



**Business Recovery Status Report #4
Presidential Disaster #1763
August 1, 2008**

www.flood2008.iowa.gov

Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce

- **Events – To register call the Chamber at 319-398-5317**
 - August 5, 9-10:30 AM Linn County Public Health Information Session regarding Indoor Air Quality, Asbestos, Personal Health, Food Safety and Outdoor Air Quality
 - August 8, 8-9:30 AM Organization Recovery Assessment – Dennis Van Auken with Positive Solutions will provide a tool to assess your flood impacted organization.
 - August 12, 9-10:30 AM SAXTON Inc. Pre Project Estimator – Saxton is offering this service and report at **no cost** to flood impacted businesses.
 - Owners, developers, contractors and design teams face the challenge of rebuilding flood impacted facilities efficiently and effectively during unprecedented times. How do owners stay focused on their business and their clients while also dealing with unplanned facility disruptions? Where do you start? By answering a few basic questions about office build out, work areas, employee count and level of building interior finish, Saxton Inc. will assist you in forecasting space requirements and create programming reports.
 - August 27, 9-11:00 AM Employment Strategies for those laid off or unemployed. Management Resource Group and Iowa Workforce Development will offer tools and assistance for your job search.
- **“Adopt a Business” Program**
 - 51 businesses adopted and 18 on the waitlist.
 - To adopt a business contact Kelly Slaughter at kslaughter@cedarrapids.org.

Iowa State University Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS)

- Survey report that reveals ongoing challenges for Iowa industry available on CIRAS’ website:
<http://www.ciras.iastate.edu/EmergencyManagement/surveyresults.asp>

Iowa Workforce Development

- **Emergency Public Jobs Program**
 - Designed to provide employment opportunities to Iowans who have become unemployed as a result of the recent natural disasters.
 - U.S. Department of Labor granted Governor Culver’s request to waive the \$12,000 income limit for the \$17.1 million Emergency Public Jobs Program
 - Participants will **no longer** have a limit on the wages that can be earned during their six month tenure on the project.
 - The federal waiver will assist Iowans in need and allow the individuals participating in the program the opportunity to secure a full six months of employment at the prevailing wage rates for the project site.
 - To be eligible for the grant, individuals must live or work in a county that has been declared eligible for FEMA public assistance.
 - To date, over 120 work sites have been identified with the ability to employ nearly 900 Iowans.

- Iowans who may be eligible are encouraged to contact their local Iowa Workforce Development Center, or to call 1-800-JOB-IOWA and apply.

Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC)

- **Meeting**
 - The second RIAC meeting was held Thursday, July 31, 2008 in Cedar Rapids.
 - Governor Culver, Lt. Governor Judge and the Commissioners toured the flood damaged areas of Iowa City, Coralville, Palo and Cedar Rapids.
 - The third RIAC meeting will be held in Wapello on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at the Wapello High School, 501 Buchanan Avenue. The other meetings will be held on August 11 in Red Oak, August 12 in Fort Dodge and August 19 in Cedar Falls.
- **“Speak Up Iowa!”**
 - Sessions initiate dialogue on the major issues facing the State and provide an opportunity for official public and community involvement, with specific focus on gaining input for the Rebuild Iowa Office 45-day Report due September 2, 2008. Sessions include nine booths, each representing one of the nine task force areas.
 - At these booths, residents will have the opportunity to voice their ideas and desires regarding the long-term recovery of their communities.
 - A public listening session to gather input from citizens about their communities’ unmet needs and their ideas for rebuilding was held July 31, 2008 at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)

- **Project Recovery Iowa**
 - A mental health program that provides free crisis counseling to Iowans affected by this year’s natural disasters.
 - Engages local or regional counseling agencies to provide assistance in 29 of the hardest hit counties, but no Iowans who need help will be turned away.
 - Seeks to educate victims about disaster reactions, teaching them coping skills, assessing them for individual needs, and steering them to resources that may be helpful.
 - Program services are performed in survivor’s homes, shelters, temporary living sites, churches or any place where the survivors feel comfortable.
 - To reach a counselor, call the Iowa Concern Hotline at 800-447-1985.
- **Taskforces**
 - Seven of the nine taskforces met this week.
 - Housing
 - Economic and Workforce Development
 - Infrastructure and Transportation
 - Education
 - Agriculture and Environment
 - Cultural Heritage and Records Retention
 - Public Health and Health Care Task Force is scheduled to meet August 6, at the Urbandale Public Library.
 - Flood Plain Management Task Force is scheduled to meet August 6, at the West Des Moines Learning and Resource Center.
 - Long Term Recovery Planning Taskforce is scheduled to meet August 7, at the Urbandale Public Library.
- **Public Assistance Deadline Extended**
 - **Deadline to submit Request for Public Assistance has been extended to August 29, 2008.**
 - Iowa state and local agencies and certain private non-profit organizations that are eligible for federal disaster assistance are running out of time to apply.

