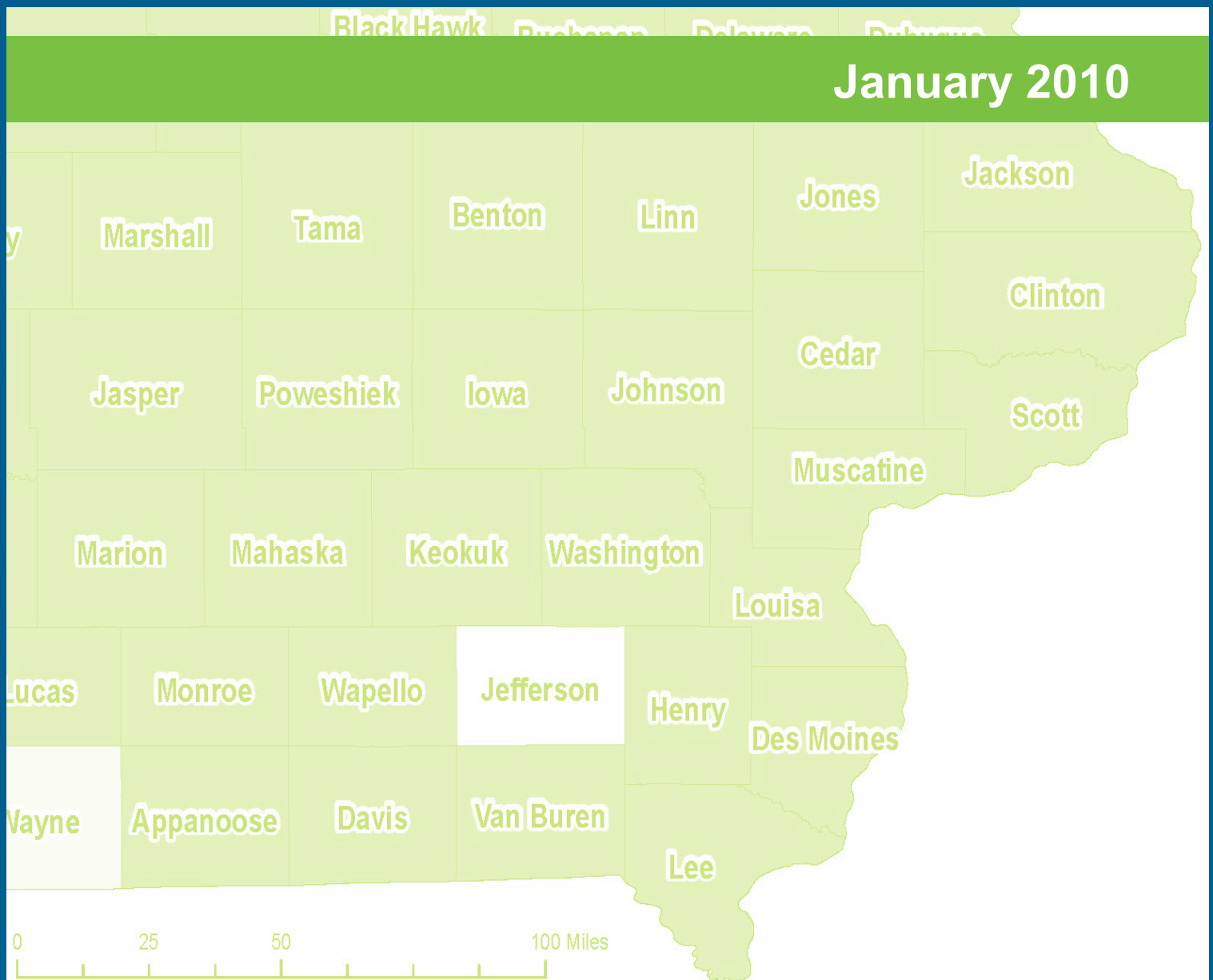


## Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report





## **Letter from the Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director**

January 8, 2010

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 January 2010 Quarterly Performance Report. This report builds on the progress we have made toward Iowa's recovery so far and adds to the information provided in previous reports.

In this report you will find updates on our strategy development methods including new outreach to impacted Iowans, recommendations for national disaster recovery reforms, and work toward comprehensive planning in Iowa.

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. However, much work remains in the buyout and construction process, and some Iowans continue to reside in FEMA mobile homes and are now being asked to pay rent. We have created new business assistance programs to assist the many businesses still struggling to recover. We have awarded state and federal funding to an unprecedented amount of necessary infrastructure repairs and rebuilding, yet much of the work to complete those projects still remains, and many others remain unfunded.

This report will show you that the RIO continues to provide leadership, coordination, communication and transparency for the disaster recovery process and 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 so that we can recover from our state's most devastating disaster.

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 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 Department on Aging  
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



## **Table of Contents**

### **DISASTER OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND**

Disaster Summary	8
Iowa Disaster Events & Response Timeline	9
Mission, Vision & Goals	10
The RIO & The RIAC	11
Rebuild Iowa Office & Advisory Commission Timeline	14

### **ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS**

Obtain & Expedite Disaster Recovery Funding	18
Identify & Quantify Disaster Impacts	28
Public Outreach & Assistance	30
Obtain Public & Expert Input	38
Public Input Activities Timeline	41

### **ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP**

Goal 1: Housing Recovery	44
Goal 2: Business & Workforce Recovery	58
Goal 3: Infrastructure Investments	66
Goal 4: Individual Services & Guidance	74
Goal 5: Local Economic Recovery	80
Goal 6: Smart Planning	86
Goal 7: Statewide Mitigation Planning	96
Goal 8: Flood Plain & Watershed Management	106
Goal 9: Flood Plain Mapping	118
Goal 10: Quality of Life	122
Goal 11: Emergency Management	132
Conclusion	136

### **APPENDIX**

Maps, Charts & Graphs	138
Iowa Disaster Recovery Assistance Programs Timeline	142
Iowa Disaster Recovery Funding Timeline	145
Glossary	147
Disaster Recovery Funding Sources	148
Disaster Recovery Programs	158
Rebuild Iowa Office Budget & Expenditures	166
Rebuild Iowa Office Staffing	167
Rebuild Iowa Office Contracts	168

---

## Executive Summary

As the Rebuild Iowa Office continues to coordinate the state's recovery effort from the largest disaster to ever hit Iowa, progress is being made. While no one will deny the road to recovery is long and tedious, many Iowans are starting to settle down to a life of normalcy once again. Meanwhile, the RIO knows the job is far from over and maintains its commitment to helping ease the burden on impacted communities, businesses and families.

The purpose of this January Quarterly Report is to update the public, legislators and other local, state and federal recovery stakeholders on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa's recovery. Iowa is still in the beginning stages of its long-term recovery effort, however many lessons have already been learned and are now being shared with those that can implement changes to disaster recovery policies. Within this report, the RIO has outlined the changes it is advocating for at the federal level, so disaster victims have less restrictions and more flexibility in future disasters.

In terms of housing, communities asked for additional funding to rebuild due to lost housing stock and a lack of available units. Iowa now has access to nearly \$800 million in CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for programs such as the Single and Multi-Family New Construction Program, Residential Landlord Business Support Program, Interim-Mortgage Assistance and CDBG buyouts are starting to move through the process. This report outlines how far along Iowa is with implementing these housing programs and illustrates how they are vital to a community's survival.

In regard to small business, there is still much to be done. Businesses are re-opening their doors at an incredible rate, however their debt load remains overwhelming. A case management system strictly for businesses has been implemented in Cedar Rapids, but business owners remain strapped for cash flow while trying to pay back their SBA loans. In this report, the RIO illustrates how the Jumpstart Small Business Initiative, Business Rental Assistance Program and Loan Interest Expense Program are assisting, while discussing what needs remain unmet for those on Main Streets across Iowa.

As the 2010 Legislative Session gets underway, this report offers a number of recommendations that have been submitted to legislators as ways to better plan for and mitigate damages from future disasters. These include recommendations from the Water Resource Coordinating Council on flood plain management, recommendations from the Iowa Insurance Division on ways to promote and increase the purchase of flood insurance and Smart Planning Principles that should be considered so communities can rebuild sustainably.

The RIO wants to recognize the countless leaders and front-line workers from local, regional, state and federal governments, businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens that 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.

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 Gov. 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 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 indicator of infrastructure damage. Iowa's estimated Public Assistance funding now tops \$1.2 billion.

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

### Iowa Disaster Events & Response Timeline

#### May 2008

- 25 Tornadoes and flooding hit Butler and Black Hawk counties, including the communities of Parkersburg and New Hartford.  
State Emergency Operations Center in Camp Dodge is activated.
- 27 Federal disaster declared for first Iowa counties (DR-1763-IA).

#### June 2008

- 3 FEMA/State Joint Field Office opens in Urbandale, IA.
- 8 Mason City (Cerro Gordo County) is impacted with heavy rain and flooding.  
Heavy rain tops the levee at New Hartford (Butler County) causing flooding.  
Iowa River surpasses flood stage of 22 feet.
- 10 Saylorville Dam (Polk County) is topped causing flooding.  
Coralville Reservoir (Johnson County) tops its emergency spillway.
- 11 Tornado hits the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch in Monona County.
- 13 Cedar River crests at 31.1 feet in Cedar Rapids (Linn County), nearly 20 feet above flood stage.
- 14 Two levees are breached in Des Moines (Polk County).
- 15 A levee breach occurs in Oakville (Louisa County).  
Coralville Lake crests at 716.97 feet above sea level (surpasses previous record of 716.71 feet).  
The Iowa River crests at 31.5 feet (surpasses previous record of 28.52 feet).
- 21 Cedar River drops below 12-foot flood stage for the first time since June 2 in Cedar Rapids (Linn County).
- 24 Water stops going over the Coralville Lake spillway.

#### July 2008

- 7 Iowa River falls below flood stage in Johnson County.

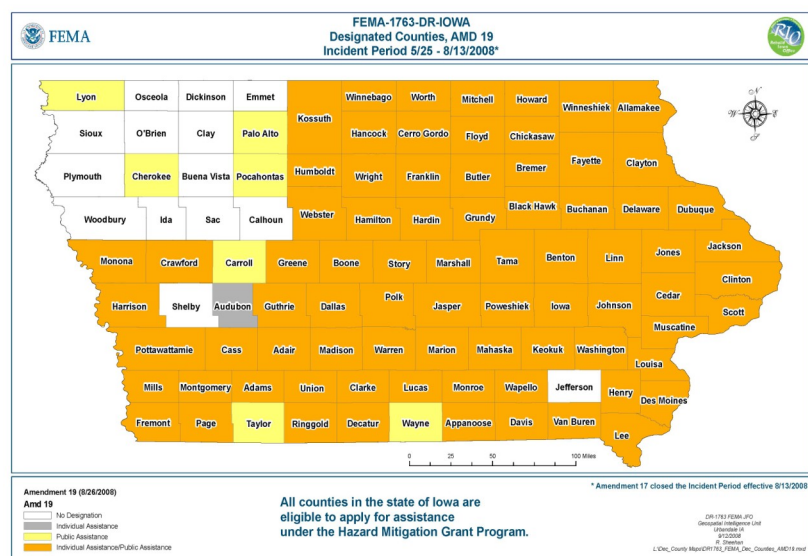
#### Presidentially-Declared Disaster Counties May 25 - Aug. 13, 2008

#### August 2008

- 13 The federal disaster incident period for DR-1763-IA closes.  
In total, 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were declared.

#### August 2009

- 29 FEMA/State Joint Field Office closes.
- 30 Iowa Recovery Center opens in Urbandale, IA.



