



SECURE & PREPARED

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Homeland Security Grant Program 2009

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released its grant guidelines for the 2009 program and eligible applicants have until Feb. 11, 2009, to submit their initial investment justifications to Iowa HSEMD.

The FY2009 HSGP contains significant improvements based upon continued outreach to HSGP stakeholders and partners. In addition, the risk assessments that form the basis for eligibility under HSGP have been maintained and refined.

Priorities for this year continue to further narrow the focus through the risk-based funding and the capability-based planning process that DHS began four years ago.

HSEMD will announce the final investment justification selections on Feb. 21,

2009. Applicants whose investment justifications are selected will have until 4 p.m. on March 17, 2009, to make changes and submit their final investments to Lynda Wessel at HSEMD.



For additional questions, please contact HSEMD Grant Manager **Lynda Wessel** at **515.725.3259** or **lynda.wessel@iowa.gov**. Program guidance and application kit can be found by clicking the "FFY2009 Homeland Security Grant" link on the right side of **www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org**. Other HSGP documents can be found at **www.fema.gov/government/grant/hsgp/index.shtm**. Ω

Important Information

2008 Flood Resource Center
www.flood2008.iowa.gov

Holiday Closing

HSEMD offices will be closed **Monday, Jan. 19**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

Nearly \$918 Million Obligated for Disaster Assistance in Iowa

Iowa residents and governments have received nearly \$918 million in Individual Assistance, Small Business Administration loans and Public Assistance.

As of Jan. 7, \$917.9 million in disaster assistance had been approved for homeowners, renters, businesses, and government and certain non-profit entities in the following categories:

Housing Assistance, \$119.3 Million

For rental assistance grants to homeowners and renters who cannot or should not live in their disaster-damaged homes and grants to homeowners to make an owner-occupied structure livable.

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New Year's Resolutions

David L. Miller, HSEMD Administrator

I'd like to share three of my resolutions for the year that deal with my work. They are Forgive More, Listen More and Focus on Solutions. Let me take a minute to explain how they all can work together and let's start with Forgive More.

It is unfortunate but often true that when you work with someone -- especially those you work most closely -- you can begin to harbor negative feelings based on past experiences and actions. It is human nature to remember a past wrong, even if your memory about the event may not be quite accurate, and to let those feelings cloud your judgement about the current situation. The best way to overcome those feelings is with a present that costs you nothing and offers an immeasurable return. It is simply to forgive,

to let bygones be bygones and focus on the present. By taking the time to forgive, you can release those negative thoughts and free yourself to many more positive possibilities.

Forgiving is a natural first step towards the next resolution, Listen More. It is almost impossible to listen when you are reacting defensively and are more concerned about what you are going to say next, rather than truly listening to

what is being said. Whenever the debate flag goes up and scoring points becomes the key to the discussion, you might as well fold up the table and call it a day because neither side will win in the end. When you forgive, you open up your heart and mind and you can listen.

Stephen Covey is a well-known author of the book "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." One of his principles is Seek to Understand Before You are Understood. The key to carrying out that principle rests with the skill and ability to develop the habit of

"It is almost impossible to listen when you are reacting defensively and are more concerned about what you are going to say next"

listening. Now I know I've been accused of being a bit verbose and you can ask me the time and I'll tell you how the watch is made. While that is true, it is all the more reason for me to embrace this resolution and shows it is an area for improvement.

Forgiving and Listening set up the final resolutions -- Focusing on Solutions. Our time and our energy are valuable and by look-



ing at the positive, which is an offshoot of forgiving, and listening, we can develop workable collective solutions. It is only by focusing on solutions that we can brain storm new ideas and come to agreement on compromises that present the best solution for the problem we face. Next time you find yourself in a meeting or conversation that turns negative and starts to focus on past events, just say, "Let's look at solutions," and those magic words can often turn the discussion around.

Thank you all for being valuable partners in this business we call Emergency Management. Your work and efforts make a difference and I thank you for both. We know that 2009 will bring new challenges and we can best face those challenges together. Ω

Free Training Available!

