school are still under construction, classes there began in August 2009.

Records Retention Update

The Iowa State Association of Counties held a plenary meeting in mid-September 2009 to consider the scope of a planned update to the 1987 records manual published by the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office. The goal is to have an updated manual available online by the end of 2010.

Additionally, the partners working on the \$40,000 "Connecting to Collections" planning grant, funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, have finalized their survey instrument. The survey will be accessible online, with follow-up hard copies sent to stakeholders who do not utilize the online survey. The survey is the initial step to collect current collections data, existence of emergency plans, and other basic information from museums, libraries (public and special purpose), historical organizations, city and county archives, and biological collection repositories (mostly at universities). This information will be used to plan and develop training opportunities and promote the use of emergency response planning tools.

MEASURES

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) received 103 project applications for the State Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credit Program during the 2009 application filing window. The program allocation was increased during the 2009 Legislative Session to \$50 million in available credits each fiscal year and includes new allocation categories. One of the new categories reserves credits for historic structures damaged by a disaster located in a county declared a disaster area by the Governor or President.

It is expected that the SHPO will be able to reserve credits for each of the 28 disaster project applicants, pending review of their projects for conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for the treatment of historic properties. The table below summarizes the number of disaster project applicants and their associated city, estimated rehabilitation cost and estimated tax credit eligibility. Future RIO Quarterly Reports will include details about the final tax credit reservations and information on projects receiving state historic tax credits for disaster recovery.

State Historic Tax Credit Program - Disaster Project Applications

City	# of projects	Estimated Rehab Cost	Estimated Tax Credit
Cedar Rapids	16	\$38,691,065	\$9,672,766.25
Council Bluffs	1	\$2,642,375	\$660,593.75
Creston	1	\$4,700,000	\$1,175,000.00
Davenport	2	\$4,820,000	\$1,205,000.00
Stuart	1	\$3,200,000	\$800,000.00
Waterloo	7	\$13,215,000	\$3,303,750.00
TOTAL	28	\$67,268,440	\$16,817,110.00

IDENTIFYING HISTORIC PROPERTIES

In preparation for housing demolitions under FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a Section 106 review is required. This review 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 Division (HSEMD), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will come to agreement on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties through a Memorandum of Agreement process.

Most disaster-impacted communities 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 was instrumental in moving along the demolition and property acquisition process in a more timely fashion and serves as a model for other states following a natural disaster.

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)

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Educate the public and local leaders on the importance of emergency management and emergency planning
- 2) Increase the utilization of the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact

LONG-TERM 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

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) coordinates Iowa's Emergency Management System. Local Emergency Management is a commission form of government. Each Commission is a county-wide governing body and consists of the mayors of the cities, a member of the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff (or any designated representatives). 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 using the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (see sidebar).

Conclusion

The framework of outlining methods, goals and objectives, and describing and measuring the Rebuild Iowa Office's (RIO) progress towards them, will be repeated and expanded in future reports. As the RIO continues to tackle these difficult recovery goals, staff will continue to report each quarter on the accomplishments and challenges as well as measures and key projects. The RIO's staff will also continue to seek input through public comment, meetings with stakeholders, the RIO Coordinating Council and others as more is added to this recovery strategy.

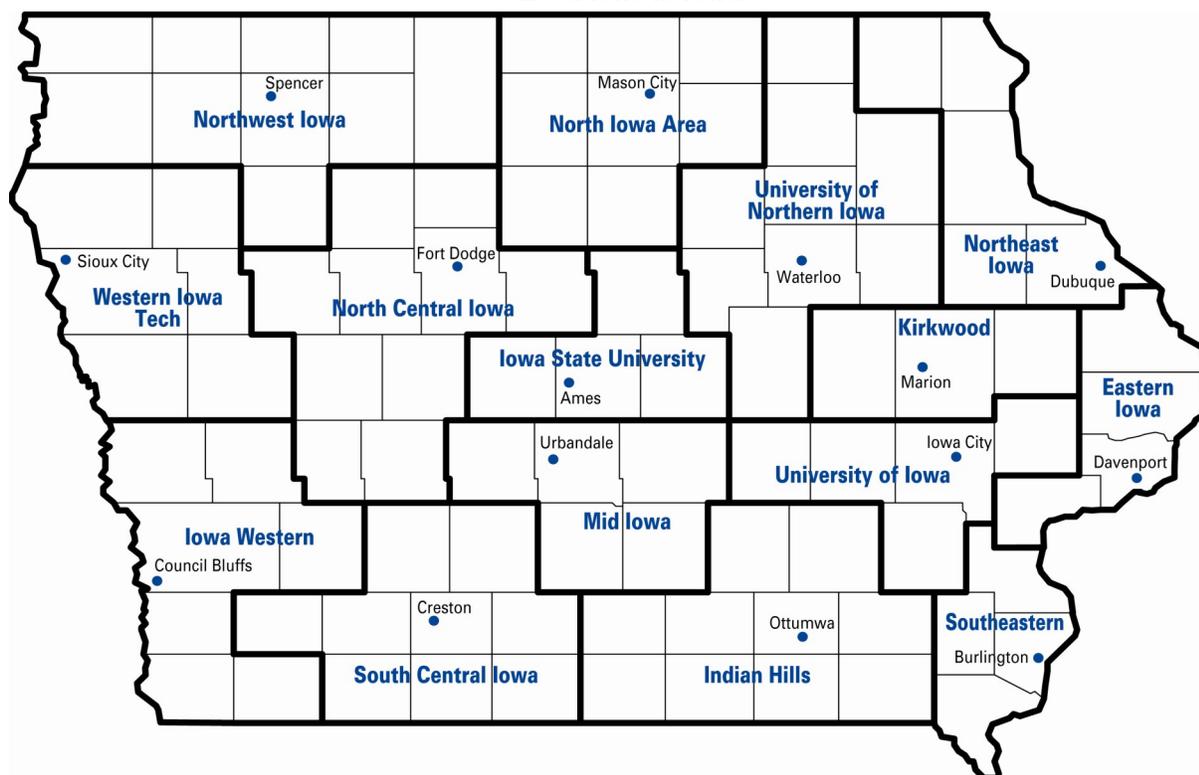
As the Office's sunset date of June 30, 2011, approaches, the RIO will add specific information that will help transition the work of this strategy to other state and local entities. The RIO's final report will serve as a comprehensive outline of Iowa's disaster recovery strategy, progress and future needs and goals. A main 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 necessary that these reports be used by Iowa officials and leaders at all levels of government (local, state and federal) to determine the best way to prepare for future disasters and recovery efforts.



APPENDIX

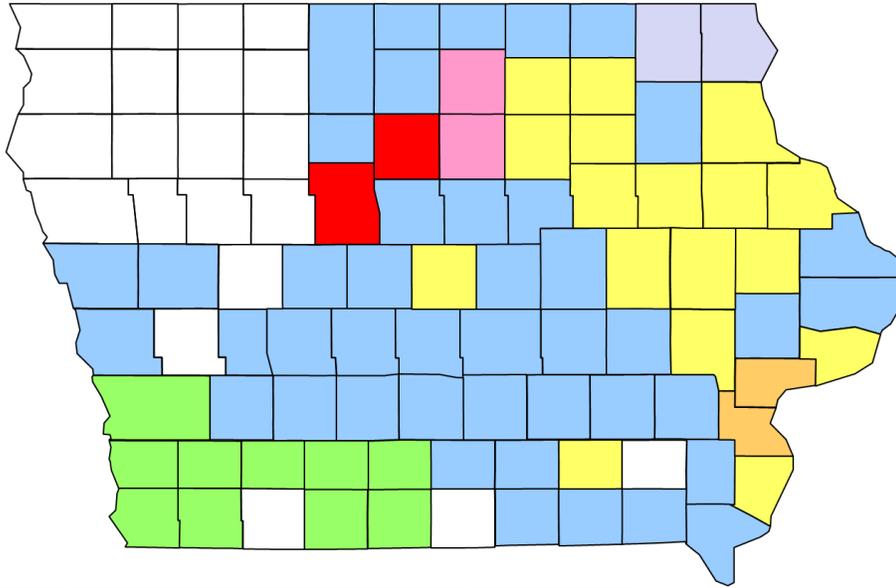
Maps, Charts & Graphs

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Locations in Iowa



Name	City	Phone
ISU SBDC	Ames	515-296-7828
Southeastern SBDC	Burlington	319-208-5381
Iowa Western SBDC	Council Bluffs	712-256-6552
South Central Iowa SBDC	Creston	641-782-1483
Eastern Iowa SBDC	Davenport	563-336-3401
Northeast Iowa SBDC	Dubuque	563-588-3350
North Central Iowa SBDC	Fort Dodge	515-576-6242
University of Iowa SBDC	Iowa City	319-335-3742
Kirkwood SBDC	Marion/Cedar Rapids	319-377-8256
North Iowa Area SBDC	Mason City	641-422-4342
Indian Hills SBDC	Ottumwa	641-683-5127
Western Iowa Tech SBDC	Sioux City	712-274-6454
Northwest Iowa SBDC	Spencer	712-262-4213
Mid Iowa SBDC	Urbandale	515-331-8954
UNI SBDC	Waterloo	319-236-8123