### Mission, Vision & Goals

#### THE REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

The RIO is focused on the recovery from 2008's devastating storms, floods and tornadoes.

The 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.

The 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](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

The RIO also has staff 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 7 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 7. 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

### REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION (RIAC)

#### Members:

- Lt. General Ron Dardis, Commission Chair
- Bill Bywater
- Jim Davis
- Michael Earley
- Bill Gerhard
- Karris Golden
- Brent Halling
- Linda Larkin
- Nitza Lopez-Castillo
- Carroll Reasoner
- Chuck Rieken
- 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.

### Rebuild Iowa Office & Advisory Commission Timeline

#### 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)  
Kirsten Running-Marquardt (D, District 33)  
Thomas R. Sands (R, District 87)  
Kent Sorenson (R, District 74)  
Todd E. Taylor (D, District 34)  
Roger Thomas (D, District 24)

#### June 2008

- 27 Governor Culver's Executive Order 7 creates the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)

#### July 2008

- 17 RIAC meets for the first time in Des Moines  
31 RIAC meets in Cedar Rapids

#### August 2008

- 5 RIAC meets in Wapello  
19 RIAC meets in Cedar Falls  
22 "Speak Up Iowa!" *Public Input Final Report* submitted to the RIAC  
25 RIAC meets in Urbandale  
29 RIAC meets in Urbandale  
31 RIAC submits its *45-Day Report to Governor Culver*

#### October 2008

- 1 RIAC meets in Des Moines  
31 *Unified Task Force Report* submitted to RIAC

#### November 2008

- 6 RIAC meets in West Des Moines  
13 RIAC meets in Des Moines  
17 RIAC submits its *120-Day Report to Governor Culver*  
23 RIAC meets in Des Moines

#### December 2008

- 9-10 Disaster Recovery Conference in Coralville

#### February 2009

- 2 The RIO hosts its first "Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol"  
House File 64 is signed into law by Governor Culver establishing the Rebuild Iowa Office in code and creating the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council

#### April 2009

- 13 The RIO releases its April Quarterly Report  
20 The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

#### May 2009

- 11 RIAC meets in Des Moines  
18 Iowa Recovery Analysis Workshop  
19 First meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council

#### July 2009

- 21 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting  
27 The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

### **October 2009**

- 13** Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting  
The RIO releases its October Quarterly Report
- 27** The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

### **November 2009**

- 24** Optional teleconference for RIAC members to update legislative proposals

### **December 2009**

- 17** Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting

### **January 2010**

- 14** Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol

### **September 2010**

Final Economic Recovery Strategy due to the Economic Development Administration (grant ends)

### **January 2011**

Rebuild Iowa Office Transition Plan due to Governor and General Assembly

### **June 2011**

- 30** Rebuild Iowa Office scheduled to close

---

# 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 state and EDA grant funding, is to guide the recovery process and 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

#### THE RIO DISASTER FUNDING CHARTS

The 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 \$3.6 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](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/funds.html). Selected charts can be found beginning on page 147 in the Appendix.

*Obtaining and maximizing funding through federal programs, state resources and local revenue streams is vital to recovery. So far, more than \$3.6 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. More than \$1 billion has now been spent.*

#### KEY METHODS

##### 1) **Monitor funding progress and unmet needs and communicate that information across all levels of government and to the public**

The RIO monitors the progress of funding and communicates that information regularly.

*Monthly Expenditure Reports* - Every month, the RIO collects information on every known funding source in disaster recovery. This includes information on what funding has been committed, appropriated and expended.

**Committed** funds are defined as those funds that have been promised to the State of Iowa for disaster recovery but are in various stages of program approval and are not yet available for use or appropriated to specific projects.

**Appropriated** funds are those that have been designated to specific projects, areas or individuals.

**Expended** funds are those that have actually been spent on specific needs.

This information is distributed in a press release each month and posted on the RIO Web site. Funding charts and further information on each funding source can be found in the Appendix.

In addition to this statewide information, the RIO collects information wherever possible at the county level for each program. While this information is not available for every program, of the nearly 40 major disaster recovery programs, county-level information is available for 24. This information is also updated monthly and is available on both the RIO and Legislative Service Agency Web sites.

### **2) Advocate for funding needed to ensure rebuilding and recovery is complete**

From its inception, the RIO has worked with Iowa's leaders at the local, state and federal level to advocate for the funding needed to recover and rebuild. To date, Iowa has secured more than \$3.6 billion for its 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.

Throughout the process of allocating these funds, the RIO and others have worked with HUD staff to ensure that formulas being used to make those allocations were fair and took a variety of disaster impact factors into account. The first HUD appropriation was focused on Midwest disasters and Iowa received a large portion of those. The second (much larger) appropriation, however, was different. Of the first allocation, Iowa received only about 6 percent of the funds allocated despite the magnitude of our disaster. The RIO and others worked with HUD staff to make needed changes to their formula. As a result, Iowa received a much higher percentage of the next allocation, receiving \$517 million.

The state's action plans have been approved for all these funds. The RIO and the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) 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 is being 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.

The RIO has also worked with state leaders to secure more than \$380 million in state funds targeted to needs that were not easily met or sufficiently funded by existing federal programs.

### **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 is fairly distributed both programmatically and geographically**

The RIO has worked consistently with state and federal agencies to review programs and policies relevant to disaster recovery and ensure that their design and implementation is equitable, transparent and effective. In some cases changes were able to be made, and in others legislation would be needed to make larger reforms (see below). 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 the people impacted.

#### *Highlights:*

- State of Iowa officials have worked with HUD staff to request and receive every possible

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS



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.

waiver to expedite and maximize the use of CDBG funds. Most recently, we were able to work with them on a program that would allow some homeowners to receive replacement housing funds in addition to the value of their lost home through a buyout. This new policy is explained more fully under Goal 1: Housing Recovery.

- After hearing from Cedar Rapids business leaders about issues in business recovery, the RIO worked with the IDIED on four new business programs to help with equipment replacement, commercial rent and loan interest payments (more information under Goal 2: Business & Workforce Recovery).

#### 4) Coordinate recovery efforts with federal, state and local entities from all sectors

The RIO utilizes several means of coordinating with other entities active in the disaster recovery.

*Federal and State Agencies* - Shortly after the disaster, FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security created the **Inter-Agency Coordination Team (IACT)**. This group of more than 40 state and federal agencies with disaster recovery roles met on a monthly basis for the first year or so of the recovery. The RIO became involved, and as Iowa's response moved into recovery, the RIO took over coordination of the group.

The group's purpose is to establish initial relationships and key contacts, acquaint agencies with current activities and capture critical issues. They discussed several critical issues and key projects in disaster recovery in order to combine knowledge and resources and provide solutions. Critical issues and key projects considered by the group included:

- Landfills and Debris Removal
- Salvage & Preservation of Quality Building Materials
- Lead-based Paint Abatement & Training
- Farm Recovery Assistance
- Replacement Housing & New Construction
- Regional Approach to Recovery Planning



## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

- Waverly Inflatable Dam
- Parkersburg Emergency Services Building
- Parkersburg Plaza
- Coralville Transit Project
- Iowa City Wastewater Treatment Relocation
- Cedar Rapids Co-Generation Feasibility Study
- Cedar Rapids Human Service Campus

In the fall of 2009, the group determined that formal IACT bi-monthly meetings were no longer needed. However, it is still very important to share recovery information and activities from the IACT member agencies to continue to provide a shared understanding of recovery. To this end, the RIO continues to collect recovery update from IACT agency partners. The information is compiled and shared with IACT members so that agencies can maintain situational awareness of the recovery and continue to make the appropriate connections to facilitate the recovery.

In February 2009, House File 64 created the **Rebuild Iowa 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 met once per quarter throughout 2009.

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 then discussed what concerns needed to be addressed to make the recovery effort more efficient and effective. Concerns 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 dollars 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, suggest improvements, and set goals and benchmarks going forward.

In October, the group discussed disaster recovery priorities for the 2010 legislative session, and reviewed the recovery process suggestions compiled from the July meeting. At the year’s final meeting in December, the group discussed specific recovery goals for the next few years, including:

### THE 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

Jeff Quigle, Dept. of Public Safety  
(State Fire Marshal Division)

Charlie Krogmeier, DHS

Rich Leopold, DNR

John McCalley, Dept. on Aging

Dave Miller, HSEMD

Bret Mills, IDED

Karen Misjak, ICSAC

Terrence Neuzil, Iowa State  
Association of Counties

Tom Newton, IDPH

Bill Northey, IDALS

Joe O'Hern, IFA

BG Tim Orr, DPD

Dick Oshlo, DOM

Cyndi Pederson, DCA

Kim Reynolds, Legislator

Nancy Richardson, DOT

Tom Schueller, Legislator

Roya Stanley, OEI

Ljerka Vasiljevic, DPS (Director's  
Representation)

Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO Executive  
Director

Jacqui DiGiacinto, RIO Staff Lead

- Restore lost housing stock through housing programs, while returning impacted lowans to permanent housing.
- Ensure stability of impacted businesses.
- Continue to address Smart Planning goals.
- Complete flood plain mapping in Iowa so communities have the most updated information to make decisions.
- Increase participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and encourage lowans to purchase flood insurance to minimize future risk.
- Leave behind a blueprint for future recovery efforts and establish which agencies will be responsible for various activities related to recovery once the RIO sunsets in June 2011.
- Continue to improve communications on all levels about disaster assistance programs and changes.
- Maintain a proper system for records retention so documents are not lost in future disasters.
- Encourage mitigation efforts when building new structures around the state, such as safe rooms, incorporating rules into building standards and codes.
- Continue to work with federal agencies to increase flexibility of disaster funding and programs.
- Connect with older lowans, children and other populations to make sure they are not left out of disaster plans.
- Maintain disaster-related mental health programs so help is immediately available following a disaster.

In 2010, the Council will meet on April 27, Aug. 10 and Nov. 9.

*Local Government* - Not only is local government represented on the Coordinating Council, the RIO also works to engage with local leaders directly through the Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) Team and regular communication with local elected officials. The CaRRP Team includes staff living in Eastern Iowa who work directly with the most heavily impacted communities to help them work through issues, identify resources and carry out their long-term plans.

The RIO's Intergovernmental Affairs Director has also held regular conference calls with local elected officials to help keep them updated on current recovery issues.

*Local Program Administrators* - Along with IDED, the RIO participates in frequent conference calls, trainings and meetings with officials administering programs on the ground. This important communication helps those at the state level to share information about recovery program changes. It also allows the local administrators to share their experiences and issues, which helps to identify and address roadblocks. On Feb. 10, 2009, the RIO will hold the second annual **Disaster Recovery Housing Conference**. Last year's event brought together housing program administrators from local governments and state agencies to discuss programs, roadblocks, best practices and 2009 goals. This year the RIO will review those goals and discuss plans for housing in 2010 and beyond.

*Councils of Government* - Iowa's Councils of Government (COGs) serve as the main administrators for disaster recovery programs for many of Iowa's small- and medium-sized communities. They also serve a regional planning function in many ways. In addition to efforts above in which they are involved, the RIO staff also regularly shares recovery information at the COG Directors monthly meeting.

*Non-Profit Service Providers* - The RIO's Voluntary Agency Liaison helps coordinate the work of non-profit and community organizations active in Iowa's disaster recovery. In most cases, this is handled through the county-level Long-Term Recovery Committees. The RIO holds conference calls and trainings with these organizations to help connect their work to the overall disaster recovery and solicit their input on programs and policies. These organizations are also providing case management services, and the RIO has coordinated and assisted in those efforts. Over the long-term, the RIO plans to engage these groups in a process of planning for their sustainability in future disasters and a more coordinated system of case management (see Goal 4: Individual Services and Guidance).