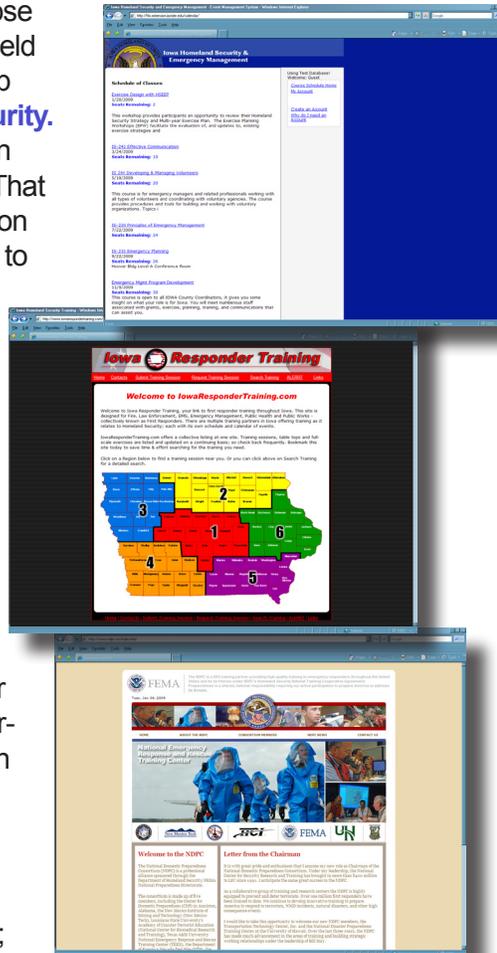
Many classes are available to those in the emergency management field at **no cost!** Visit the HSEMD Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click the "Training" link on the right side of the home page. That page will give you more information about signing up as well as a link to HSEMD's Events Management System, where you can register for the course of your choice. The 2009 schedule of classes is now online, so register today!

Iowa Responder Training

Additionally, you can find **free**, region-specific courses at www.iowarespondertraining.com. This site is designed for fire, law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, public health and public works officials – collectively known as first responders. There are multiple training partners in Iowa offering training as it relates to homeland security; each with its own schedule and calendar of events.

This Web site offers a collective listing at one site. Training sessions, table tops and full-scale exercises are listed and updated on a continuing basis; so check back frequently. Bookmark this site today to save time and effort searching for the training you need!

At press time, nearly 60 courses in Region 1, three courses in Region 2, three courses in Region 3, four courses in Region 4, three courses in Region 5 and 30 courses in Region 6 are listed on the Iowa Responder Training Web site.



National Domestic Preparedness Consortium

You don't have to be limited to those courses offered in Iowa. The federal government also offers coursework free of charge to emergency management professionals through the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. Visit the Web site at www.ndpc.us for more information or contact **David Hempen** at 515.725.3281 or david.hempen@iowa.gov. Ω

Disaster Assistance

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Other Needs Assistance, \$15.9 Million

For grants to those affected with eligible disaster-related funeral, dental and medical expenses.

Small Business Administration Loans, \$255.9 Million

For loans to renters, homeowners and businesses of all sizes.

Public Assistance, \$520.3 Million

For reimbursement for government-related, eligible expenses in the area of emergency response measures, debris removal and repair or restoration of disaster-damaged public infrastructure. Certain non-profit organizations providing essential services may also be eligible for reimbursement under this program.

In addition, \$6.5 million has been obligated for unemployment assistance. Ω

Search the HSEMD Web Site!

Is there something you'd like to find on the Iowa HSEMD Web site? Just search for it! In the upper right corner of every page of www.iowahomelandsecurity.org you will find a search box. Just type in what you're looking for and then hit the "enter" button. Ω



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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa. For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HSEMD Personnel Notes

Readiness & Response Bureau

Blake DeRouchey joined the Readiness & Response Bureau as a program planner on Dec. 1, 2008. Blake will be handling the Citizen Corps program, the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council and will also coordinate Web EOC training for the division.

Blake previously worked at the Joint Operations Center of the Iowa National Guard. He returned from serving in Iraq in November.

When he's not hard at work, Blake enjoys working out, playing and watching sports and hanging out with friends. He lives in Ankeny with his wife Katie and their black lab Scout.



Blake DeRouchey

Prior to his most recent move to HSEMD, Jake worked as a business systems analyst at ADP.

Jake said he's excited to be working for the division again. In his current position, Jake will act as a liaison under the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program to one of the four Iowa area nuclear power plants. He will also serve as an HSEMD duty officer.

Jake enjoys spending time with family and friends and working on home improvement projects in his spare time. He lives in Waukee with his wife Nicole and their dog Mickey.

Jerry Ostendorf retired from HSEMD on Dec. 22, 2008, after 35 years with state government. Jerry's state career spanned work as a dispatcher with the Department of Public Safety and 21 years with emergency management where he started in February 1987 when the Division had a staff of 26. Ω



Jacob Nicholson

Jacob Nicholson began working in the Readiness & Response Bureau on Dec. 12, 2008. He previously worked for HSEMD in 2004-2005.