- Public assistance (PA) funds for reimbursement or restoration are available in 80 Iowa counties. These funds are for expenses or damage incurred during the disaster and cover items such as debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair or replacement of roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks, and other facilities.
- To apply, eligible agencies and organizations must first submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) to the state of Iowa.
- As of July 29, 903 RPAs have been submitted.

UNI Regional Business Center

- **A City Rebuilding**
- **Insurance Adjusters and Claims Process:** MyEntreNet will host a session on Thursday, August 7 at Noon, with Attorney John Wood with the Beecher Law Firm in Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Wood will be available to answer questions regarding legal issues surrounding insurance claims and provide his insight on what a disaster affected business should know in dealing with insurance adjusters in the disaster recovery process. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Wood worked in the insurance industry for several years as a claims adjuster.
- Also coming in August, you will hear from small business owners from Grand Forks, North Dakota who survived and prospered after the Great Grand Forks Flood of 1997.

U.S. Small Business Administration

- SBA Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) are staffing **4** fixed and **1** mobile Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).
- Operating **8** Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs) throughout the state. SBA CSRs are available at each location to meet with homeowners, renters, and non-farm businesses of all sizes to provide program information, help applicants complete paperwork and forms, and to close approved SBA disaster loans.
- SBA has staff at the Joint Field Office (JFO) to coordinate all needs with federal, state, and local partners. SBA has Communication Specialists in the Joint Information Center (JIC) and in the field to handle all SBA media and congressional inquiries.
- SBA continues to sponsor a Business Recovery Center (BRC) at Westdale Mall in Cedar Rapids, IA, where SBA has assisted over 1,500 visitors at the center.
 - CSRs are available at the BRC to answer specific questions about how a disaster loan may help each business and to help owners complete business loan applications.
 - SBA sponsors the availability of multiple additional services at the BRC and there is no charge for any of the services.
 - Business owners may obtain assistance in applying for low-interest U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans, and gain access to government contracts and procurement through U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Government Contracting.
 - Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business” are providing assistance with reconstruction of lost financial records, development of business plans and cash flow projections, how to obtain lost tax returns and submit casualty loss claims on tax returns, adjusting to market changes as a result of the flooding, tornadoes and severe storms, and other post-disaster counseling services. These services are free.
- The DRCs and the DLOCs have contact information on how businesses may obtain these same counseling services from their local SCORE chapter, regional SBDC office and the Iowa Women’s Enterprise Center for businesses that may not be located near the Cedar Rapids BRC.

Iowa SBA Loan Approval Totals Statewide Current as of 7/31/2008		
	Applications Approved	Funding Approved
Home	2,223	\$121,097,000
Business/EIDL	316	\$36,696,500
Total	2,539	\$157,793,500

Donations and Volunteer Management

Iowa Aidmatrix Portal

To donate cash go to www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=Iowa. The organizations listed are members of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and other nonprofit organizations assisting in the recovery efforts in Iowa.

To view the identified needs and donate products go to www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/FEMA/PublicPortal/ListOfNeeds.aspx?PortalID=113. To fill a need, select **donate** and complete the required information.

Donations as of 8/1/2008			
Accepted Donations	Declined Donations	Pending Donations	Total Donations
26	2	24	52

Needs Posted as of COB 8/1/2008	
Fulfilled Needs	Total Needs
7	472

Embrace Iowa 2008 Disaster Fund

The 2008 Iowa Disaster Fund will NOT take the place of contributions to local agencies such as community foundations, United Ways or Red Cross Chapters; rather, the Fund will encourage local contributions and also provide a fund for those wishing to make statewide contributions.

To donate go to www.desmoinesfoundation.org/page10002684.cfm.

Cedar Rapids Job & Small Business Recovery Fund

The Cedar Rapids Job & Small Business Recovery Fund provides financial assistance to a for-profit business (person or entity that sells good or services) or the owner of commercial property in Cedar Rapids that has sustained losses as a result of the flood.

Status as of COB 7/29/2008		
Funds Pledged	Funds Distributed	# of Businesses
\$1,210,290	\$710,950	35

To donate go to www.gcrcef.org. Select "Job & Small Business Recovery Fund" from the selection of flood funds.

To apply go to www.corridorrecovery.org/BusinessRecovery/BizRecoveryFundApplication.asp.

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 or by calling (608) 458-4483.

Race2Recovery – Iowa Speedway Foundation

Race2Recovery is a non-profit tax-exempt foundation that is raising money for flood, tornado and other disaster victims in Iowa. All funds will be disbursed to local organizations that are at disaster sites providing direct relief. This includes churches, American Legion chapters, local food banks and fire departments among others. To donate or apply for assistance go to www.race2recovery.com.

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

If you are interested in volunteering, register at <https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/icovs/volunteer/register/?id=>