### 5) Advocate for changes to the federal system of funding disaster recovery

Iowa's disaster recovery experience has led the state to the conclusion that major reforms are needed at the federal level to improve how future major disasters are handled. The RIO staff has sought the input of those involved in the state's recovery at all levels in creating a set of overarching recommended changes to this federal system.

Reforming recovery in the United States requires a fundamental shift in the approach to and planning for major disasters. While response has a coordinating agency (FEMA) and an overall structure with programs that states can anticipate and plan based on, recovery does not. In order to ensure well-coordinated recoveries that maximize the opportunities that major disasters present as well as minimizing the long-term negative impacts, this shift in approach is critical.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS



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



**The 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.**

Our overarching recommendation is that the federal government creates a disaster recovery framework with one coordinating body (department), one set of rules and expectations and funding and programs that are designed with long-term recovery in mind. This system must address the following issues and elements:

*Flexible and predictable disaster-track funding for a set threshold of major disasters*

- Provide states with up-front (not reimbursement-based) block grant recovery funding immediately following a major disaster.
- Use a formula that is consistent across all states and disasters based on damages or other program funding.
- Allow states to set program priorities and parameters including income limits and other regulations including lead abatement and the use of volunteer labor.
- Allow for a global local match requirement that calls on state and local governments to contribute a certain percentage to the overall recovery, not individual programs and projects.

*A shared, real-time data system for all levels of government*

- Create a shared database for information and applications from those impacted that is a part of a coordinated system of case management for impacted individuals.
- Allow impacted individuals to complete one application and sign one privacy waiver that allows all government agencies to access their recovery information.
- Allow all administering entities to update this database with information to improve the speed and accuracy of programs.
- Include comprehensive loss verification for each individual that documents all loss so that multiple inspections and other checks are not needed.
- This should include a clear and consistent shared system of checking for duplications of benefit that involves all related agencies and creates common definitions and policies that prevent fraud while still allowing individuals to receive needed benefits.

### *Coordinated damage and needs assessments*

- Work with states on a common system for damage assessment data collection that is completed in each Presidentially-declared disaster (not abandoned once the declaration is made).
- Designate one agency to provide clear documentation of a state's overall losses and an assessment of funding gaps left by recovery programs.

### *Resources and support for immediate case management*

- Immediately following the initial response, impacted individuals and businesses desperately need a system that provides them with case management guidance in planning for their long-term recovery
- Such a case management system should be organized at the local level but needs federal support and resources in order to successfully provide assistance.
- This system should serve as a gateway for recovery assistance, requiring that individuals work with case managers in order to qualify.

### *Change the structure of hazard mitigation funding*

- FEMA's HMGP program focuses nearly all resources on states following a major disaster. Focusing more resources on pre-disaster work would greatly improve its success.
- Provide greater resources for planning so that mitigation projects can be prepared before funding is available.
- Recognize that some elements currently considered mitigation, such as housing buyouts, are really recovery programs. Create a separate mechanism for those projects that allows for quicker approval so that homeowners are able to move on.

These recommendations and accompanying information have been shared with Iowa's congressional delegation as well as representatives of several federal agencies, including FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, both of whom have visited the state and learned about Iowa's disaster recovery first-hand.

In addition to these efforts, the RIO is also participating in the National Disaster Recovery Framework discussion currently being led by FEMA at the President's request. In October, a regional video teleconference was hosted by FEMA Region VII. Staff from the RIO and other Iowa representatives listened in and shared their thoughts about needed changes at the federal level. More information about this nationwide effort can be found at [www.DisasterRecoveryWorkingGroup.gov](http://www.DisasterRecoveryWorkingGroup.gov).

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS



**The National Commission on Children and Disasters holds a meeting in Cedar Rapids.**



**Lt. General Ron Dardis talks about the impact disasters have on children.**



**National Commission members meet a disaster-impacted family in Linn County.**

On Jan. 6, 2010, the RIO, along with multiple local, state and federal agencies participated in a day-long meeting with the National Commission on Children and Disasters, which is based in Washington, D.C. Commission Chairperson Mark Shriver and Commission members Sheila Leslie and David Schonfeld hosted the meetings at the Linn County Health Department in Cedar Rapids. Topics such as school recovery, mental health services, child welfare, child care, disaster case management and long-term community recovery were discussed in a roundtable setting. School superintendents, mental health workers, members of long-term recovery committees and officials working with child care centers and the juvenile justice system, as well as legislators and city officials, took part in the conversations throughout the day. The Commission intends to include its findings from the meetings into the development of a national recovery framework and the Commission's next report to President Obama and Congress due in October 2010.

On Jan. 8, 2010, the RIO's Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis took place in another federal roundtable, hosted by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The meeting brought together stakeholders from various disaster-impacted states to gather feedback on the national response framework; state and local capacity, community planning, and technical assistance; nonprofit and private sector capacity; economic and environmental resilience and sustainability; and the review of federal programs. The purpose of this session was to provide the Obama administration and federal agencies ideas on how to improve and reform specific federal programs that are central to long-term disaster recovery. At this meeting, Lt. General Dardis presented Iowa's federal recommendations for improvements to the national recovery framework (see page 23 for Iowa's recommendations). The feedback provided at this session will be used to draft recommendations to the Obama Administration, which are due April 2010. More than a dozen staff from the White House, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Homeland Security and FEMA, were in attendance.

As another means of feeding into this national conversation, the RIO is also partnering with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Congressman Loebsack for an Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference to be held Jan. 29, 2010. The conference will bring together representatives from non-profit

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

organizations, voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations and community foundations active in both Iowa and Gulf Coast recovery. The group will discuss recommended changes to local, state and federal recovery efforts and suggest best practices going forward. HUD plans to use these recommendations to help inform their work on the National Disaster Recovery Framework.



### 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 and the results of programs.*

#### KEY METHODS

##### 1) Gather disaster impact data that assists in better understanding of those impacts and recovery needs

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 assessment 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.

To better understand disaster impacts and the status of recovery efforts around the state, the RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team conducted a survey of community data in the summer of 2009. A total of 13 Iowa communities, heavily impacted by flooding in 2008, agreed to participate.

The objective of this survey 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

The RIO sought information on disaster impacts in Iowa in the areas of 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. From this information, trends and gaps will be identified. Data which the RIO has collected can be found



**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.**



## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

under the Housing, Business and Infrastructure Goal sections in this report. The RIO plans to survey these communities again in March 2010 to update the numbers provided. This will help verify past information and provide a more broad view of trends in recovery.

The following communities were surveyed and able to provide information:

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

Iowa State University's Department of Economics and the RIO entered into an agreement last year for ISU to provide a disaster-related economic impact study. Utilizing data from disaster funding sources, ISU's team has created an initial study report. The report analyzes disaster spending impacts through December 2009. The entire report can be found on the RIO web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

In summary, the report analyzes the direct, indirect and induced impacts of spending on recovery construction and individual assistance that has occurred so far. It estimates that this \$665.2 million in spending has resulted in \$997.6 million in total industrial output, \$336.9 million in labor incomes and has supported the equivalent of 8,543 jobs.

### **2) Gather information on recovery programs and their results**

In addition to the efforts detailed above, the RIO also follows every disaster program closely and regularly reports information on the results of those programs. Information on specific programs and their results can be found throughout this report and in the Program Guide in the appendix.

### Public Outreach & Assistance

#### **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 page 32)

*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)*

The RIO works diligently to communicate with the media and Iowa 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.

#### **Key Methods**

##### **1) Provide regular updates to increase awareness of disaster recovery progress and issues**

Listed below are the RIO outreach efforts that take place on a weekly/monthly basis and are part of the RIO's ongoing communication schedule.

- In Oct. 2009, the RIO Communications Team started a weekly "Working to Recover" series of news releases to show how disaster recovery funds and programs have specifically assisted individuals, businesses and communities. The releases also highlight how local, state and federal agencies, as well as non-profits and volunteers, are "working to recover." The releases are issued every Thursday.
- The RIO Communications team maintains a comprehensive e-mail distribution list for the RIO's 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 RIO issues frequent press releases to keep Iowans up to date with the most recent recovery-related news and developments. There were 15

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

press releases issued in October, 11 releases issued in November and nine releases issued in December 2009.

- The “Iowa Recovery Times” newsletter is issued monthly to the RIO e-mail distribution list. It is also posted to the RIO Web site.
- The RIO Communication team publishes the “Rebuild Iowa Office Legislative Weekly” newsletter during the state’s legislative session to inform lawmakers about the recovery process. Copies can also be found on the RIO Web site.
- 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.
- The Communications team makes sure the media and general public are aware of all Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council quarterly meetings. After every meeting, a press release summarizing what was discussed is sent out to the RIO e-mail distribution list. Minutes from every meeting are also posted on the RIO Web site.
- The staff organizes and handles media inquiries for all Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC), Task Force and Coordinating Council meetings.
- 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 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.

### **2) Increase awareness of disaster recovery programs and increase participation**

Listed below is information about events, press conferences, forums, open houses, and other activities that the RIO has been involved in to increase awareness of disaster recovery efforts and programs.

- 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.
- In December 2009, the RIO, along with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, assisted in organizing a groundbreaking for a new safe room at a new school in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District. The RIO also assisted with a groundbreaking for a new development project in the Cedar Rapids downtown area

### **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

utilizing disaster-related tax credits.

- In November 2009, the RIO staff assisted the Linn Area Long-Term Recovery Coalition with a holiday Open House. More than 200 disaster impacted families attended to get information from various non-profits that assisted with disaster recovery efforts.
- In November 2009, team members worked with the Iowa Department of Economic Development and Governor's Office to organize the announcement of four new business and landlord disaster assistance programs.
- 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 in April and October 2009.
- In March 2009, the RIO worked with the Iowa Insurance Division and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to organize and declare March 2009 Flood Awareness Month.
- In November 2008, the RIO worked with the Iowa Department of Human Services on a mental health media campaign which provided disaster victims resources to combat stress, mental anguish and mental illness.
- After the release of every Quarterly Report, the RIO Communications Team answers inquiries and books interviews with various media outlets to provide an update on the recovery and progress to-date.
- In order to make sure all Iowans are aware of the resources and funding currently available, the RIO recently worked with the Iowa Newspaper Association to develop and place a message in newspapers across the state the weeks of Dec. 20 and Dec. 27 in 2009, and Jan. 3 in 2010. The message was placed in 195 newspapers that are in both communities that suffered damage in the 2008 disasters and those that did not. Since the recovery truly is a statewide effort, the RIO wants all Iowans to be aware of the phone number and Web site to contact for assistance. In a survey conducted by the RIO in 2009, a large percentage of the responses indicated that disaster victims relied on their local

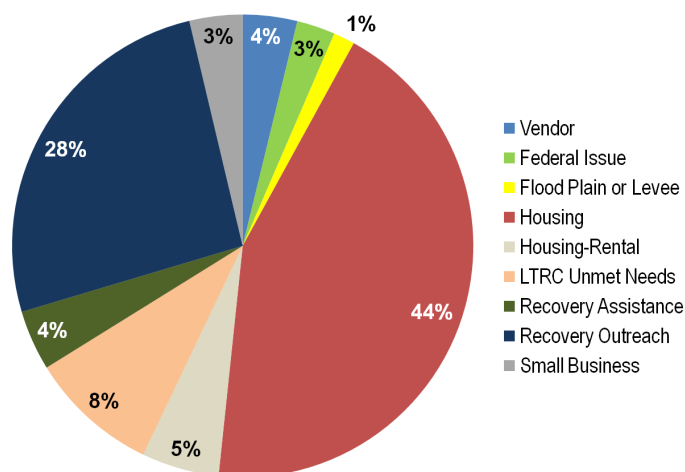
## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

newspapers for information about disaster recovery.