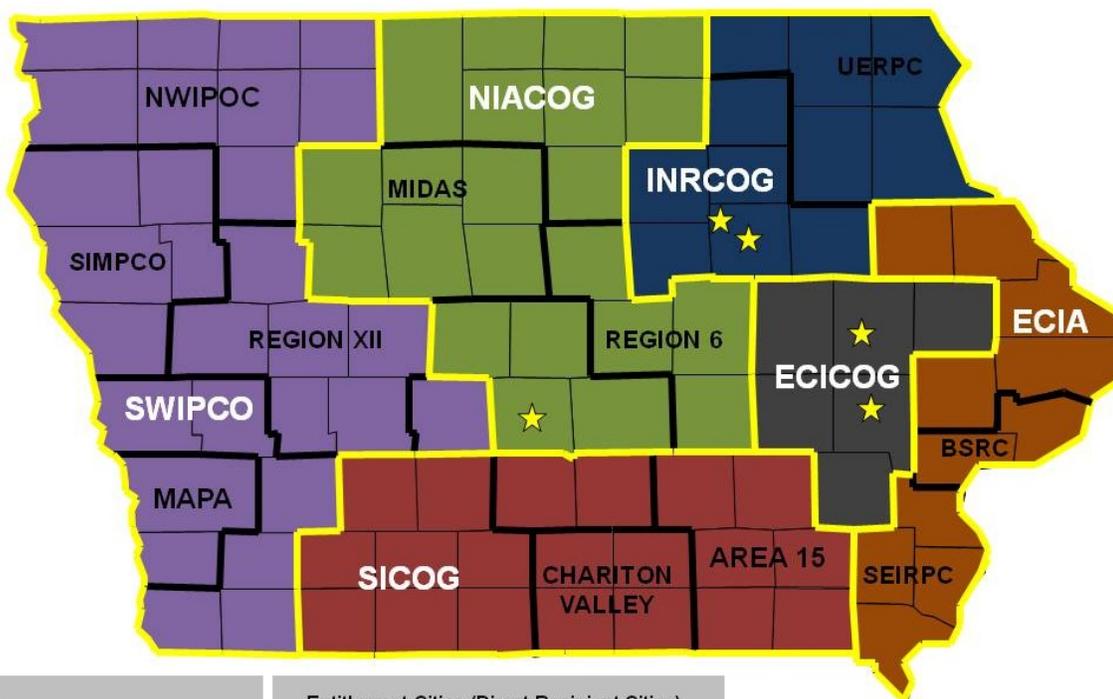
Iowa Long-Term Recovery Committees



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
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	641-777-1650

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	641-512-5565
Allamakee/Winneshiek Long-Term Recovery Committee	503-956-6720
NWC Regional Disaster Recovery Committee	515-408-5665

Iowa Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities



<p>COG – Regional COG</p> <p>COG – Lead COG</p> <p>★ – Entitlement City</p>	<p><u>Entitlement Cities (Direct Recipient Cities)</u></p> <p>City of Cedar Falls</p> <p>City of Cedar Rapids</p> <p>City of Des Moines</p> <p>City of Iowa City</p> <p>City of Waterloo</p>
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<table border="0"> <tr><td>Area 15 Regional Planning Commission</td><td>641-684-6551</td></tr> <tr><td>Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC)</td><td>309-793-6300</td></tr> <tr><td>Chariton Valley Planning and Development</td><td>641-437-4359</td></tr> <tr><td>East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)</td><td>563-556-4166</td></tr> <tr><td>East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)</td><td>319-365-9941</td></tr> <tr><td>Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)</td><td>319-235-0311</td></tr> <tr><td>Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)</td><td>402-444-6866</td></tr> <tr><td>Midas Council of Governments</td><td>515-576-7183</td></tr> <tr><td>North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG)</td><td>641-423-0491</td></tr> </table>	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	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission (NWIPOC)</td><td>712-262-7225</td></tr> <tr><td>Region 6 Planning Commission</td><td>641-752-0717</td></tr> <tr><td>Region XII Council of Governments</td><td>712-792-9914</td></tr> <tr><td>Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)</td><td>712-279-6286</td></tr> <tr><td>Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC)</td><td>319-753-5107</td></tr> <tr><td>Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG)</td><td>641-782-8491</td></tr> <tr><td>Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)</td><td>712-243-4196</td></tr> <tr><td>Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC)</td><td>563-864-7551</td></tr> </table>	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
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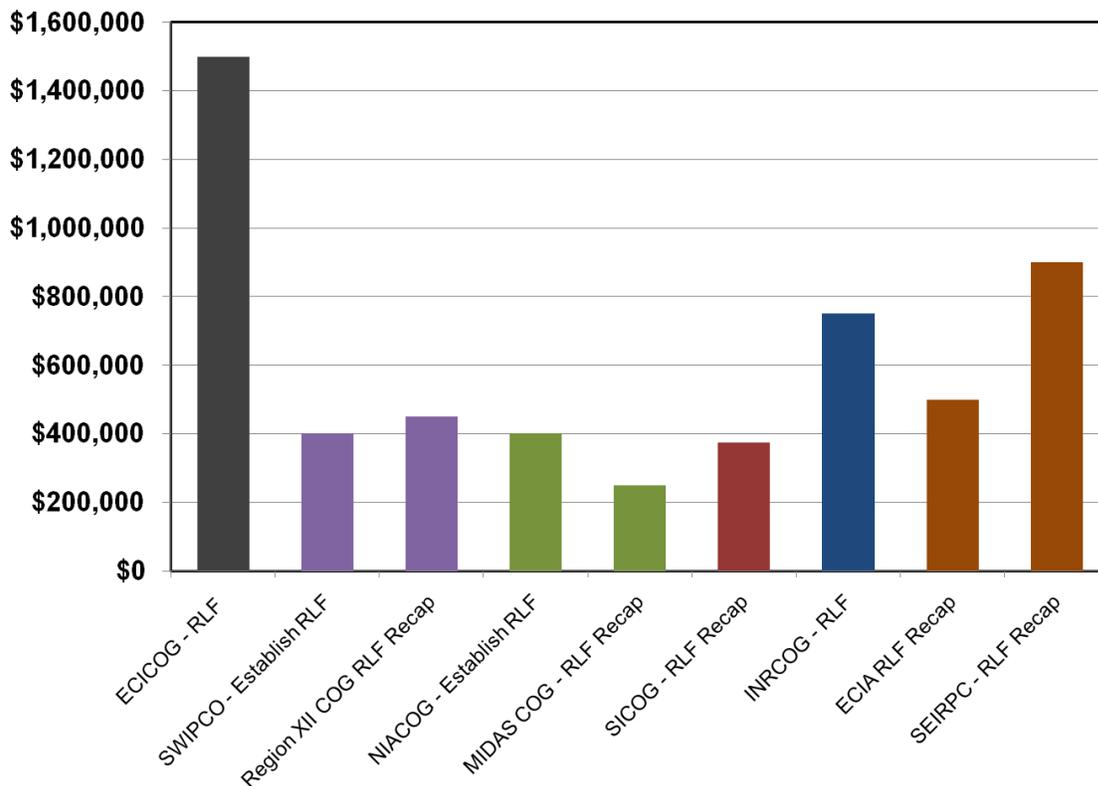
Revolving Loan Funds

The Economic Development Administration’s regional offices around the nation award competitive grants to establish revolving loan funds to government, educational and non-profit organizations and agencies, as well as EDA-approved economic development district organizations.

