



**Business Recovery Status Report #1  
Presidential Disaster #1763  
July 11, 2008**

[www.flood2008.iowa.gov](http://www.flood2008.iowa.gov)

**Business Recovery Update**

**Back to Business Workshop**

- Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce hosted a Back to Business Workshop on June 26, 2008 with over 100 participants.
- DavenportOne hosted a Back to Business Workshop on June 26, 2008 with over 48 participants.

**Business Recovery Resources** – A number of links to business recovery resources will be posted to the Flood 2008 website ([www.flood2008.iowa.gov](http://www.flood2008.iowa.gov)) under a tab for businesses. To add a link, send the information to [sip@safeguardiowa.org](mailto:sip@safeguardiowa.org).

**Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce**

- **Events**
  - Back to Business: Health Recovery – Stress Management – July 15, 2008 8:30-10:00 AM. To register call 319-398-5317 or [jstow@cedarrapids.org](mailto:jstow@cedarrapids.org).
  - Iowa Business Recovery Summit – July 18, 2008 at Mount Mercy College. To register call 319-743-0642 or e-mail [marisahansen@actioncoach.com](mailto:marisahansen@actioncoach.com).
  - Back to Business: Office Recovery – The Virtual Office July 22, 2008 11:30AM – 1:00 PM. To register call 319-730-1409 or [jstow@cedarrapids.org](mailto:jstow@cedarrapids.org).
  - Back to Business: Data Recovery – Protecting Business Critical Data July 29, 2008 9:00-10:30 AM. To register call 319-730-1409 or [jstow@cedarrapids.org](mailto:jstow@cedarrapids.org).
  - Linn County Public Health Information Session – August 5, 2008 9:00-10:30 AM. [Click here](#) to register.
- **Job & Small Business Recovery Fund** –
  - Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation and several community partners announced the formation of the Job & Small Business Recovery Fund to provide financial assistance to for-profit businesses and commercial property owners in Cedar Rapids that sustained uninsured physical damage as a result of the flood. Qualifying businesses can receive a base grant of up to \$15,000. Fifty percent of the base money award will be in the form of a grant and fifty percent will be in the form of a no interest, three-year forgivable loan. Additionally, a grant of up to \$5,000 may be awarded to businesses that choose to reinvest in commercial zones affected by the flood in Cedar Rapids; and an additional grant of up to \$5,000 can be awarded to those who are both business and property owners and have sustained uninsured physical damage to each.
- **“Adopt a Business” Program**
  - Designed to give businesses a partner in their recovery efforts. Individuals or groups of businesses not directly affected by the flood can choose to adopt a business that has experience flood damage. The purpose is to provide any or all of the following types of assistance: advice on business planning, financial, human resources, benefits, insurance, facilities, relocation, reconstruction, safety issues, legal, technology, other, funds, space,

sweat equity with employee volunteers, or moral support. If you are interested in the program contact Kelly Slaughter at [kslaughter@cedar Rapids.org](mailto:kslaughter@cedar Rapids.org) or call 319-730-1417.

## **FEMA**

- Community Relations Specialists are going door-to-door in affected communities where they have visited **8,598 businesses**, visited 56,490 residences and spoken with 31,724 residents, visited with 759 county and local agencies and officials and visited 2,028 faith-based and community organizations.

## **Iowa Credit Union League**

- Providing relevant disaster information with the Credit Unions. They have had an increase in regulatory calls.
- Working with clients that have been impacted in offering solutions to help them deal with the personal impacts from these disasters.

## **Iowa Farm Bureau Federation**

- Launched website for agricultural issues related to the [www.iowafarmbureau.com/flood2008/index.aspx](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/flood2008/index.aspx).
- Participated in a conference at Iowa State University on July 7, 2008 on the risk and new dimension of agriculture. They added a special panel to discuss the resources available in struggling times.

## **Iowa Governor's Office**

- Rebuild Iowa Commission/Office - Governor Culver announced the Rebuild Iowa Commission and Office. The Commission will be chaired by General Ron Dardis and the Office will be led by Lt. Governor Judge. Lt. Governor Judge will work with General Dardis, the Rebuild Iowa Commission and Iowans to help those affected by the recent natural disasters. The Executive Order specifically calls for the creation of task forces to help guide the commission's work. Nine task forces have been created: 1) housing; 2) flood plain management and hazard mitigation; 3) infrastructure and transportation; 4) economic and workforce development; 5) cultural heritage and records retention; 6) public health and health care; 7) long-term recovery planning; 8) agriculture and environment; and 9) education.
- Iowans are encouraged to apply for a position on one of the nine task forces. To apply go to [www.flood2008.iowa.gov](http://www.flood2008.iowa.gov) to access a copy of the application.

**Iowa State University Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS)** – Conducted a survey in order to identify areas where relief funding will have the greatest impact on industry. A copy of the survey and results can be found at <http://www.ciras.iastate.edu/EmergencyManagement/news.asp>.

## **Iowa Utility Association**

- Members continue to restore power in the hardest hit areas.
- Special billing arrangements have been put into place for those communities that have been impacted. Each utility company has different arrangements but address suspension of billings, no late fees and no fees for turning the power back on.

## **Iowa Workforce Development**

- The 55 Iowa Workforce Development Centers offer reemployment services, including testing, counseling and placement.
- **National Emergency Grant**
  - Create temporary jobs to aid in the clean-up and restoration efforts. These temporary jobs also include working on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims. The work may be done through public and private agencies and organizations engaged in such projects.
  - The purpose of the temporary jobs is to restore the public infrastructure and services so that regular business and employment activities can be resumed.