- Team members planned and staffed Flood Forums around the state. 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. 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 played an active role in organizing a visit in September 2009 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.

**Common Calls to the RIO by Category**  
(Top 9 categories from 4,725 calls)  
June 2008 - December 2009



### 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 Dec. 2009.

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

<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>4,725</b>
Complaint	34
Education	6
Employment	13
Family Farm	34
Federal Issue	115
Flood Plain/Levee	64
Housing	1,866
Housing-Rental	232
Insurance	22
IWD/DUI/EJP	53
Legal Aid	6
Legislative	2
Local Issue	43
LTRC ONA Unmet Needs	388
Non Profit	37
NOT FLOOD RELATED	64
Public Asst.	66
General Recovery Asst.	180
Recovery Info & Outreach	1,106
Scheduling/Commemorations	1
Small Business	159
Student Aid	6
Taxes	17
Thank you	12
Vendor	163
Volunteer	32
Waiver	4

### 3) Ensure accuracy through messaging by monitoring third-party reports, media stories, etc.

The RIO assists with managing expectations, correcting misinformation in the media or impacted communities, and ensuring that appropriate messaging reaches intended audiences across the state.

- Local news outlets and media clips are monitored on a daily basis to ensure accuracy of messaging relating to the disasters and recovery. The RIO Communication Team follows up with media outlets that provide misinformation to the public and ask for a correction.
- 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.
- The RIO's Constituent Liaison keeps track of topics, issues and concerns that constituents mention in phone calls, letters and e-mails to the RIO and Governor's Office (see sidebar). The team then uses that information to make necessary program improvements or provide necessary public messages via the media.

### 4) Handle constituent issues efficiently and effectively and use that information to make necessary program improvements or provide necessary public messages.

Beyond surveys, conferences, workshops and other avenues for gaining feedback which are outlined in the Obtain Public and Expert Input section on page 38, the following are examples of topics that needed clarification or additional messaging to ensure impacted Iowans had the most up-to-date resources.

- The RIO's Constituent Liaison specifically responds to phone calls, e-mails and letters from constituents. The Liaison then conveys the needs and questions of disaster-impacted Iowans to staff members from the RIO for clarification or further program improvements. See chart on page 33 which categorizes the calls placed with the RIO.

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

- The RIO issues press releases that outline passed and proposed legislation addressing disaster-related topics.
- The RIO worked with Iowa Department of Revenue to address specific problems that may arise when disaster victims file their taxes in 2010.
- The RIO has worked with FEMA to help clarify messaging when constituents were confused about their move-out date and/or issuance of rent.

### **5) Provide a clearinghouse of information for those impacted by and interested in Iowa's disaster recovery**

Transparency in the recovery system is imperative. The RIO constantly works with a multitude of recovery partners to collaborate on messaging and make certain information being distributed from this Office is correct, accessible, timely and easy to understand.

- 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 RIO Web site is updated daily with the latest program information, news releases and more.
- The most recent additions to the Web site include a disaster assistance program section broken out by category, a new area for the Water Resources Coordinating Council Flood Plain and Subcommittee, and a resource page that lists details and contact information from the RIO's statewide Flood Forums.

### ***FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS***

- Release a "Funding Chart Booklet" which explains the intricacies behind each state and federal disaster funding source. (January 2010 - see appendix)
- Host another Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol in 2010 to update legislators and the general public about progress and challenges in Iowa's disaster recovery. (Jan. 14, 2010)
- Work with the Iowa Insurance Division, Iowa Department. of Natural Resources and the RIO to establish activities to promote awareness of Flood Awareness Month in Iowa. (March 2010)
- Organize a "RIO Civic Tour" to educate Iowans about the 2008 disaster recovery effort and the need for mitigation, planning and preparedness, as well as passed and proposed

### RIO WEB STATS

The RIO Web site ([www.rio.iowa.gov](http://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 for more information about recovery task forces, programs, reports and the Office itself. The RIO Web site also offers links to disaster program applications, to contact information for local program administrators and to all press releases the RIO has released. The following offers a glimpse of the RIO Web site's traffic (Aug. 2008 - Dec. 2009).

#### UNIQUE VISITORS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 3,200 unique visitors every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record of 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 of 12,857 visits.

#### HITS:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 159,500 hits every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record of 362,296 hits.

#### PAGES VIEWED:

- The RIO Web site averages more than 19,600 pages viewed every month.
- Oct. 2008 saw the monthly record of 48,289 pages viewed.

legislation that relates to disasters. The RIO is contacting chambers of commerce, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and other civic organizations to deliver its message. (January through May 2010)

- Work with various non-profits from across the country to recruit volunteers and promote a "Building Blitz" for flood-impacted communities that lost a significant number of housing units due to the disasters. (April 2010)
- Further update the comprehensive Disaster Program Manual which can be accessed on the RIO Web site. (Ongoing)
- 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. (Ongoing)
- 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. (Ongoing)





### Obtain Public & Expert Input

#### **SPEAK UP IOWA I**

In addition to feedback from lowans during the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and Task Force meetings in 2008, the RIO toured the state to reach out to lowans in impacted areas. Speak Up Iowa! public input sessions provided an opportunity for RIO staff and federal agencies to connect lowans 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 lowans 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.*

#### **KEY METHODS**

##### **1) Ensure that lowans have a voice in recovery strategy planning.**

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 other stakeholders. The RIO has welcomed and gathered this information through surveys, workshops, conferences and public meetings. At the beginning of this disaster recovery effort, the gathered information was used to create the RIAC's 45- and 120-day reports to the Governor and Iowa Legislature. Those two reports guide the RIO's efforts in formulating policy and addressing programmatic needs and changes.

In addition to the RIAC reports, the RIO works every month to gain feedback and expertise from individuals, businesses and various groups at the local, state and federal levels. The outcomes of all RIO-conducted surveys, conferences, and public meetings can be found in each Quarterly Report from the RIO.

It is important to note that given the personal challenges disaster victims 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 that those impacted may not have to give. For this reason, the RIO has undertaken several different types of input methods in order to 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 held on May 18, 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.

People participating in this workshop included officials from local, state and federal levels. 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 valuable 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 the RIO's Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

*Speak Up Iowa Surveys and Listening Sessions* - When the disasters first hit Iowa, the Rebuild Iowa Office held "Speak Up Iowa!" listening 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 2009. 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.

In May 2010, the "Speak Up Iowa III Survey" will be distributed to impacted homeowners, business owners and community leaders to gauge how the disaster recovery effort is perceived among those hit hardest. Questions will ask respondents what programs they utilized for disaster assistance, how much they received and their opinion on how easy or difficult the application process was to go through. The "Speak Up Iowa III Survey" results will be shared once again with the public through the RIO Quarterly Reports, press releases and media outreach. This survey will also serve as a guideline for improving disaster programs offered nationwide and specifically in Iowa.

As a result of the various input methods, the following activities have occurred to respond to the concerns of impacted Iowans and/or encourage feedback:

- Constituent inquiries that come in via mail, e-mail and phone calls are answered daily. 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.
- The RIO Web site allows users to submit questions to the Rebuild Iowa Office and

### 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.

contact staff directly.

- The RIO Communications team drafts letters to individual homeowners about new assistance programs for which they may qualify.

#### **2) Create a strategy for the state that is driven by Iowans impacted by the disaster and subject matter experts who can provide valuable input on subjects relevant to the recovery.**

All of the efforts described above for obtaining public and expert input have fed into the development of Iowa's Long-Term Disaster Recovery Strategy. That strategy is outlined in this report and every quarterly report we produce. Each quarter, it is updated and expanded upon to further refine goals and objectives and provide more information on the strategies and status of the success of those strategies in meeting our goals. This strategy will be finalized upon the RIO's sunset date of June 30, 2011, and will include specific information on how the goals should be carried forward for the remainder of the state's recovery and beyond.

## **Public Input Activities Timeline**

### **July 2008**

- 31 Speak Up Iowa Listening Session** in Cedar Rapids

### **August 2008**

- 5 Speak Up Iowa Listening Session** in Wapello
- 7** Public input for **Speak Up Iowa** at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines begins
- 11 Speak Up Iowa Listening Session** in Red Oak
- 12 Speak Up Iowa Listening Session** in Fort Dodge
- 17** Public input for **Speak Up Iowa** at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines ends
- 19 Speak Up Iowa Listening Session** in Cedar Falls

### **May 2009**

- 24 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Parkersburg commemoration event
- 25 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at New Hartford commemoration event
- 30 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Palo and Waterloo commemoration events

### **June 2009**

- 6 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Vinton commemoration event
- 7 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Mason City commemoration event
- 12 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Oakville commemoration event
- 13 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Cedar Rapids, Waverly and Iowa City commemoration events
- 20 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Atalissa commemoration event
- 23 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Elkader commemoration event
- 24 Speak Up Iowa II** surveys collected at Cedar Falls commemoration event

### **August 2009**

- 12 Flood Forum** in Cedar Rapids
- 26 Flood Forum** in Wapello

### **September 2009**

- 2 Flood Forum** in Mason City
- 16 Flood Forums** in Johnston, Elkader, Iowa City, Waterloo and Vinton
- 29 Flood Plain Management Task Force** public input events held in Mount Pleasant and West Branch

### **October 2009**

- 6 Flood Plain Management Task Force** public input events held in Ankeny and Waverly
- 8 Flood Plain Management Task Force** public input events held in Lewis and Storm Lake

### **November 2009**

- 19 Flood Recovery Open House** at Cedar Rapids Recovery Center



# **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 and the state.

### Goal 1: Housing Recovery

#### 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 Dec. 2009.

- Total number of applicants: 4,266
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$71 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 3,351
- Total amount obligated: \$57.6 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$46.7 million
- Average award: \$17,208
- Applications ineligible for the program: 497

*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)*

#### SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Provide assistance that allows people to repair their homes and be able to live in them again**

**Status:** Close to completion

**Progress:** Housing has been, and continues to be, a top priority in Iowa's recovery. Thousands of Iowans were displaced by the 2008 disasters and some 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 and SBA loans 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 repair and return to their damaged home.

**Measures:** According to community survey data collected in the summer of 2009, 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 percent were **homeowners** and 33 percent **rented** their home or apartment, with the homeowner/renter status unknown on 5 percent of those displaced.

Of an estimated 3,800 **homeowners** originally displaced, close to 40 percent have returned to their original home after clean up and repairs; about 1 percent have constructed of a new home and are living in that home; about 25 percent have moved into an existing home (or unit) in the same community; 9 percent have abandoned their property; and almost 25 percent are still considered to be displaced.

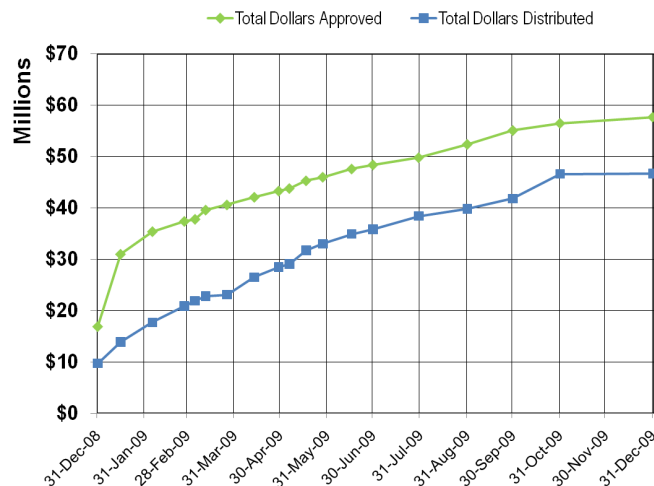


## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

Over 6,300 units of housing stock were estimated to be damaged or destroyed by flooding. Of this amount, 72 percent was estimated to be single-family houses; 13 percent were multi-family housing such as condos, duplexes, and townhomes; about 7 percent were apartment units; 3 percent were mobile homes; with about 5 percent unknown.