In Iowa, Councils of Government (COGs) are the recipients of these awards. The COGs, in turn, disburse money from the revolving loan fund for loans at interest rates that are at or below market rate. The loans are made to small businesses or to businesses that cannot otherwise borrow capital. As the loans are repaid, the COGs use a portion of interest earned to pay administrative expenses and add the remaining principal and interest repayments to the funds’ capital base so there is money to make new loans.

Following the 2008 disasters, COGs were given additional funding for these loans in order to help disaster-impacted businesses.

**EDA Revolving Loan Fund - Distribution
(Total - \$5,525,000)**



Iowa Disaster Recovery Timeline

2008

May 2008

- 5-25 Tornadoes and flooding hit Butler and Black Hawk counties; an EF-5 tornado hits Parkersburg
- 5-25 State Emergency Operations Center activated
- 5-27 Federal disaster declared for first Iowa counties

June 2008

- 6-3 Joint Field Office opens in Urbandale, IA
- 6-6 First SBA loan approved
- 6-8 Mason City (Cerro Gordo County) and New Hartford (Butler County) impacted with heavy rain and flooding
- 6-10 Saylorville Dam (Polk County) and Coralville Reservoir top emergency spillways
- 6-11 Tornado strikes the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch in Monona County
- 6-13 Cedar River crests at 31.1 feet in Cedar Rapids, almost 20 feet above flood stage
- 6-14 Two levee breaches occur in Des Moines (Polk County)
- 6-15 A levee breach occurs in Oakville (Lousia County); Iowa River crests at 31.5 feet
- 6-25 Disaster Unemployment Assistance made available
- 6-27 Governor Culver's Executive Order Number Seven creates the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)
- 6-30 First HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster appropriation bill including Iowa is signed into law

July 2008

- 7-12 First of 595 families move into FEMA mobile homes for temporary housing

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

- 7-16 RIAC meets for the first time in Des Moines
- 7-23 Rebuild Iowa Office opens its doors
- 7-29 Project Recovery Iowa launched
- 7-31 RIAC meets in Cedar Rapids

August 2008

- 8-4 HUD announces that Iowa will receive \$85 million out of the June CDBG appropriation
- 8-5 RIAC meets in Wapello
- 8-7 RIO gathers input from Iowans at Speak Up Iowa event at Iowa State Fair
- 8-11 Speak Up Iowa event in Red Oak
- 8-12 Speak Up Iowa event in Fort Dodge
- 8-13 Federal disaster incident period closes
- 8-15 Disaster Unemployment Assistance deadline extended
- 8-19 RIAC meets in Cedar Falls
- 8-25 RIAC meets in Urbandale
FEMA Public Assistance deadline extended
- 8-29 RIAC meets in Urbandale
- 8-31 RIAC 45-day report submitted

September 2008

- 9-2 RIAC presents 45-day report to Governor
- 9-5 Governor Culver announces \$40 million in state funding for disaster programs
- 9-8 FEMA grants Iowa 90% Federal cost share for most FEMA programs.
- 9-11 Official Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for Iowa's \$85 million CDBG allocation is published

- 9-12 Jumpstart Iowa Housing and Small Business programs announced
- 9-20 Iowa submits first CDBG allocation action plan to HUD
- 9-23 HUD approves action plan for Iowa's first CDBG allocation of \$85 million
- 9-25 FEMA Individual Assistance deadline extended
- 9-26 Applications available for Jumpstart Iowa Housing program
- 9-30 Applications available for Jumpstart Iowa Small Business program
Second HUD CDBG disaster appropriation bill including Iowa is signed into law

October 2008

- 10-1 All displaced Iowans who requested temporary housing are placed in FEMA Mobile Homes
RIAC meets in Des Moines
- 10-3 Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act signed into law
- 10-10 Disaster Relief Grants awarded to 414 impacted Iowa college students
- 10-15 The RIO produces its first "Iowa Recovery Times," the disaster recovery newsletter produced once a month.
- 10-17 Governor Culver awards first Jumpstart Iowa program checks to homeowners and businesses
- 10-23 U.S. DOT awards Iowa \$23 million for transportation recovery efforts
- 10-27 HUD announces that Iowa will receive \$72 million in the second allocation of the June CDBG appropriation
- 10-31 FEMA Individual Assistance deadline

November 2008

- 11-5 Governor Culver announces \$6.6 million in federal assistance for Iowa National Guard disaster response efforts
- 11-6 RIAC meets in West Des Moines

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

- 11-7 Governor Culver signs Executive Order Number Nine, allowing the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) to finance disaster recovery projects through additional bonding as a result of the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act
- 11-12 Communities' Notice of Interest forms due for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program property acquisitions
- 11-13 RIAC meets in Des Moines
Iowa submits CDBG allocation action plan amendment to HUD
FEMA completes initial Public Assistance process
- 11-17 RIAC 120-day report submitted to Governor Culver
- 11-23 RIAC meets in Des Moines
- 11-26 HUD announces Iowa will receive \$125 million in the first allocation of the second CDBG appropriation

December 2008

- 12-10 Disaster Recovery Conference held in Coralville
Jumpstart Express Emergency Repair program announced
First FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program property acquisition application is received
- 12-17 IFA awards first disaster-related Low-Income Housing Tax Credits
- 12-19 Official Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for Iowa's \$72 million CDBG allocation is published
- 12-23 FEMA aid to disaster-stricken Iowa communities exceeds \$500 million
- 12-30 HUD approves Iowa's \$72 million CDBG action plan

2009

January 2009

1-14 Small Project Rental Rehabilitation program announced

February 2009

2-2 House File 64 is signed into law by Governor Culver, providing \$56 million in state funds for disaster relief and establishing the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) in code

RIO holds Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol

2-5 Governor Culver appoints General Dardis as Executive Director of the Rebuild Iowa Office

Rebuild Iowa Office opens satellite location in Cedar Rapids

2-11 FEMA approves Community Disaster Loans for five Iowa cities

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano visits Iowa

2-13 Official Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for Iowa's \$125 million CDBG allocation is published

2-16 Iowa submits CDBG appropriation action plan to HUD

2-25 Community Economic Betterment Account program for disaster-impacted businesses announced

March 2009 – Flood Awareness Month

3-4 Governor Culver declares March "Flood Awareness Month"

3-12 \$165 million gains approval for disaster recovery use as part of the I-JOBS program to invest in Iowa's infrastructure

3-16 HUD approves Iowa's \$125 million CDBG action plan

3-20 Community Recovery Toolbox Workshop – Palo

3-21 Community Recovery Toolbox Workshop – Oakville

3-23 Community Recovery Toolbox Workshop – New Hartford

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

- 3-24 First round of CDBG-funding infrastructure awards announced
Five Iowa communities selected for EPA Smart Growth assistance
Community Recovery Toolbox Workshops – Cedar Falls/Waterloo
and Iowa City/Coralville
- 3-25 Community Recovery Toolbox Workshops – Cedar Rapids and
Parkersburg
- 3-26 Community Recovery Toolbox Workshop – Waverly

April 2009

- 4-7 Iowa Workforce Development Small Business Disaster Recovery
Grant Program announced
- 4-9 Large Project Rental Rehabilitation Program announced
- 4-10 Rebuild Iowa Office releases first quarterly report
- 4-15 Jumpstart Iowa Small Business program closes; New Business
Rental Assistance Program announced
- 4-28 First FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program property acquisition
applications are approved
- 4-30 State's Individual Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program begins
accepting applications

May 2009

- 5-11 RIAC meets in Des Moines
- 5-12 Governor Culver signs I-JOBS into law providing more than \$165
million in disaster recovery funding for infrastructure and housing
- 5-18 Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop held in Ankeny
- 5-19 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meets for the first time
- 5-21 Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops \$1 billion
- 5-22 Second round of CDBG-funding infrastructure awards announced
- 5-25 RIO participates in disaster commemoration events in Parkersburg
and New Hartford
- 5-30 RIO participates in disaster commemorations in Waterloo and Palo