- The geographic areas where the worksites are located must be in the geographic area covered by FEMA declaration eligible for public assistance and have been identified by the State for clean-up.
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)**
  - If a worker is unemployed as a direct result of the disaster, or was going to be employed in the disaster area at the time the disaster began, and their principal source of income and livelihood is dependent upon work that was affected by the disaster, then they could receive the unemployment insurance benefit.
  - If an individual was injured as a direct result of the disaster and cannot work, or if they have become the major support of a household due to the death of the head of the household as a direct result of the disaster, then they are also potentially eligible.
  - To apply, individuals should contact their local Workforce Development Center. Additional information is available at [www.iowaworkforce.org/ui/dua](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/ui/dua).

**International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Assessment** – IEDC was contracted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) to assist the Cedar Rapids’ community in their economic recovery from the recent floods. As part of this project, IEDC sent an expert team of economic development and business recovery experts to the community for a two-day visit on July 8-9<sup>th</sup>. The expert team was comprised of John Zakian, Greater New Orleans, Inc.; Mickie Valente, Florida Council of 100; Sue Southon, Strategic Planning Services; and Ed Gilliland, IEDC. The objectives of the project were to address the following areas:

- What is the impact of the floods on the area? What has happened? This can be based on other studies, secondary information, etc.
- Develop recommendations on what the local community can do for itself to recover.
- Identify the needs or gaps that the community is facing as well as who can fill this gaps (corporate citizens, federal government, etc.).
- Specific ways that the community can work with the government to streamline the recovery.

BCLC is hosting a conference call **Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 2:30 PM Central Time**. The purpose of the call is for the IEDC panel to share the recommendations from the site visit. **To join the call, dial 866-804-3545.**

### **Internal Revenue Services (IRS)**

- Affected taxpayers can obtain information and assistance from:
  - State and Federal Disaster Recovery Centers [click here](#) for locations
  - IRS Disaster Assistance Hotline at 1-866-562-5227
  - Visiting IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
  - Contacting their tax professional
- Iowa residents in a presidentially declared disaster area qualifying for individual or public assistance can deduct their casualty (or disaster-related) losses on their tax returns. Option of claiming disaster-related losses on their federal income tax return for either this year or last year.
- IRS is postponing until July 28, 2008 certain deadlines for taxpayers who reside or have a business in the disaster area.

### **Safeguard Iowa Partnership**

- Hosting conference calls with over 40 federal and state government agencies and business/trade associations. The purpose is to communicate and share information about the activities in progress, coordinate the business recovery efforts and identify issues or gaps that need to be address.
- Developing and distributing weekly Business Recovery Status Reports with Safeguard Iowa Partners.
- Partnered with the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) and Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to match the supply/equipment and volunteer needs of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) with the registered donations or volunteers. Safeguard Iowa Partnership is working closely with the Business Executives for National Security to share the supply/equipment needs of the VOADs with corporations that may be able to donate the products.

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** - The SBDC continues to provide support at the Business Recovery Center in Cedar Rapids as well as at their 15 regional offices across the state.

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC)** – BCLC continues to support their BIZ Helpdesk at 888-MY-BIZ-HELP. They have also posted companies that have provided cash or in-kind services for the Iowa disasters at [http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/programs/disaster/midwest\\_flood\\_donations.htm](http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/programs/disaster/midwest_flood_donations.htm).

### **U.S. Small Business Administration**

<b>Small Business Administration as of COB 7/10/2008</b>				
Applications	Issued	Received	Approved	\$ Approved
Business/Economic Injury Disaster Loan	5,111	474	74	\$6,304,000

### **Donations Management**

The [Safeguard Iowa Partnership](#) and the [Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council](#) have partnered to provide the Aidmatrix Network, an easy way to make monetary and product donations to the nonprofit organizations that are assisting in the response and recovery efforts following recent disaster events in Iowa.

The system helps streamline the way donations are accepted, processed, tracked, distributed and acknowledged. When offers of donated products are made these offers are immediately made available online to the participating nonprofit organizations working in Iowa. This streamlined virtual approach allows government and nonprofit users to see “real time” what services and goods are most needed and what donations may already be available for immediate distribution. [Click here to donate.](#)

### **Embrace Iowa 2008 Disaster Fund**

Established by Governor Culver and business leaders, The Embrace Iowa – 2008 Iowa Disaster Fund is accepting contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations to help Iowans who have been affected by the floods and storms this year. The Fund promotes private sector contributions from Iowa businesses and business leaders.

Contributions to the Iowa Disaster Fund will be allocated to local governments and local nonprofit organizations for disbursement to those qualifying for assistance based on criteria established at the local level. For additional information, call Embrace Iowa at 515.447.4222 or visit [www.embraceiowa.org](http://www.embraceiowa.org).

### **Cedar Rapids Job & Small Business Recovery Fund**

To make a donation to the Job & Small Business Recovery Fund go to [www.gcrf.org](http://www.gcrf.org). Select “Job & Small Business Recovery Fund” from the selection of flood funds. Or mail donations to:

Business Recovery Fund  
c/o The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation  
200 First St. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

### **Alliant Energy Foundation – Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program**

Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program will provide funds to non-profits in Alliant Energy communities that were directly affected by the recent flooding. The Foundation has allocated up to \$1 million for the program and groups can apply for up to \$20,000 in unrestricted funds to use for flood-related expenses. The Foundation will accept applications until October 1, 2008. Organizations may obtain an application and more information regarding Alliant Energy Foundation Rebuilding Our Communities Grant online at [www.alliantenergy.com/foundation](http://www.alliantenergy.com/foundation) or by calling (608) 458-4483.