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) reported that as of Dec. 3, 2009, 3,288 applications had been received for housing repair or rehabilitation through state and federal Jumpstart programs. The federal program had 636 applications approved or committed totaling \$13 million and \$8.1 million has been disbursed or expended. Over 700 inspections had been completed by early December 2009, and the duplication of benefit process had been completed on 455 applications. The federal program guidelines were more restrictive than the Jumpstart program designed by the state of Iowa. To participate in the federal program the household must have received FEMA funds and have a household income at or below 100 percent of the area median income. The repair or rehabilitation dollars were not allowed to be used for structures within the 100-year flood plain or a designated buyout area unless the activity met all HUD environmental requirements, design standards and had federal flood insurance. Federal lead-safe housing requirements and minimum housing rehabilitation standards also applied. The maximum amount available for repairs or rehabilitation per household was \$60,000.

*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 December 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 are processing paperwork, waiting for receipts to be turned in for reimbursements, etc.



## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



The RIO's 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 talks with a reporter about the Single Family New Construction housing program.

The state Jumpstart program included three separate allocations and has awarded repair funding to 1,354 applications as of early December 2009 totaling \$21.4 million committed and \$18.5 million disbursed. A total of \$40 million was requested by applicants for housing repair or rehabilitation.

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program provided vouchers and reimbursements to disaster victims to cover remaining unmet needs, including home repairs. The program was provided as a grant of up to \$2,500 per household. The income restrictions to participate were at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The program was administered by the Long-Term Recovery Committees. Over \$2 million dollars was disbursed for home repairs.

**Strategy:** A total of more than \$40 million has been allocated for rehabilitation and repair of housing. As the COGs and entitlement cities continue to process applications, conduct inspections, and complete the duplication of benefits verification process, the RIO will continue to work with IFA and IDED to collect data and information regarding repair/rehabilitation of the housing stock, identify problems, procedures, or policies that delay or prohibit progress, and recommend solutions to returning damaged residential units to viable housing.

### 2) Provide assistance that allows landlords to repair damaged rental units

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Repair and rehabilitation assistance has also been made available to landlords. Two programs based on the number of units in the project were developed. These rental rehabilitation programs allow for up to \$24,999 per unit with the restriction that the unit must provide affordable housing for five years. This means that the landlord must rent to tenants whose household income is at or below 80 percent of the area median income limits at an affordable rate. For projects of only one or two units, all must be affordable; for projects of three or more units, 51 percent of the units must be made affordable.

The RIO staff has met with organized landlord groups to identify and discuss their concerns about the programs. Landlords expressed concerns about taking on new debt to rehabilitate units and being required to keep the rents affordable for a set number of years. They

have expressed concerns that the program rules ultimately prevent them from having a positive cash flow. They have also expressed concerns about not being able to rehabilitate structures in the buyout areas nor the 100-year flood plain.

Nationally, vacancy rates in rental properties were at 7 percent as of November 2009. In the Des Moines metro area vacancies were at 6 percent, according to the Iowa Landlords Association. The Linn County Landlords Association conducts monthly surveys and as of November 2009, their membership's vacancy rates were at 12 percent.

One factor that may be contributing to vacancy rates is the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer's tax credit, initially set to expire at the end of November 2009 but extended to April 2010. The tax credit may continue to impact the rental housing market in Iowa during the first two quarters of 2010 as renters with the financial ability move toward home ownership.

**Measures:** The Small Project Program is for landlords owning seven units or fewer. As of Dec. 28, 2009, allocations for 439 units totaling \$13.4 million were made. The Large Project Program is for landlords with more than seven units. Three entities (NIACOG, Linn County and Iowa City) have 122 units under contract for \$1.9 million.

**Strategy:** A new program, the Residential Landlord Business Support Program, was announced in late 2009, and training for entitlement cities and COG staff to administer the program was held in early December. The program is designed to compensate for lost rental revenue for residential landlords providing affordable housing whose rental units were physically damaged by the disaster. Landlords may receive up to \$15,000 per business tax identification number. The RIO staff will work with IDED to measure participation in this new program as well as the small and large rental rehabilitation program and will continue to meet with landlord groups and organizations to understand the recovery issues they face and identify solutions to restoring units to viable rental units.

### 3) Help those living in FEMA mobile homes find a permanent housing solution

**Status:** Close to completion

**Progress:** Immediately following the disaster, FEMA located mobile home pads in 25 commercial mobile home parks in 13 communities in seven counties. The number of mobile homes that were located in commercial parks was 506. FEMA also provided 86 mobile homes to displaced persons on private land. Typically, these sites were in rural areas or smaller towns where the property owner had the ability to place a mobile home on the same lot as their damaged home. As of Jan. 6, 2010, 35 mobile homes are in use in five counties. Linn County has 22 units or 63 percent of the remaining mobile homes. Louisa County has seven, or 20 percent of the remaining mobile homes. Some of the Louisa County mobile homes are occupied by displaced homeowners who are in the process of building a new home or repairing their flood damaged homes.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**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.**

For those households reporting a move out reason in 2009, over 38 percent were able to return to their previously flood-damaged home. An additional 33 percent were able to purchase another replacement home. More than 71 percent of the displaced households either returned to their previous home or purchased a replacement home. Less than 16 percent of the displaced households moved out of the mobile home into a rental unit. Another 9.8 percent of the households in temporary mobile home units made other housing decisions where their ownership status was unknown, almost half of this group moved in with either family or friends.

FEMA announced that it will begin collecting rent from the households remaining in FEMA-provided temporary housing units on Jan. 1, 2010. Notifications were sent outlining their monthly payment. Actual rent for each household was determined on a case-by-case basis. The rent is based on household size, income and unit size. The temporary housing program will end June 27, 2010. FEMA housing advisors have met with each household on a monthly basis to discuss their plans for permanent housing. During these visits, applicants are provided with rental resources and information on Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRC) and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs).

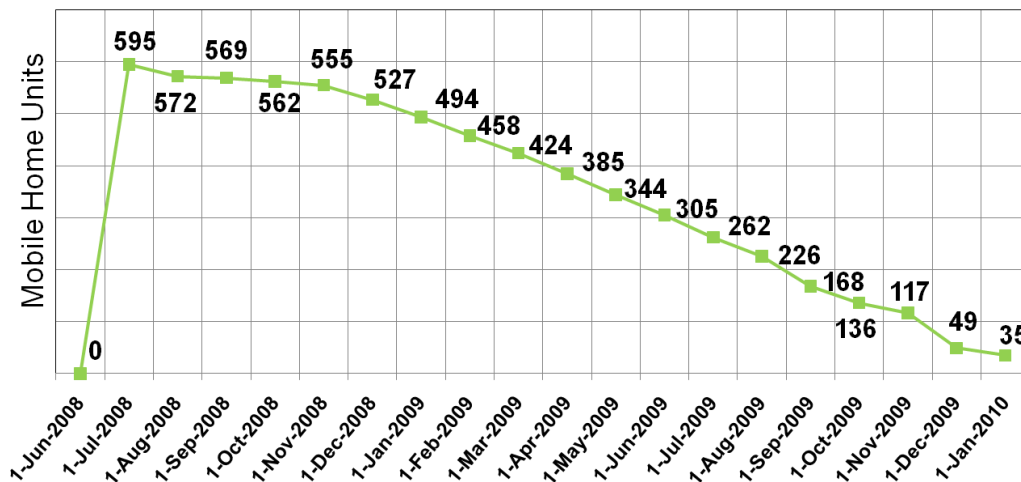
FEMA contacted the RIO to determine the level of interest in allowing the remaining temporary housing units to be donated. FEMA policy allows the temporary housing units (THU) to be donated to state, local government, or eligible 501 (c) 3 not-for-profits to provide temporary housing to disaster victims. Under FEMA policy, the recipient of the donated units cannot sell, transfer, donate or otherwise dispose of the units for 18 months from the date of the declaration or for a period no less than one calendar year from the date of the donation agreement. The recipient of the donated units are responsible for all maintenance, installation, deactivation and disposition once delivered to the site. RIO staff teleconferenced with FEMA officials to assess the viability of the state or non-profit organizations accepting the THUs. After numerous discussions and analysis of the offer, RIO staff recommended the offer not be pursued in part because sufficient progress is being made to locate the remaining THU occupants into permanent housing. Additionally, the property management responsibilities do not readily match any existing nonprofit organization's mission or programs.

**Measures:** The following chart shows the number of FEMA mobile

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

home units that remain occupied in Iowa. Iowa began with 592 units and as of Jan. 6, 2010, only 35 temporary housing units were in use.

*FEMA Mobile Home Units that Remain in Iowa*



**Strategy:** The RIO will continue to work with FEMA, LTRCs, and VOADs to coordinate efforts to find permanent housing solutions for the remaining households in commercial parks. Nine units are on private property and residents will most likely move out of the trailer when their flood-damaged home is repaired or rebuilt. The temporary housing program will end by June 27, 2010, and it is anticipated that every one of the 35 households will attain permanent housing before the program expires.

### 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**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Affordable housing describes dwelling units where total housing costs are deemed "affordable" to those that have a median income. HUD establishes annual guidance on median incomes by household size for each county and also determines fair market rental values by geographic area. In the United States, a commonly accepted guideline for housing affordability is a housing cost that does not exceed 30 percent of a household's gross income. Housing costs considered in this guideline generally include **taxes** and **insurance** for owners, and usually include utility costs. When the monthly carrying costs of a home exceed 30-35 percent of household income, the housing is considered unaffordable for that household. In cases where disaster-damaged homes had been owned by the household for many years, the only housing costs incurred were utilities, insurance and taxes.



### NATIONAL MARKET FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES

Nationally, new residential sales in November 2009 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 355,000 homes according to estimates released Dec. 23, 2009, by the U.S. Census Bureau and HUD.

This was 11.3 percent below the revised October rate of 400,000 homes and is 9 percent below the Nov. 2008 estimate of 380,000.

Across the United States, the median sales price of new homes in November 2009 was \$217,000; the average sales price was \$280,300.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of November 2009 was 235,000 units.

This represents a housing supply of 7.9 months at the current sales rate.

Many of the homes that were damaged in this disaster were built prior to 1950 and were part of the community's affordable housing stock. Historically, as Iowa communities located near rivers, residential neighborhoods were built in areas that are now regarded as flood plains. Iowa is ranked fifth nationally for having the oldest housing stock based on the percentage of housing built before 1950.

The Center for Housing Policy also surveyed 200 metropolitan areas in 2008 to determine homeownership affordability. The State of Iowa had four communities that appeared in the rankings. All four experienced flooding and all moved upward in their ranking over the previous year even though Des Moines and Waterloo had lower median home prices in 2008 than in 2007. Waterloo had the least number of housing units destroyed and their ranking moved from 183 to 182. Cedar Rapids had the highest number of destroyed homes and saw the most upward movement in their ranking from 162 nationally to 133.