June 2009

- 6-5 \$22 million in Community Disaster Grants are awarded by HSEMD
- 6-7 RIO participates in disaster commemoration events in Mason City
- 6-10 HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visits Iowa; announces Iowa's allocation of \$516.7 million in last CDBG appropriation
- 6-12 Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops \$3 billion; RIO participates in disaster commemoration events in Cedar Rapids
- 6-13 Gov. Culver makes a disaster commemoration tour across Iowa (visiting Charles City, Vinton, Waverly, Cedar Rapids and Oakville). The RIO staffs information booths in each of the five communities.
- 6-15 RIO participates in disaster commemoration events at University of Iowa in Iowa City
- 6-20 RIO participates in disaster commemoration events in Atalissa
- 6-24 RIO participates in disaster commemoration event in Cedar Falls
- 6-29 First I-JOBS disaster infrastructure projects are approved

July 2009

- 7-2 Steam Energy Assistance Program for Cedar Rapids businesses announced
- 7-6 Iowa's National Emergency Grant Funding to provide disaster-related employment is increased
- 7-9 First CDBG-funded Single-Family Housing Production awards made, state program helps fund 177 new housing units in Cedar Rapids
- 7-10 RIO releases its second Quarterly Report
- 7-16 RIO holds Smart Growth workshop in New Hartford
- 7-17 Small Business Development Centers begin providing case management assistance to disaster-impacted businesses
- 7-21 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meets
- 7-31 I-JOBS Disaster Damage Housing Assistance program announced
Deadline for community applications for CDBG-funded buyouts and infrastructure projects

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

August 2009

- 8-12 First Flood Forum held in Cedar Rapids
- 8-14 Official Notice of Funds Available published for Iowa's \$516.7 million CDBG allocation
- 8-20 Iowa submits \$516.7 million CDBG Action Plan to HUD
- 8-26 Flood Forum held in Wapello
- 8-29 Joint Field Office closes
- 8-30 Iowa Recovery Center opens

September 2009

- 9-1 Jumpstart Housing application deadline for state funds
- 9-2 Flood Forum held in Mason City
- 9-9 RIO holds Smart Growth workshop in Cedar Rapids
- 9-16 Flood Forum held in five communities via the Iowa Communications Network
- 9-22 FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate visits Cedar Rapids
- 9-29 Water Resources Coordinating Council Subcommittee Public Input Sessions in Mount Pleasant and West Branch
- 9-30 RIO holds Smart Growth workshop in Cedar Falls
Project Recovery Iowa program ends

October 2009

- 10-2 HUD approves Iowa's \$516.7 million CDBG action plan
- 10-6 Water Resources Coordinating Council Subcommittee Public Input Sessions in Ankeny and Waverly
- 10-8 Water Resources Coordinating Council Subcommittee Public Input Sessions in Lewis and Storm Lake
- 10-10 RIO releases its third Quarterly Report
- 10-13 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meets

November 2009

- Water Resources Coordinating Council Flood Plain Management recommendations due to the Governor and General Assembly
- Flood Insurance policies and incentives recommendations due to the Governor and General Assembly
- FEMA Mobile Home occupation deadline (this is expected to be extended)
- Smart Growth public workshop planned for Coralville on Nov. 4 & 5 to discuss Smart Growth concepts for city housing plans policy, review city's subdivision ordinance, streetscape standards and stormwater management.
- Smart Growth public workshops planned for Iowa City, Nov. 11-13, to focus on development concepts and objectives for the South Gilbert Street corridor and gain feedback, as well as recommending Smart Growth concepts for city policy in zoning, design guidelines, green infrastructure, parking and other city codes.

December 2009

- Weather Safe Rooms best practices recommendations due to the Governor and General Assembly

2010

Demolitions completed

Housing buyouts begin to go through for some property owners

January 2010

- Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report due on Jan. 10

April 2010

- Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report due on April 10
- Comprehensive Infrastructure Study completed

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

July 2010

- Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report due on July 10
- Final RIO Economic Recovery Strategy Report due to EDA

September 2010

- RIO EDA Economic Recovery Strategy Grant period ends

October 2010

- Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report due on Oct. 10

November 2010

- Task Force provide recommendations for a statewide planning structure

2011

January 2011

- Rebuild Iowa Office Disaster Recovery Transition Plan due to the Governor and General Assembly

June 2011

- Rebuild Iowa Office closes

Beyond the Life of the Office

2022

Iowa communities to have adopted comprehensive plans

Distribution of Recovery Funding

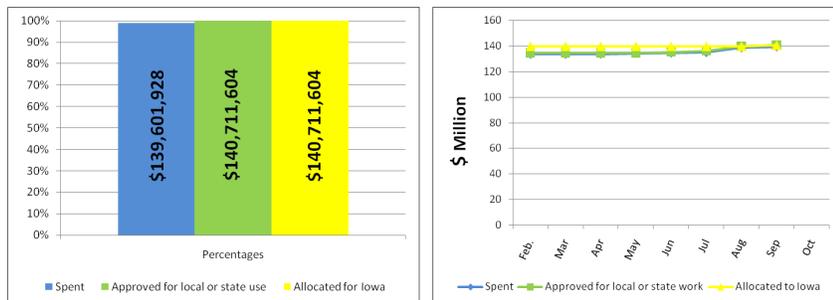
In any disaster, funding sources for recovery and rebuilding are numerous and complex. One goal of the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is to track and report on the flow of recovery funds and work to ensure that those funds reach Iowans in need as quickly as possible. The RIO works with federal, state and 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. Below are some examples of the multiple funding charts the RIO puts together on a monthly basis.

FEMA Housing and Other Needs Assistance Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$140,711,604

Approved for Local or State Use: \$140,711,604 | Spent: \$139,601,928

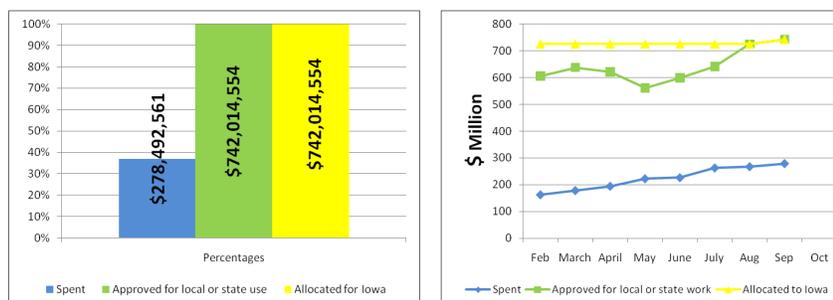


FEMA Public Assistance Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$742,014,554

Approved for Local or State Use: \$742,014,554 | Spent: \$278,492,561



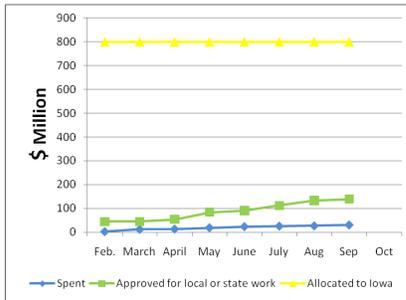
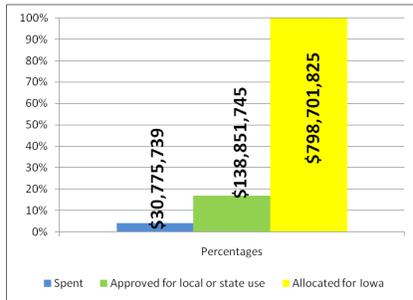
RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$798,701,825

Approved for Local or State Use: \$138,851,745 | Spent: \$30,775,739

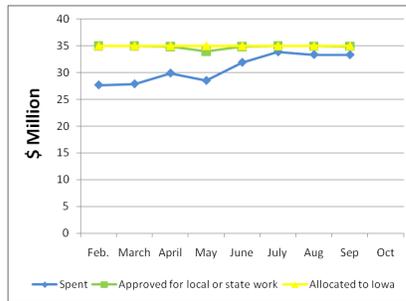
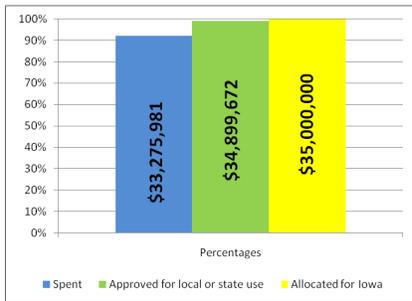


Initial State Jumpstart Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$35,000,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$34,899,672 | Spent: \$33,275,981

