



Business Recovery Status Report #9
Presidential Disaster #1763
September 5, 2008

www.flood2008.iowa.gov

Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce (www.cedarrapids.org)

- Please note a modifications to last week's report:
 - According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), 54% of business applicants in Iowa have received SBA approvals (only 10% of those are at the 8% rate instead of the 4% rate).
 - According to the SBA, there is an overall SBA approval rate of 51% which includes residential, business and non-profits.

Iowa State University Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) <http://www.ciras.iastate.edu>

- CIRAS teams identified three additional manufacturers (total=16 companies) to assist and are addressing challenges and offering solutions to assist in exceeding pre-disaster production levels. Examples of assistance include facility layout, materials testing, and education on conducting business with federal, state and local agencies along with identifying current and future procurement opportunities for Iowa businesses.
- CIRAS is exploring opportunities/needs for hosting workshops to address common industry recovery challenges.

Iowa Workforce Development (www.iowaworkforce.org)

- Iowa Workforce Development Conference – October 1-2, 2008 at the Polk County Convention Center. To register visit www.iowaworkforce.org/conference2008.
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Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC)

- **Report**
 - The RIAC issues its initial report on damage sustained by this year's severe weather on September 2, 2008.
 - The 15-member bipartisan commission appointed by Governor Chet Culver issued seven key recommendations:
 - Provide advice and support to individuals and families, businesses, farmers, nonprofit organizations, and others seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a "case management" framework.
 - Ensure immediate housing needs for all who need to be relocated, temporarily or permanently, before cold weather arrives.
 - Provide incentives immediately for Iowa's struggling small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses.
 - Complete floodplain mapping for the entire state.
 - Identify and create funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist Iowa in rebuilding an even better Iowa.
 - Expedite the flow of funds from the federal level, through the state, and to the local levels of government.
 - Provide resources and capacity to ensure public health is maintained.
 - A copy of the final report is attached and available at www.rio.iowa.gov or by calling (515) 242-5004.

- RIAC and the Rebuild Iowa Office will now focus on the next task assigned to them by the Governor, preparing a second report that will provide recommendations for long-term disaster recovery in the state. That report is due out later this fall.

Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) (www.rio.iowa.gov/)

- **Aid**
 - On September 5th, Governor Culver detailed his plan to deliver additional aid to Iowans and local governments which includes four aggressive steps that the state has taken:
 - The state plans to receive \$85 million in federal emergency community development block grants, which will go toward rebuilding homes, businesses and infrastructures in Iowa's communities.
 - The state has identified nearly \$800 million in eligible damages and has reached the damage threshold, meaning Iowa qualifies to have the federal government pay 90 percent of the costs associated with the repair or replacement of public facilities.
 - Governor Culver decided that the state would cover the entire 10 percent not covered by the federal government, easing the financial burden on local governments. The State Executive Council voted last month to set aside state funds.
 - Governor Culver, using his authority under state law, has held back \$73 million in state appropriations this fiscal year for disaster recovery.
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
 - The \$85 million in emergency community development block grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be used to:
 - Rehabilitate homes damaged by the floods, making them habitable again
 - Help finance construction of new multi-family housing units to provide permanent housing for those displaced by the floods
 - Provide infrastructure for new housing construction sites
 - Make infrastructure improvements to lessen the impacts of future flooding
 - Subsidize community housing buy-out programs, enabling families to seek other housing options
 - The HUD grants also include millions of dollars to help Iowa small businesses reopen their doors, and more than \$20 million dollars to repair and rebuild public infrastructure like roads and utilities.
 - The Governor said he seeks to maximize the small business portion of the grant money by adding \$15 million in values fund and power fund dollars for business assistance, thus increasing the collective direct assistance package to \$100 million.

Safeguard Iowa Partnership (www.safeguardiowa.org)

- Safeguard Iowa Partnership After Action Report released to all partners on September 5, 2008.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) (www.sba.gov/floods/)

- *SBA Application for Property Damage Deadline – September 29, 2008*
- *SBA Application for Economic Injury Deadline – February 27, 2009*
- SBA Customer Service Representatives (CSR) staffing 1 fixed Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).
- Operating 6 Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs) throughout the state.
 - SBA Customer Services Representatives 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.
- Continues to sponsor a Business Recovery Center (BRC) at Westdale Mall in Cedar Rapids, where SBA has assisted over **2,700** visitors at the center.

- Available to answer specific questions about how a disaster loan may help each business and to help owners' complete business loan applications.
- 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 SBA Disaster Loans, and gain access to government contracts and procurement through 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 and available by appointment.
 - 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 9/4/2008		
	Applications Approved	Funding Approved
Home	2,788	\$145,345,000
Business/EIDL	498	\$65,939,700
Total	3,286	\$211,284,700

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 9/5/2008			
Accepted Donations	Declined Donations	Pending Donations	Total Donations
27	2	32	61

Needs Posted as of 9/5/2008	
Fulfilled Needs	Total Needs
32	485

Aidmatrix Users as of 9/5/2008		
Total # of Users	Total # of Organizations	Total # of Cash Users
73	64	19

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.

To donate go to www.gcrf.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.

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

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