*New Construction Costs* - The cost of building a new single-family home depends on several factors, including location, specific components within the home (upgrades), lot price and land 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. One of the issues facing several urban communities in Black Hawk, Johnson and Linn Counties is land development costs and lot prices. These three counties have the newest housing stock in the state. According to the 2000 Census, less than 18 percent of the housing stock in Johnson County was constructed before 1950. Linn County had less than 26.2 percent and Black Hawk County had less than 32.3 percent. Where demand for land development is high, lot prices will be higher. Generally, lot prices represent one-fourth of the total value of a new home. Developers and city officials have expressed concern about the difficulty to build affordable replacement housing in the \$150,000 to \$180,000 value range when the lot price is more than 25 percent of the total price. IDED is working on housing program guidance to address both the costs to develop infrastructure (water and sewer extensions, roads) and land costs (lot development) for new home construction.

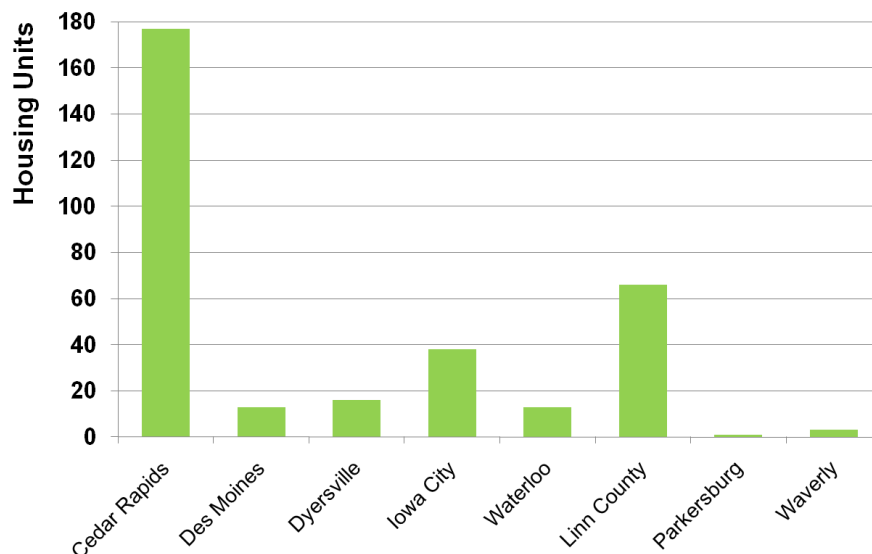
*Iowa Housing Trends* - The Iowa Association of Realtors® issued a news release on Dec. 11, 2009, indicating that the total number of sales across Iowa was 2,759 for the month of November 2009. This

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

was an increase of 43.3 percent from November 2008 when 1,925 units were sold. While sales were strong in Iowa, nationally they were down 9 percent for the same reporting period. The average sales price of homes in November 2009 held steady to the last year at this time. The average sales price in November 2009 was \$137,392 while the average sales price for November 2008 was \$138,575. The drop in sales price represents less than 1 percent. Over 70 percent of the local Realtor® boards in Iowa reported increases in the average sales price of homes from November 2008. As the buyouts of damaged homes continues into 2010, and the first time home buyers program is extended for several more months, Iowa's demand for housing in the median price range will most likely remain steady.

*Single-Family Unit Production* - IDED has announced the second round of funding for Single-Family Unit Production. Funding totals \$30 million. Priority for program funding will be directed to incorporated communities that have FEMA or CDBG buyouts. Participants will submit detailed development plans that offer a variety of types and styles of housing. The units developed are to be offered for sale to persons with household incomes at or below the median income limits established by HUD by county and household size. Additionally, one-half of all newly constructed units in this program are to be made available for sale to households whose incomes are at or below 80 percent of the median income limits. The maximum per unit development cost is \$180,000. For one-half of all the units constructed there is a maximum limit of \$150,000 per unit.

This chart shows units that have been constructed and funded by the Single Family New Construction Program statewide as of Dec. 23, 2009. The program is currently funded with nearly \$18 millions in CDBG dollars.



### 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 percent 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](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

*Multi-Family (Rental) Unit Production* - IDED has also announced a second round of funding for Multi-Family (Rental) Unit Production. Any of IDED's 11 CDBG Disaster Housing Recovery Recipients and any of the five CDBG entitlement cities (Ames, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Dubuque and West Des Moines) may apply for this program. Applications may qualify as either replacing lost units or impact by area of recovery. The maximum per-project cap limitation is \$3 million and the maximum per-unit development cost cap is \$60,000 unless it is an adaptive re-use and then the cap is \$66,000 for CDBG Disaster Recovery funds. Maximum gross rent limits on the CDBG Supplemental Funds assisted rental units shall not exceed the most current HOME Program 65 percent rent limits.

**Measures:** The Single Family New Construction program administered by IDED, provides funding to build replacement housing for low and moderate income persons. By December 2009, 172 units were completed and 306 units were under construction. The entitlement cities and regional Council of Governments reported that they were working with 355 approved applicants, and 213 units had been sold by mid-December.

**Strategy:** IDED will receive development plans for Single Family New Construction under Round #2 until June 2010, and is planning to approve all development plans as quickly as possible. RIO staff will work with IDED to review the development plans submitted, assess what program guidelines encourage or restrict program participation, and recommend policy or program changes within the CDBG funding framework. Program recipients will have until Dec. 31, 2011, to have all single-family dwelling units under this activity under construction. The RIO will continue to review monthly progress reports from the participants. As the buyouts progress in 2010, and households continue to make permanent housing plans, the RIO will continue to analyze the need, demand, and market for additional single-family housing in flood-impacted communities regions.

The Multi-Family Rental Unit Production program will accept development proposals until June 30, 2010. The RIO will coordinate with IDED to review the proposed projects and will continue to assess local, state, and national information on trend data regarding the rental housing market and vacancy rates.



### 2) Reduce the risk of housing damage and impacts in future disasters

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The main method of mitigation in housing following a major disaster is acquisition of damaged and destroyed properties. Those properties in the most at-risk flood areas are then converted to green space so that in future disasters there are fewer properties in the floods path. In some cases, properties purchased in lower-risk areas are then rehabilitated or new buildings are put on the sites. The goal is for any new construction in even these lower-risk areas to be more resilient and prepared for future flooding.

There are two major programs that provide resources for purchasing flood-damaged homes and apartment buildings from their owners. FEMA's HMGP 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. The HMGP program requires a local match, and IDED has allocated over \$13 million to assist in the acquisition of units.

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 use the site. IDED has currently allocated over \$148 million to acquire 1,328 units and expects to spend a total of up to \$230 million.

*Duplication of Benefits* - Duplication of benefits is one of the most complex and least understood aspects of the property acquisition process. FEMA's policy is to prevent the duplication of benefits within its own programs, including national flood insurance, and with other sources of funds for disaster assistance for the same purpose. Therefore, FEMA considers such assistance to be advances toward the purchase price of a property and deducts those amounts from the price paid to the property owner. FEMA does not deduct benefits for which the property owner can provide receipts to show that the money received was used for its intended purposes such as home repair. Disaster relief is provided primarily by FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to meet short-term recovery needs. HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are generally for long-term needs such as economic redevelopment in disaster affected areas and are being used in this disaster to assist in the voluntary buyout acquisition program. HUD advises state and local governments that funds from two or more government agencies cannot be used for the same costs. Because government funds were used to provide down payment assistance to acquire replacement housing, a duplication of benefit policy issue was raised that those funds would be subtracted from the buyout awards.

Because of the gap between the average value of a damaged home and the cost of a similar sized replacement home, the RIO worked with IDED to request that HUD allow homebuyers to retain up to \$25,000 in down payment assistance regardless of which buyout program they

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



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



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

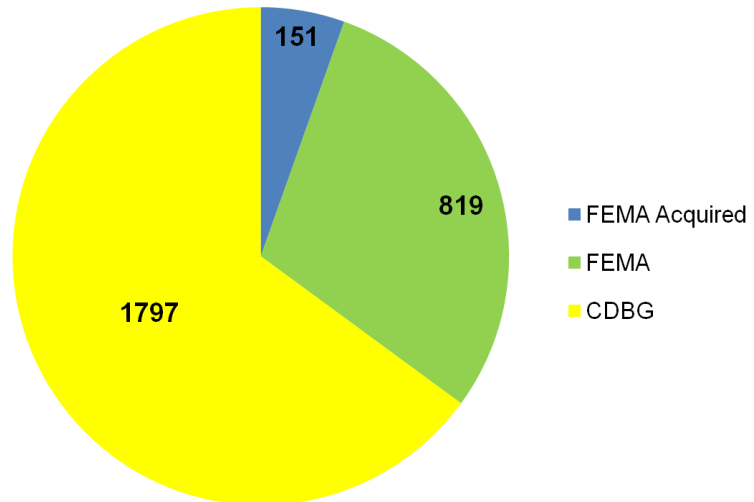


**Attendees speak with state housing representatives at the Wapello Flood Forum, August 2009.**

have or will participate in. Without this effort to allow retention of the down payment assistance benefit, any down payment assistance households received would be subtracted from their buyout offer as a duplication of benefit. The buyout program assistance may come from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Homebuyer Assistance Program (HBA), CDBG Single Family New Production (SFNP), State Down Payment Assistance (DPA) or the Replacement Housing Incentives through FEMA.

### Measures:

This chart shows the number of buyouts anticipated (a total of 2,767). This includes buyouts funded by both the FEMA HMGP Program and through CDBG funds.



**Strategy:** The funding programs for new construction and repair or rehabilitation all contain program guidelines that prohibit investment of program dollars in buyout areas or 100-year floodplains. While this is a mitigation strategy under FEMA's HMGP program to reduce future risk and impact, it is also a recovery strategy using HUD's CDBG programs to guide new investment away from areas of potential risk. As new programs are proposed and existing programs analyzed and assessed for effectiveness, adherence to limiting reinvestment in flood-prone areas will continue to be a strategy to reducing future losses.

**3) Work to ensure that new housing meets quality standards, long-term sustainability and energy efficiency goals**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** It is the RIO and IDED's goal to utilize CDBG Supplemental Funds to guide new single-family housing development to be green-built, sustainable structures. For all available in-fill lots and all existing subdivision lots for single-family construction, all newly constructed single-family housing should, to the extent possible, meet the requirements of the Iowa Green Streets Criteria, particularly with regard to structure design considerations. For newly created subdivisions meeting the Iowa Green Streets Criteria as it relates to both unit design considerations and site-related considerations. All newly constructed multi-family housing is required to meet the Iowa Green Street Criteria.

**Measures:**

*Energy Efficiency Program* - IFA provided funding for an Energy Efficiency Program through the entitlement cities and Council of Governments (COGs) to assist relocated property owners with vouchers or funds to purchase energy efficient appliances, heating and air conditioning (HVAC) and home improvements supplies that reduce energy demand. Each participating household was eligible to request up to \$10,000 to assist with purchasing equipment or supplies including programmable thermostats, water heaters, ductwork, windows, doors, insulation, Energy Star appliances and lighting.

Approximately \$572,551 was dispersed to assist relocated homeowners with goods and heating and air-conditioning (HVAC) purchases. IFA also dispersed \$1,055,821 to homeowners who were repairing or rehabilitating their flood-damaged homes. The intent of the program was to reduce future energy demand and assist the flood-damaged property owners with managing their future utility bills by obtaining supplies and equipment that would lower their future overall housing costs (utilities, taxes, insurance, mortgage).

**Strategy:** The RIO will continue to monitor, review, and measure progress of funding programs requiring residential development to be located outside of the 100-year flood plain or buyout areas and to meet sustainable building criteria.