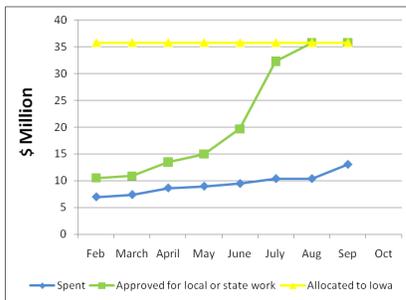
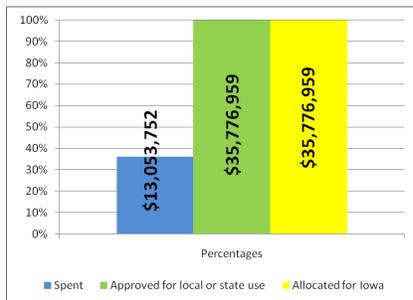


U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$35,776,959

Approved for Local or State Use: \$35,776,959 | Spent: \$13,053,752

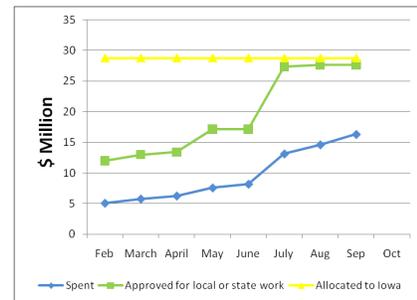


National Emergency Grant Funds

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$28,773,300

Approved for Local or State Use: \$27,682,748 | Spent: \$16,330,725

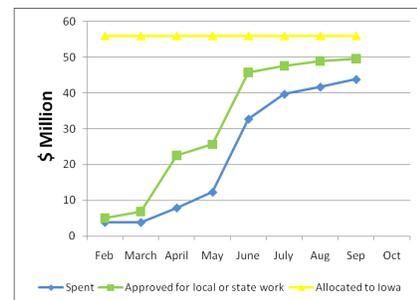
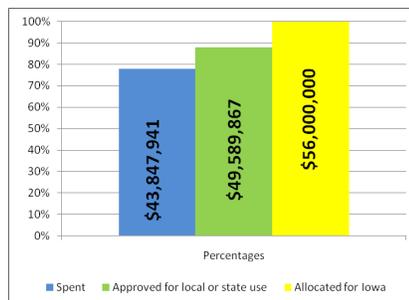


Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$56,000,000

Approved for Local or State Use: \$49,589,867 | Spent: \$43,847,941

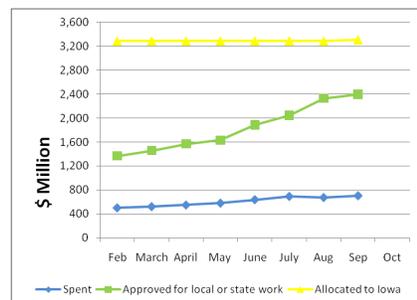
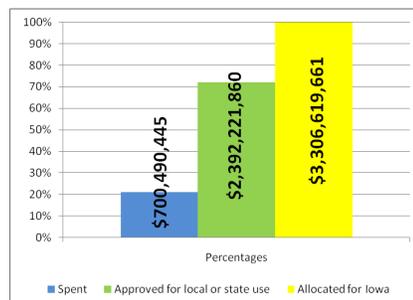


Disaster Revenues and Expenditures Total

Oct 5, 2009

Allocated to Iowa: \$3,306,619,661

Approved for Local or State Use: \$2,392,221,860 | Spent: \$700,490,445



RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

Funding Source	Allocation to Iowa	Approved for Local or State Use	Spent
FEMA Housing & Other Needs Assistance	\$140,711,604	\$140,711,604	\$139,601,928
FEMA Infrastructure Funds (Hazard Mitigation & Property Acquisition)	\$316,000,000	\$95,525,192	—
FEMA Public Assistance	\$742,014,554	\$742,014,554	\$278,492,561
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan	\$268,327,000	\$268,327,000	\$127,906,100
Community Development Block Grant	\$798,701,825	\$138,851,745	\$30,775,739
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$127,500,000	\$127,500,000	—
Initial State Funding for Jumpstart Housing & Business Programs	\$35,000,000	\$34,899,672	\$33,275,981
State Executive Council Action	\$24,011,175	\$23,761,175	\$1,644,343
Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits	\$418,559,200	\$397,523,250	—
U.S. Department of Transportation	\$35,776,959	\$35,776,959	\$13,053,752
National Emergency Grant for Labor/Jobs Assistance	\$28,773,300	\$27,682,748	\$16,330,725
Social Services Block Grant	\$11,157,944	\$11,157,944	\$1,320,430
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951
Economic Development Administration	\$19,566,836	\$19,566,836	\$1,683,046
Crisis Counseling Grant	\$4,369,495	\$2,665,429	\$2,228,170
State College Scholarship & Grant Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64)	\$56,000,000	\$49,589,867	\$43,847,941
National Endowment for Arts Emergency Support	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
CEBA Disaster Recovery	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000	\$2,000,000
Administration on Aging	\$57,818	\$57,818	\$50,761
Regents Bonding	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000	—
I-JOBS Bonding	\$170,000,000	\$165,518,116	\$997,017
Total	\$3,306,619,661	\$2,392,211,860	\$700,490,445

Funding as of Oct. 5, 2009.

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

Disaster Recovery Programs

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 Iowa Department of Human Services and local Long-Term Recovery Committees.

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program reimburses eligible households 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 - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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 up to \$28,800 to renters and homeowners with eligible, disaster-related damages.

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.

Project Recovery Iowa Crisis Counseling - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Administered by the Iowa 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.

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

Ticket to Hope Crisis Counseling

Administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Iowans affected by the natural disasters of 2008 have access to Ticket to Hope, a mental health program that will pay for up to 8 counseling sessions with a participating provider.

For more information, 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 offers 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.

For more information, contact your local FSA office.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Administered by local Farm Service Agency committees.

USDA's Farm Service Agency's 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, 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.

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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:

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 - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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 - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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.

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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 Division.

The Public Assistance program is available to state and local governments and to certain non-profit 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 Division.

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 Division.

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.

Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA) has now posted the Historic Architectural Resources surveys produced by Iowa Homeland Security. These reports are required for any federally-funded program activity and outline resources that are considered historic. These historic resources are eligible to access several financial incentive programs at the state, county and federal levels.

For more information, contact the IHPA at info@iowapreservation.org.

RIO Quarterly Report: October 2009

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.

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) funds. 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.

The Rebuild Iowa Office's CDBG funds are earmarked for administrative and case management purposes. Both funding sources can not be used to directly assist Iowans impacted by the 2008 disasters and provide a certain amount of support for the office through Sept. 30, 2010.

The Rebuild Iowa Office is also funded in Fiscal Year 2010 through State appropriated funds of \$178,449. This amount does reflect the Oct. 8, 2009 10% across-the-board reduction in appropriated funds.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the RIO was appropriated state disaster assistance funds of:

- \$1 million to Long-Term Recovery Committees in accordance with HF64
- \$1.15 million to tornado-damaged communities in accordance with SF478

RIO All Funds	FY 2009 Budget	Total FY 2009 Expenditures	FY 2010 Budget	Total Expenditures 07/01/09 - 09/30/09
Personnel	\$776,959	\$732,916	\$1,497,985	\$182,893
Travel	\$101,000	\$62,033	\$82,865	\$5,600
Supplies	\$55,188	\$43,751	\$21,400	\$452
Contractual	\$1,378,267	\$1,120,639	\$1,524,460	\$144,626
Equipment	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$28,000	\$0
Other	\$316,497	\$255,149	\$166,078	\$17,735
Disaster Assistance	\$2,150,000	\$2,150,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$4,783,911	\$4,371,088	\$3,320,788	\$351,306

Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing

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

***8 of 12 RIO FTE State of Iowa positions have been filled. Hiring process for 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
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID — \$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
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID — \$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 4/30/2010
- ESTIMATED CONTRACT TOTAL — \$297,000
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as of 9/30/2009) — \$102,840

Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop Report Executive Summary

The State of Iowa encountered disastrous weather events throughout spring and summer 2008. These incidents have since been recognized as the worst natural disasters in Iowa's history. In response to these incidents, Iowa Governor Chet Culver established the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) through Executive Order 7 on June 27, 2008. RIO was established to coordinate statewide recovery efforts. In addition to RIO, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) of the Iowa Department of Defense serves to coordinate activities before, during, and after emergencies through partnerships with Federal, State, local, and private entities.

The Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Integration Center in partnership with the State of Iowa and the RIO. The following objectives were developed for the workshop:

- 1) Document Iowa's recovery efforts and analyze efforts that have been successful as well as those that need improvement.
- 2) Develop recommendations to address current recovery efforts and improve future planning efforts.
- 3) Analyze Iowa's recovery process to identify best practices and areas for improvement to aid future Federal, State, and local disaster recovery efforts, programs, and policies.

The purpose of the workshop was to conduct a midcourse analysis of actions and processes in Iowa's disaster recovery that work best, could be improved, should be continued, and can be shared with other jurisdictions throughout the Nation. The workshop also identified potential changes needed in national disaster recovery policy.

To conduct a midcourse analysis, FEMA and the RIO used three methods to solicit responses from affected communities: the Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop, an online survey, and interviews. This report will analyze the State's recovery efforts using information gleaned from these three sources, quarterly reports published by the State, and press releases released by the State and FEMA regarding the storms and recovery efforts. The purpose of this report is to:

- Identify strengths to be maintained and reinforced
- Identify potential areas for further improvement
- Identify best practices that can serve as models for future disaster recovery efforts

The Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop resulted in many useful findings, including strengths, areas for improvement, and best practices.

Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop Report Strengths

Strength 1: Individual and family assistance was available quickly.

Lesson Learned: A framework for recovery, already in place due to the previous tornado responses, enhanced coordination among Federal, State, and local partners in response to the flooding. Sheltering and mass care also worked well because they were pre-activated for the tornadoes. FEMA deployed approximately 300 to 500 community relations professionals within the first few weeks. At its peak, the staffing rose to more than 1,500 FEMA personnel. FEMA opened a Disaster Field Office in Des Moines and two Area Field Offices, one in Cedar Falls and another in Cedar Rapids. Overall, 72 Disaster Recovery Centers were opened in the State.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 2: An effective communication system with the general public was established early.

Lesson Learned: The State and localities reached out to communities, citizens, and businesses through the use of town hall meetings, Web sites, and other venues of information sharing. For example, Cedar Rapids established *corridorrecovery.org*, an information-sharing tool, and used it as a portal for flood victims to share, report, and receive information. The RIO, HSEMD, and Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS) have robust Web pages with useful updates and instructions for Iowans to get assistance. FEMA established a hotline and opened the *FEMA.gov* Web site so that Iowans affected by the floods and tornadoes could register for assistance.

Normally open for registration for 60 days, the registration period was extended to 154 days in Iowa for these events. Nearly 40,000 Iowans registered for disaster assistance.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 3: The State offered numerous supplemental housing and business assistance programs.

Lesson Learned: The State enacted a number of assistance programs to help both individuals and businesses begin the process of rebuilding simultaneously with Federal aid. The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program provided funds up to \$2,500 to individuals through the Long-Term Recovery Committees. The Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program for individuals provided valuable funding for programs, such as Homebuyer Assistance, Housing Repair, Emergency Repair, and Interim Mortgage Assistance. Rental Rehabilitation Assistance provided assistance to landlords through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds administered by the Council of Governments and the Entitlement Cities. The Small Business Administration (SBA) provided low-interest loans to both businesses (small, large, non-profit, and charitable organizations) and homeowners affected by the disasters. The Jumpstart Business Assistance Program provided funds in the

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form of forgivable loans.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 4: Project Recovery Iowa was activated quickly.

Lesson Learned: Several programs, such as Project Recovery Iowa, have been established to provide mental health assistance via the IDHS. FEMA funds the program while the IDHS administers it. The IDHS engages local or regional counseling agencies to provide assistance in 29 of the hardest-hit counties, but no Iowans who need help were to be turned away. While this was cited as a positive contribution, it was also highlighted as an area for improvement due to unavailability of funding. Iowa does not have a formal funding source for mental health response.

Recommendation: Research sources for formal funding.

Strength 5: FEMA and the State collaborated well to provide emergency housing.

Lesson Learned: The Individual and Households Program (IHP) provided grants for emergency housing and essential needs not met by other assistance programs. One of the first recovery priorities was to move Iowans from disaster-damaged primary residences to alternate living arrangements. Under the Housing Assistance portion of IHP, just under 25,000 households were given more than \$120 million in repair and/or rental grants to homeowners and renters by FEMA. Iowa and FEMA created a Housing Recovery Task Force to assess the availability of housing and provided temporary housing units for over 550 families.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 6: Unmet needs were addressed through both Federal and State programs.

Lesson Learned: The Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program, administered by the State, assists those with essential and necessary expenses not met by other programs. FEMA provides 75 percent and the State provides 25 percent of the funding for this program. The SBA provided assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses, and private and non-profit organizations to repair or replace disaster-damaged private property not covered by insurance or other recoveries.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 7: FEMA increased the Federal funding percentage for the Public Assistance Program.

Lesson Learned: For these incidents, FEMA and the State of Iowa partnered in the Public Assistance Program. Normally funded by FEMA at 75 percent, that amount

was increased for these incidents to 90 percent and is being administered by the HSEMD.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 8: The State IMTs were deployed rapidly and provided valuable assistance to Iowa communities.

Lesson Learned: At the workshop, IMTs were praised for their recovery work. This was reiterated by the interviewees, although one respondent thought that they hindered getting help from outside the State.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 9: RIAC provided the necessary structure to be able to listen to people's needs and respond appropriately.

Lesson Learned: RIAC gave a much-needed focus to hearing citizens' needs following the disasters. Traveling to the affected areas and gathering feedback from local citizens provided invaluable insights into the challenges facing the communities and their immediate and long-term needs. The Speak Up Iowa Web site, a major contributor to this success, allowed affected citizens to comment on the disaster recovery process and also prompted creation of the Rebuild Iowa Task Force, which resulted from inputs provided through Speak Up Iowa. The Speak Up Iowa Web site was instrumental in providing transparency to Federal and State recovery operations. The focus group noted that, although recovery programs have the potential to be highly politicized, the reports generated by RIAC were accepted because they came from local citizens, not from politicians. A downside to the program was that it took time to stand up the RIAC staff. Initial funding was also problematic. The use of Executive Order 7 was effective and should be used as a model for future disasters. Early identification of funding sources to support the RIAC is paramount.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 10: Partnering with FEMA's long-term recovery planners (ESF-14) within the communities was invaluable to initial assistance efforts and the subsequent planning tool sets developed by RIO were useful in reaching out to communities.

Lesson Learned: RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning Team partnered with FEMA long-term recovery planners to provide initial post-recovery planning for the hardest-hit communities. Iowa was able to leverage these new partnerships to reach out to other communities as well as promote additional programs during the rebuilding process. Recovery planning tools developed as part of a partnership between RIO and FEMA ESF-14—such as the Communications

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Management Tool, Decision-Making Tool, Project and Program Development Guide, and Iowa Resources—were useful at the State level. The tools provided support for gaining the confidence of the community, listening to the community's needs, and helping to organize the community, and helping the community cope with the disaster.

Recommendation: Continue to support these planning recovery tools with additional funding.

Strength 11: Use of the Iowa IMT facilitated a smooth transition from response through recovery.

Lesson Learned: The Iowa IMT was invaluable in assisting Parkersburg, Polk County, and other communities, and saved countless hours for Federal, State, and local agencies.

Recommendation: None.

Strength 12: Grantee program staff members from HSEMD were deployed in the early stages of recovery.

Lesson Learned: This provided the local communities with direct access to the State Grants program staff members who helped local communities with the proper procedures for applying for assistance, which reduced the time it took to actually receive funding.

Recommendation: None.

Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop Report Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement 1: Workshop, survey, and interview participants cited some difficulty with communication among Federal, State, and local entities.

Lesson Learned: Areas for improvement cited by participants involved lack of consistency, clear instruction, a centralized reporting entity, standardization of forms and paperwork, and information sharing. During the initial phases of the recovery, both Federal and State inquiries for information were seen as disruptive to those closest to the populations needing assistance, the local communities. Reorientation of replacement personnel not familiar with the State and specific localities became troublesome; however, as time went on, these disruptions became less frequent and more consistent methodologies were maintained.

Recommendations:

- 1) The State should review the Federal process for personal assistance to see if combining the State requirements with the Federal requirements can help applicants from having to repeatedly provide the same information during the various application processes.
- 2) Develop a consistent, thorough, and standardized procedure that ensures replacement disaster assistance personnel are thoroughly oriented with regard to previous actions taken and actions in progress, and given a comprehensive overview of the community and environment in which they will be working.