**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**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The RIO has convened a Housing Task Force which includes attendees representing IDED, IFA, the RIO and Jim Davis, RIAC Housing Task Force Chair. The Task Force meets regularly to discuss immediate issues and long-term recovery strategies. Recent

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

---



**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.**

meetings included discussion of duplication of benefits and unmet needs funding, landlord concerns regarding program restrictions for rent, housing assessments and FEMA's plans for charging rent to lowans in FEMA trailers. The Task Force provides an opportunity for coordination across departments and state offices and provides direction and guidance to RIO staff on housing programs and policy.

**Strategy:** The Housing Task Force will continue to meet in 2010. A second annual Housing Conference is planned for Feb. 10, 2010, to assess what progress has been made in 2009, and set goals for the future. The conference will build on the February 2009 session that was held in Coralville where COGs and cities came together to share ideas, plans and goals for housing recovery.



### 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: \$29,880,662
- 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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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.

**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

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

of current revolving loan funds can be found in the appendix on page 141.

In October 2009, after months of discussions with impacted members of the business community, the RIO and IDED announced several new programs to address the ongoing needs of affected businesses.

*Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)* - BRAP provides rental assistance to help offset rental lease payments for a maximum of six months.

*Extended Business Rental Assistance Program (EBRAP)* - EBRAP provides assistance in the form of reimbursement for up to 50 percent replacement cost associated with machinery and equipment, furniture, supplies and inventory.

To be eligible for EBRAP the business must be located in a rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disaster. The business must be able to document a loss associated with machinery and equipment due to the disaster.

Together, or separately the total amount of money eligible to a recipient in this program is \$50,000.

*Loan Interest Supplement (LISP)* - LISP provides assistance in the form of interest supplements to businesses who have obtained physical disaster loans and / or economic injury loans from an eligible lender.

An eligible business has received a disaster loan for economic injury and / or physical damage as a result of the 2008 natural disasters. The business must be open and operating at the time of application and at each disbursement. Common ownership must be in place both pre-disaster and post-disaster.

An eligible business may apply for interest supplements of up to \$50,000 for the first three years of the disaster related loans executed prior to June 1, 2009. Maximum allowable reimbursement is calculated on the first 36-months of interest on the original disaster loan or line of credit.

*Commercial Rental Revenue Gap (CRRG)* - CRRG provides assistance with cash flow for commercial building owners to offset the loss of revenue from rental space that was physically damaged by the disaster.

To be eligible the business must provide lease agreements from tenants prior to the disasters. The business must provide lease agreements from current tenant or documentation of final inspection by local government showing rehab/repair of the building is complete and ready to be occupied by a tenant.

The maximum award for CRRG is up to 12 months lost rental revenue to businesses who own commercial rental property, up to \$25,000 per unit.

**Measures:** According to the RIO's summer 2009 community survey data from 13



### 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.

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 August 2009, over 10 percent of the flood-affected businesses were still closed. Over 80 percent 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.

The Iowa EDA University Center has operated within the **Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS)** since the program began at Iowa State University in 1980. The program provides assistance to small manufacturers in rural communities and entrepreneurs developing start-up companies. The three primary areas of assistance include technical assistance to Iowa businesses and industry, assist companies with the implementation of new technologies, and support and assist entrepreneurs and start-up companies.

After the disasters of 2008, CIRAS conducted a survey of manufacturing businesses in the state. There are more than 6,000 manufacturing businesses in Iowa employing 230,000. The survey concentrated in the zip codes of the reported disaster areas, which was 1,400 businesses. Of the 1,400 businesses CIRAS contacted 1,074. The contact was able to produce valuable information; surveyors were able to connect with 78 percent of the 1,074 manufacturers. Fifty percent of the manufacturers reported being directly or indirectly affected by the flood.

The most pressing issue expressed to the surveyors was the workforce (50 percent). The workforce was not just unable to get to work because of washed-out roads and bridges, but they also had to deal with the devastation at home. This created a variety of problems for manufacturers, including delays in order delivery, short-term lost sales, lost customers, and added costs when penalty clauses were included in orders. The median value of capital damage reported per employee was \$3,100, and the median value of lost income or profits



per employee was \$2,200 for companies directly impacted by the floods or tornadoes. The median value of lost income or profits of companies indirectly affected was \$400 per employee. It is difficult to accurately assess the total impact of the flooding and tornadoes on manufacturing. Many manufacturers could not be reached during the survey period. Only 46 percent of the companies that provided detailed information would provide cost estimates. Companies either did not know the extent of damage or they did not want to provide company sensitive information. The latter was true of many of the larger manufacturers. Parts of the state that were not flooded were not surveyed. Many manufacturers in these regions, especially in southeast Iowa, were indirectly affected by the floods. Despite the uncertainty in the data, it is reasonable to expect damages and lost income to exceed \$100 million.

**Strategy:** COGs and Entitlement Cities administering the new programs are completing the contracts and have begun accepting applications for the new programs. The RIO will continue to monitor the success of these programs and the status of impacted businesses to determine future assistance.

### 2) Help businesses reopen with the same number of employees as before the disasters

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** In addition to the programs described above, another grant provided assistance specifically with the goal of ensuring that businesses were able to maintain staffing levels and avoid disaster-related lay-offs. Utilizing a portion of the National Emergency Grant from the Department of Labor, Iowa Workforce Development created the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant (otherwise known as the Business Capitalization 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.

**Measures:** One-hundred and seventeen (117) grants totaling \$494,829 were issued to Iowa small businesses through this program.

**Strategy:** The RIO will continue to monitor the success of business programs in maintaining businesses and their staffing levels and determine future assistance as needed.

### 3) Attract new businesses to disaster-impacted areas

**Status:** Ongoing

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC BETTERMENT ACCOUNT

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

**Progress:** An element of the overall Business Assistance activity provides assistance to businesses remaining in or relocating to rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. Assistance is in the form of rental assistance to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months, plus associated business expenses such as machinery and equipment, office furniture or computer hardware to replace damaged equipment, or for startup businesses. Awards are not to exceed a total of \$50,000 per business.

#### Measures:

*Business Rental Assistance Program* - Participation in the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) increased significantly between Oct. 5, the date of the RIO's last Quarterly Report, and Dec. 23, when the latest information was available.

In Cedar Rapids, participation went from 132 participating businesses to 426 which receiving \$3.4 million of assistance. In the area covered by ECICOG the number of businesses went from 24 to 54, representing \$944,975 of assistance. The NIACOG area went from 8 businesses to 11 businesses representing \$87,160. Cedar Falls went from 6 businesses to 9 businesses representing \$148,795.

The number of businesses participating grew from 170 to 500 and the total assistance increased from \$2.2 million to \$4.5 million.

**Strategy:** Moving forward in the recovery process, this goal will become even more important. It will be increasingly necessary to demonstrate the stability and prosperity of impacted communities and the state as a whole in order to continue to attract new employers.

#### 4) Create new jobs in rebuilding and provide skills training to help connect people to those jobs

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor is being used to put lowans who have lost their job due to the tornadoes or floods back to work (up to 1,040 hours - approximately 6 months).

*Emergency Public Jobs Program (EPJ)* - The program is administered by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and the wages are paid at the prevailing wage for the worksite.

**Measures:** As of the end of Sept. 2009, the EPJ program had 2,152 workers statewide at approximately 500 worksites. The EPJ program has spent more than \$20.7 million of the National Emergency Grant through November of 2009. IWD has currently expended or obligated nearly all of its funding for the EPJ Program.

**Strategy:** However, IWD will be applying for additional funds for the EPJ Program through a modification to Iowa's Workforce Investment Act Grant. The modification will be submitted by the end of January 2010.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

#### **1) Increase business preparedness and contingency planning for future disasters**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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 RIO 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), the 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 138 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 are coming due. Using resources from CDBG funds, SBDCs have so far helped 48 businesses.

**Measures:** The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is offering free Business Continuity Training (BCT). The sessions are broken into 4 separate days. The goal is to cover four different topics each of the four sessions in order to break the subject down into manageable tasks for the businesses attending. Ideally the same businesses will attend all the sessions as the goal is to have a plan finalized by the end of the four sessions. The participants are provided information and given homework to complete before the next session. On average, the

### EMERGENCY PUBLIC JOBS TESTIMONIALS

Jimmy worked for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers removing flood debris and repairing infrastructure at Coralville Lake in Iowa City. When Jimmy applied for EPJ he was residing in a homeless shelter. The jobs Jimmy held over the 3 previous years were sporadic and limited in length. When given the opportunity at Coralville Lake Jimmy made the most of it. Jimmy displayed ownership in his work, a strong work ethic and was an asset to the worksite. After Jimmy's hours were completed the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers had glowing comments on Jimmy and he has built a strong reference for future employment. Jimmy is currently examining the Phase II training component to improve his skills in the operation of heavy equipment in the hopes to pursue future employment in this area. When asked to share his experience, Jimmy was quick to say, "This program has made a real positive impact on my life."

Diana worked for the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) in an administrative support role for the Jumpstart program. Diana's home was damaged in the flooding of 2008, and previous to that had participated in the Welfare to Work program. After displaying strong skills, a good work ethic and continued initiative ECICOG decided to hire Diana to direct their Jumpstart flood recovery program even before her hours with EPJ were complete. Diana is still currently working with ECICOG as a Program Specialist.

attendance has approximately 30 students per session.

CIRAS is also continuing to hold workshops for businesses interested in learning more about Business Continuity Plans. The leadership of the business must make a commitment to a full day session to create a proper BPC. To date, CIRAS has successfully held 8 sessions creating Business Continuity Plans for businesses and are planning on hosting more.

**Strategy:** The Rebuild Iowa Office is recommending in the 2010 Legislative session the development of a statewide focused taskforce on Business Case Management (see below).

#### 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**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Rebuild Iowa Office has filed a bill which includes Business Case Management Taskforce development for the General Assembly's 2010 legislative session. The RIO will work with the Governor's Office, the Rebuild Iowa Legislative Committees, and other elected officials and interested stakeholders to pass the bill.

This taskforce's purpose is to research business case management assistance needs in major disasters and recommend action steps to prepare to provide such assistance in future disasters. The taskforce would include members from Iowa Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP), Retailers Association, Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI), Iowa Department of Economic Development, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and two business owners appointed by the Governor. A report would be due to the General Assembly no later than Nov. 15, 2010.

**Strategy:** The RIO will work to implement the Task Force's recommendations.



### Goal 3: Infrastructure Investments

*The State should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction. (RIAC Recommendation #4)*



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



A levee being rebuilt near Oakville



Gov. Culver discusses investing in infrastructure at the Cedar Rapids Public Works building.

#### SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

##### 1) Repair and replace damaged infrastructure

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:**

*FEMA Public Assistance Funds* - FEMA has committed \$816,107,415 in Public Assistance dollars to rebuild and restore the state's impacted infrastructure. The work ranges from repairing bridges to relocating public buildings. These dollars are invaluable to the recovery of Iowa.

*CDBG Infrastructure Funds* - Community Development Block Grant money has been committed to improving the State's infrastructure. In total, CDBG dollars committed to infrastructure is \$110,545,799. Being the most flexible source of funding, CDBG is playing an important role in the recovery process for individuals, businesses and non-profits.

*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 tax increase.

There has been \$118.5 million in competitive grants awarded to 58 projects statewide for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities hit by last year's disasters. There was also \$46.5 million in grants targeted to specific key projects identified in the I-JOBS legislation:

- 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

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

- 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

*Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Funding* - The Iowa DOT received federal disaster transportation funds for damaged roads and rail systems totaling more than \$37 million. In addition, the Iowa Department of Transportation's Transportation Commission approved more than \$3.3 million in funding for seven rail improvement projects as part of the Railroad Revolving Loan and Grant Program (RRLGP). The rail projects are expected to support the creation of 84 new jobs, leverage nearly \$25 million in new capital investment and provide \$1 million to reconstruct a rail bridge in Waterloo destroyed by floodwaters in 2008.