Area for Improvement 2: VOAD could have been used more effectively.

Lesson Learned: The local learning curve for incorporating VOAD into response and recovery efforts needs to be decreased. During the initial phase of the recovery, many local communities were not aware of all the capabilities and assets that VOAD could bring to a disaster and therefore did not initially take full advantage of the resources.

Recommendation: Conduct additional planning and education on VOAD and its capabilities at the local level.

Area for Improvement 3: A mandatory funding mechanism for emergency management at the county level is needed.

Lesson Learned: Having resources available to staff a county emergency manager would have a positive effect in both response and recovery.

Recommendation: Request a funding mechanism for local emergency management either through new legislation or the governor's authority.

Area for Improvement 4: The lack of resources dedicated to disaster assessments resulted in delays in developing a full picture of what was needed for the recovery.

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Lesson Learned: In the recent Iowa flooding, general assessments were conducted quickly, but complete disaster assessments required a longer effort. FEMA's disaster assessment programmatic approach requires improvement to ensure programs are effectively initiated county by county and applicant by applicant with appropriate coordination with county engineers and cities.

Recommendation: Establish a disaster assessment process with committed resources.

Area for Improvement 5: The requirements for Federal Duplication of Benefits documentation place a recordkeeping burden on under-resourced State agencies and local communities.

Lesson Learned: Lack of a case management system at the Federal level makes it difficult for individual citizens to navigate their way through the system. Forms and required information can differ widely among agencies, and there is no unified way to capture data. This results in redundancies in the application processes and extends the burden of reviewing prior assistance to local governments, which are already understaffed and underfunded. Lack of detailed records results in unnecessary delays and, in some cases, penalties or reduced benefits for individuals in an already stressed community. There is no additional funding to assist local governments in meeting these review requirements.

Recommendation: During the first wave of support in a disaster, FEMA should provide a template, with access to a database, to standardize case management procedures and protocols. Both the procedures and software should be available at the onset of the emergency.

Area for Improvement 6: Early messages from the Federal Government regarding available resources and funding were confusing and made managing expectations difficult.

Lesson Learned: It is vital to set and manage expectations early and often. Program information must be clearly defined when it is released. Issues, such as cost share among individuals and the community, are particularly important, and information about funding and cost share should be clearly and repeatedly stated. At times, personnel who understand the procedures can seem disconnected from persons whose lives have been severely affected by the disasters. It is important for personnel working with affected individuals and communities to be sensitive to program recipients' circumstances.

Recommendations:

- 1) Provide clearly defined program information as early as possible.
- 2) Make additional efforts to train personnel to work with affected parties in a manner sensitive to their circumstances and needs.

Area for Improvement 7: A statewide case management framework is needed.

Lesson Learned: Participants stated that there is a need for a case management office with a permanent funding source within the State government. This would free up State officials to develop State plans for ongoing recovery efforts. Participants discussed the need to develop plans and procedures for transferring cases to replacement case workers as the recovery effort continues. This would also include developing a how-to manual that provides tracking requirement instructions to both individual caseworkers and organizations. Additionally, the case management office could coordinate planning efforts with public organizations, such as the SBA.

Recommendations:

- 1) The State government should establish or identify a permanent office to oversee case management. This office should be provided with a permanent budget for case management activities.
- 2) Develop an instructional manual that establishes a unified method for tracking cases.

Area for Improvement 8: Preparedness strategies require further development.

Lesson Learned: Further developing preparedness strategies to include lessons learned from response and recovery efforts for the 2008 Iowa storms would assist in preparing the State for future disasters. A cadre of experts could be used to evaluate and select future preparedness strategies. The cadre should address issues, such as: developing ongoing community and State level training programs; identifying funding mechanisms to distribute money more efficiently; and reevaluating flood insurance requirements, which are currently based on the 100-year flood plain map.

Recommendations:

- 1) A cadre of experts should be used to evaluate and select future preparedness strategies.
- 2) The RIO and HSEMD should collaborate with local emergency planning committees to further develop long-term planning strategies for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning, utilizing lessons learned from the 2008 storms.

Area for Improvement 9: Housing objectives need to be developed.

Lesson Learned: Participants discussed the need to identify a coordinated set of housing objectives that addresses risk management and assessments for homeowners and incorporates more stringent requirements for flood insurance. A coordinated set of housing objectives that takes into account both residential and business recovery is essential. Residential recovery contributes to the availability of the workforce, while returning residents to their privately owned and rental properties

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aids business and economic recovery.

Recommendation: Identify housing objectives that reflect available tools and the best methods for deploying them.

Area for Improvement 10: There is a lack of knowledge about the rules and regulations that govern the availability of Federal and State disaster programs.

Lesson Learned: Participants expressed that more time is spent on coordination than on program delivery. They suggested that education about these programs should occur in a continuum rather than peaking in the middle of a disaster.

Recommendation: State recovery agencies, in conjunction with their Federal partners, should hold an annual meeting to discuss Federal and State rules and regulations concerning the transition between emergency response and recovery efforts.

Area for Improvement 11: Debris management and landfill capacity issues resulting from disaster debris and lack of reimbursement for landfill use remain unresolved.

Lesson Learned: Although FEMA covers tipping fees for labor and equipment costs, it does not reimburse lost capacity at landfills, which, in turn, negatively affects new cell development. It was also noted that most disasters that create debris issues are not federally declared. There is no doubt that a large disaster will produce a surge in waste to landfills; however, doing a better job salvaging or incorporating other practices to reduce this waste stream would also reduce the effects on landfill capacity.

Recommendations:

- 1) Either FEMA should reimburse for the lost capacity at landfills or States should seek legislative relief for State funding.
- 2) Conduct planning to determine ways to reduce the waste stream.

Area for Improvement 12: There is overreliance on contractors during catastrophic disasters.

Lesson Learned: Federal, State, and local governments do not have enough trained personnel to complete all necessary response and recovery activities. Contractors are used to fill in these capability gaps; however, there appears to be an overreliance on contractors during disasters. During catastrophic disasters, if there is an overreliance on contractors, then there is the possibility of contractors being spread too thin as well as cost concerns.

Recommendation: Explore funding sources for the emergency management community at the State and local levels.

Area for Improvement 13: There is a lack of program and contracting flexibility during the recovery process.

Lesson Learned: There is uncertainty surrounding the legal authority to enact emergency procedures. Speeding up the bidding process, giving more authority to local authorities, and allowing the use of funds that have already been approved would reduce the time lag between applying for aid and actually receiving funds.

Recommendation: Explore enacting legislation for emergency relaxation of contracting and environmental program requirements.

Area for Improvement 14: Many communities are unaware of financial incentive programs available to eligible historic properties.

Lesson Learned: There are financial opportunities for rehabilitation during the recovery phase of a disaster. The Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credits Program provides an incentive of 51 percent of the rehabilitation cost of disaster recovery to owners of historic properties, like homes and commercial buildings. These funds could contribute to individual and business recovery. Historic resources documentation by communities before a disaster will smooth the required cultural resources review before the release of funding.

Recommendation: The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, in coordination with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, should assemble a team with funding assistance from the State and/or Federal governments to inform communities after a disaster of funding opportunities for rehabilitation of historic properties.

Area for Improvement 15: There is a lack of coordination among the various levels of government regarding risk management tools.

Lesson Learned: Communication and consistency between regulatory actions are important to the rebuilding process. Clear and consistent programs for rebuilding need to be developed early on and communicated to emergency managers and first responders. Participants reported that there is often a lack of coordination between emergency managers and first responders and longer-term community planning committees. For example, in some cases, first responders approved applications to rebuild houses in flood zones. Also, there is a lack of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different offices (e.g., Board of Adjustments, Planning and Zoning, Board of Supervisors, Department of Natural Resources [DNR], local flood plain managers) involved in the coordination and approval process.

Recommendations:

- 1) The State should take the lead in establishing guidelines for the rebuilding process and communicate new procedures to all responders.

- 2) Place more emphasis on a statewide hazard mitigation plan including mapping/geographic information system (GIS) services in the Iowa Flood Office, including a comprehensive watershed planning program.

Area for Improvement 16: Improvements are required in funding and hiring practices for necessary staff to administer programs at the State and local levels when a disaster occurs.

Lesson Learned: Often, programs are funded to assist individuals and communities following a disaster, but little attention is paid to the requirements to administer the program. Even if funds are available, getting authorization to hire rapidly can be difficult. Additionally, the specialized skill sets that may be required are long term (requiring several years of experience), whereas disaster funding is often short term. Incentives may be required to hire the right people for shorter-term government work. An overreliance on contract workers is also an issue, with problems such as higher costs, scope of work, and a knowledge void after the contractors leave. Councils of government are over-tasked, and there must be an education process explaining why the hires are necessary and why the Federal Government needs to assist in this area. Iowa does not have a general disaster recovery account that can be easily accessed, so when a disaster occurs the legislature must act, often creating delays. This is a complex issue that requires working within the State government with disaster assistance services to develop a disaster staffing plan (e.g., disaster hires, union negotiations).

Recommendations:

- 1) The State should explore establishing a disaster recovery account that can be easily accessed. Additional flexibility should be allowed for use of dollars for hiring (i.e., management and administration funds).
- 2) Explore the possibility of incentives and increased training opportunities to retain new hires for the long term.

Area for Improvement 17: Communication plans must account for a wide range of people and agencies.

Lesson Learned: State agencies must continue to support multiple communication programs and channels to the State legislature, members of Congress, local elected officials, State and local employees, and the public. Liaisons between agencies have been effective, but they need to communicate with each other about the different programs that are available. RIO has been successful in its efforts to provide weekly updates on all programs and regularly posts information and reports on its Web site. This effort helps maintain transparency of the recovery effort while communicating the complexity and scope of the tasks ahead.

Recommendations:

- 1) Continue practices that have been identified as successful.
- 2) Consider using the Area Field Office (if stood up) as a mechanism for increased communication among response agencies.

Area for Improvement 18: Iowa must continue to incorporate sustainability concepts into new programs and regulations.

Lesson Learned: Flood plain issues are very complex and require a careful balance among often competing economic, environmental, and safety interests. Often, there has been a primary focus on returning individual homeowners to their homes versus long-term planning and sustainability. In considering a revised statewide hazard mitigation program, speed versus sound policy and plan development need to be addressed. New or updated plans should clarify roles and responsibilities of different offices (e.g., Board of Adjustments, Planning and Zoning, Board of Supervisors, DNR, local flood plain managers.)

Recommendation: Reestablish a long-term permanent office for program policy and development.

Area for Improvement 19: Following a major disaster, there are some Federal programs that could be helpful that are not designed to support disaster recovery, thus making the process of acquiring or utilizing the funds cumbersome.

Lesson Learned: Some Federal Agencies—such as the SBA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)— have programs and resources that can support recovery from a major disaster, but are either not adequate to address the needs of post-disaster recovery or do not have the flexibility to respond quickly or effectively in disasters. In addition, CDBG funding is too inflexible to properly support disaster relief. The online survey cited case management, complexity, and unclear program information with regard to application processes, timeliness of receiving benefits, duplication of benefits, and communication as shortfalls within the current programs.

Recommendation: CDBGs should be redesigned for more flexibility to support disaster relief. Other Federal Agencies should consider programs focused on immediate disaster support. New or additional funding sources should be considered in the reauthorization of the Stafford Act.

Area for Improvement 20: State organizations need to better manage the general population's expectations of assistance.

Lesson Learned: There is a need to manage expectations to reduce the need for immediate reactions to public pressure for programs and assistance. Maintaining the

notion that government exists to make people whole again will only lead to disappointment on the part of the populace and inefficient activities within the overall response and recovery effort.

Recommendation: Reactionary programs, where success is measured based on dollars spent and speed of distribution, should be minimized.

Area for Improvement 21: Continual funding of development in areas within the flood plain should be avoided.

Lesson Learned: The 100-year flood plain map may not be sufficient for determining current flood risk. States could commit to Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping or other technologies to assist in this determination.

Recommendation: Address zoning issues within flood plains

Area for Improvement 22: A duplication of benefits form is needed.

Lesson Learned: Duplication of benefits was identified as needing standardized forms and more clear and uniform definitions for eligibilities to avoid denial of needed benefits. The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) has a process established that can be used when addressing this issue.

Recommendation: Develop a benefits-tracking template that can be used by State agencies to assess recipients for duplication of benefits.

Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop Report Best Practices

The following best practices have been identified as potentially valuable for future disasters.

Best Practice 1: Information sharing and integration of efforts among Federal, State, and local organizations has been successful and has provided accurate and timely information to the populace.

Lesson Learned: Information sharing and integrating the efforts of multiple organizations have been successful for the Iowa 2008 storms response and recovery efforts. The State of Iowa implemented the following to facilitate these efforts:

- Establishment of a service point and application database
- Co-location of local resources with the SBA Business Recovery Center to assist business flood victims with disaster assistance forms
- Use of *corridorrecovery.org* as an information-sharing portal for flood victims
- Coordination interface and preexisting agreements among entities, such as the U.S. Department of Transportation, FEMA, HSEMD, Iowa Department of Transportation, and local authorities
- Commitments to take appropriate decision making to the local level

Best Practice 2: The executive and legislative branches of the State government cooperated effectively throughout the response and recovery.

Lesson Learned: Cooperation among executive and legislative branches of the State government enabled successful use of State funding sources. For example, officials implemented State Jumpstart funding before Federal Jumpstart funding. The State branches of government also addressed gaps in funding by demonstrating a willingness to authorize future funding sources (via second and third authorizations). Organization of RIAC was also successful.

Best Practice 3: Creation of RIO and use of RIAC has been very effective.

Lesson Learned: RIO and RIAC have been instrumental in helping State and local officials recover from the 2008 storms. This consolidated, focused response organization structure, authorized and supported by the highest levels of State government, is a model with significant benefits for future disaster response. RIO was established through Executive Order 7 on June 27, 2008. On February 2, 2009, RIO was officially created through House File 64 Iowa legislation, which authorizes the office to coordinate disaster recovery until June 30, 2011. RIO and RIAC facilitate response and recovery by:

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- Identifying unmet needs and gaps in funding
- Providing a transparent process for the recovery effort
- Involving citizens and local communities
- Facilitating rapid analysis of data
- Serving as a clearinghouse of information
- Using innovative technology to distribute information (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, press releases, weekly reports)
- Providing short- and long-term recommendations to policymakers that enabled:
 1. A comprehensive and robust legislative agenda and an ability promote that agenda
 2. Multiple entities to speak with one voice and create a consensus to policymakers
- Providing continuity from immediate recovery to long-term recovery
- Allowing for synchronization and coordination of programs at the Federal, State, and local levels

RIO and RIAC continue to identify and secure additional resources and allow for broader policy development, such as infrastructure planning. The structure provides the focus, coordination, and management essential to improved response and recovery. Similar models should be considered for future major disasters.

Best Practice 4: Implement an individual case management system that tracks people seamlessly.

Lesson Learned: Ideally, the improved case management system would provide a centralized location for disaster relief that focuses on an individual's needs rather than on those of government. Case managers (consisting of volunteers, church groups, and/or government employees) would be assigned directly to individuals, and the system must be accessible to individuals by being located in affected communities. Effective execution would help identify needs and gaps for long-term recovery. The system could be run out of the Long-Term Recovery Coalition.

Best Practice 5: Jumpstart programs for business and housing were effective.

Lesson Learned: The RIO, IDED, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and FEMA partnered to work with businesses and individuals to address immediate and long-term concerns early in the process. Programs, such as the Smart Growth effort, were successful in identifying sources of gap funding until other funding

sources could be made available. Eligibility for assistance includes individuals and businesses that would not otherwise qualify for Federal funds. However, despite these programs, the focus group noted that many small businesses were continuing to go out of business, sometimes on a daily basis.

Best Practice 6: The workforce development emergency public jobs program provided assistance on multiple fronts.

Lesson Learned: Iowa implemented a workforce development program that provided relief at disaster sites while simultaneously providing employment to long-term unemployed and dislocated workers and helping convicts back into the workforce. Although the program requires additional development, it was an interagency effort and involved the Iowa Department of Corrections and human resources.

Best Practice 7: Implementation of Section 106d of the National Historic Preservation Act was effective.

Lesson Learned: Implementation of Section 106d of the National Historic Preservation Act resulted in projects being funded faster than normal. Issues and programmatic areas were discussed at local recovery meetings, which provided agencies dealing with the recovery access and reduced duplication of efforts.