The RRLGP received \$1.5 million in funding through I-JOBS. Many modes of transportation in Iowa will benefit from I-JOBS, including a total of \$115 million in investments in the state's roads and bridges, freight and passenger rail systems, recreational trails, general aviation airports, and public transit systems.

The RRLGP provides assistance to rail facilities that create jobs and spur economic development, and railroads for the preservation and improvement of the rail transportation system. Applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed as funding is available.

**Measures:** According to the RIO's summer 2009 community data survey from 13 impacted communities, more than 100 government buildings or facilities and non-profit cultural and arts facilities 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 percent 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.



## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



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.

### Key projects:

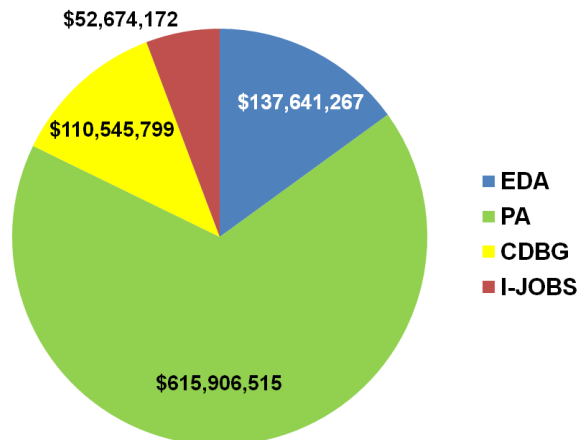
*Cedar Rapids Public Library Main Facility relocation and rebuilding (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- Project total: \$20,000,000
- I-JOBS: \$10,000,000; Local Match: \$7,956,900; FEMA/PA: \$22,000,000; Corporate Support: \$5,000,000; Other: \$5,000,000

### Disaster-Related Infrastructure Dollars

Current Dec. 31, 2009

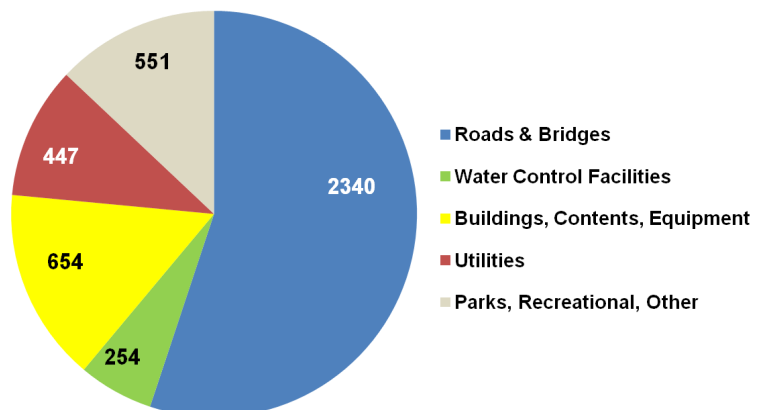
Total: \$916,767,753



### FEMA Public Assistance Projects Completed

Current Dec. 31, 2009

Total: 4,246

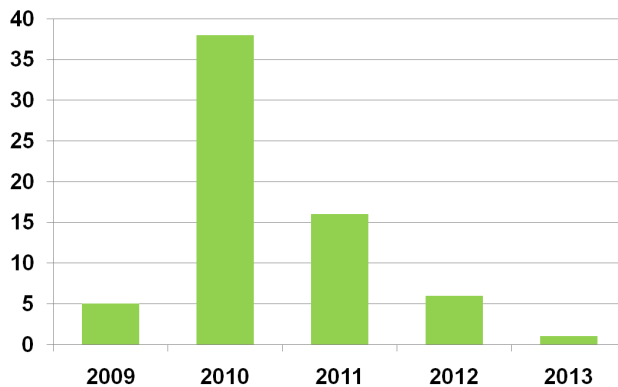




## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

### I-JOBS Projects Scheduled for Completion (by Year) Current Dec. 31, 2009 Total Disaster-Related Projects Approved in 2009: 66



#### *U.S. Cellular Center Improvement and Event Center Construction (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- Project total: \$65,000,000
- I-JOBS: \$15,000,000; Local Match: \$15,000,000; EDA: \$35,000,000

#### *Louisa County Bridges (Wapello, Louisa County)*

- CDBG: \$1,557,000; EDA: \$11,865,000

#### *Cedar Rapids Community School District (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- PA: \$2,550,713

#### *Paramount Theater Building (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- PA: \$25,681,425

#### *Options Building (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- PA: \$7,348,148

#### *St. Luke's Medical Center - Construct Steam Plant (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- EDA: \$4,650,000

#### *Mercy Medical Center – Construct Steam Plant (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- EDA: \$4,057,300

### CEDAR RAPIDS STEAM ENERGY CONVERSION

The Cedar Rapids Steam Conversion program is on-track to begin initial disbursements for post-flood steam bills in late January 2010.

In total, 126 businesses applied to the program. The City's third-party administrator, Transitions Made Better Inc., continues to collect applicant information necessary to process payments.

The program is scheduled to provide nearly \$5 million in assistance to pre-flood steam customers to assist with high bills and approximately \$16 million for costs to convert to new energy systems.

*Replacement of Public Works Complex, relocation to lower flood-risk site (Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County)*

- Project Total: \$11,655,000
- I-JOBS: \$8,741,250; Local Match: \$2,913,750

*Wastewater treatment plant project (Iowa City, Johnson County)*

- Project total: \$63,000,000
- I-JOBS: \$10,000,000; Local Match: \$26,000,000; CDBG: \$5,000,000; EDA: \$22,000,000

*Linn County Juvenile Law Center and Courthouse (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- Project total: \$4,922,597
- I-JOBS: \$3,690,000; Local Match: \$607,597; FEMA/PA: \$625,000

*Cedar Rapids City Hall Building (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- PA: \$20,335,822

*Linn County Courthouse – Building (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)*

- PA: \$4,641,958

*University of Iowa; Hancher Auditorium, Flood Damaged Building (Iowa City, Johnson County)*

- PA: \$6,669,199

*University of Iowa; Voxman/Clapp Music Building, Flood Damages (Iowa City, Johnson County)*

- PA: \$7,083,812

*Washington Irving Elementary School (Waverly-Shell Rock, Bremer County)*

- PA: \$9,607,527

**Strategy:** The Rebuild Iowa Office will continue to actively participate in the Comprehensive Infrastructure Study, encourage more funding from FEMA and champion disaster related projects seeking I-JOBS funding. In addition to monitoring the already approved projects to make sure our communities are being good stewards of the funding.

The shortfall in infrastructure dollars in Iowa is significant; both I-JOBS and CDBG programs received more applications for funding than dollars available. The CDBG program was unable to fund over \$300 million in projects and the I-JOBS program over \$200 million in projects. State officials will continue to investigate ways to fund remaining infrastructure needs.

**2) Complete needed demolition while reducing waste and increasing the salvage wherever possible.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Thousands of structures are being demolished due to the 2008 disasters. 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 salvaging of disaster-affected historic properties. This activity has never been executed on a large scale following a U.S. disaster.

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.

**Measures:** According to FEMA, 3,056 structures have been identified for demolition. Of those structures, 1,394 will be demolished due to Health and Safety concerns and 896 will be demolished after Buyouts. A total of 401 demolitions have been completed to date leaving 2,655 remaining to be demolished.

**Strategy:** Cities have been developing demolition plans to fit the needs of their specific communities. For example in Cedar Rapids, which has the most damaged structures, officials are continuing to do environmental assessments and abatements prior to demolition. The next round of 400 properties to be demolished by late winter.

### INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CABINET OF ADVISORS

Participants in this weekly meeting are agency directors who will participate in the Cabinet of Advisors:

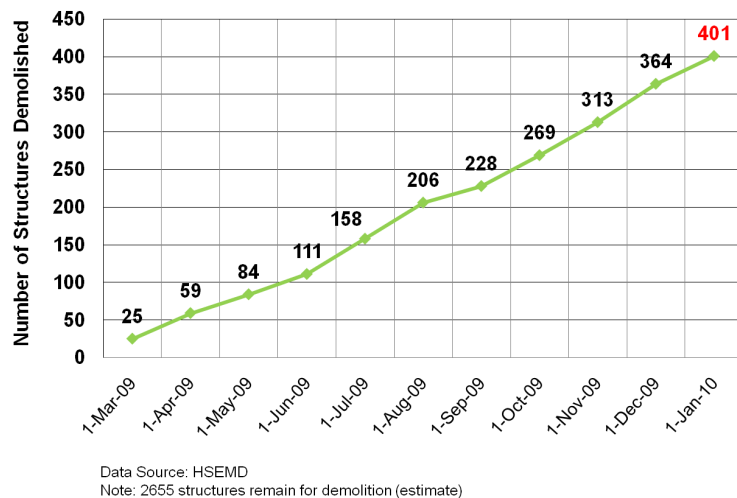
- Elisabeth Buck, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)
- Steve Fleagle, University of Iowa (U of I)
- Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)
- Rich Leopold, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Bret Mills, Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)
- Nancy Richardson, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Roya Stanley, Office of Energy Independence (OEI)

Members help guide the process and strategy, and participate in and chair Sector Committees comprised of private, academic, issue-based, and public representatives. This approach provides a diversity of perspectives.

Sector Committees include Natural Resources Sector (Rich Leopold), Energy Sector (Roya Stanley), Telecommunications Sector (Steve Fleagle), Transportation Sector (Nancy Richardson), and Buildings and Vertical Infrastructure Sector (Bret Mills).

The initial round of Sector committee meetings was held prior to December 2009.

### Structures Demolished Current Dec. 31, 2009



### LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Work to ensure that new infrastructure is built safer, stronger and smarter, and incorporates smart planning and energy efficiency principles**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Several agencies, including the Office of Energy Independence, Department of Cultural Affairs and IDED, are already working toward improving Iowa's energy efficiency, sustainability, community identity and quality of life. The proposed Iowa Smart Planning bill reinforces each of these concepts (see Goal 6).

Two other initiatives developed as a result of the 2008 natural disasters provide assistance to communities, professionals and citizens regarding rebuilding and planning in a more economically and environmentally sustainable manner; the Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa Program and the EPA Smart Growth Program.

Projects that are being replaced rather than repaired have a unique opportunity to be more energy efficient and use the principles of smart planning. Projects like the Cedar Rapids Commerce Center are taking advantage of building a structure soundly and LEED-certified. This complex will use smart planning principles as well as using the space

to the fullest extent with communal purposes.

**Measures:** Implementation of recommendations included in the technical assistance reports from the US EPA to the five participating communities.

**Strategy:** The RIO is drafting the Iowa Smart Planning initiative for the 2010 Legislative Session. The Iowa Smart Planning Bill is enabling legislation that provides authority to, but does not mandate, local governments to create and implement comprehensive plans. The bill includes Iowa Smart Planning Principles, local comprehensive plan definition and outlines and creates a smart planning taskforce to examine the support necessary to encourage local comprehensive planning, consider how to integrate smart planning principles into state government programs and recommend a structure for regional planning.

### 2) **Develop a statewide, comprehensive infrastructure plan that provides strategic direction, including goals and priorities for investment**

**Status:** Scheduled for completion in April 2010

**Progress:** The 2008 disasters caused significant damage to Iowa's vital public infrastructure including roads, bridges, public buildings, water systems and much more. Repair and replacement of those structures is critical to helping Iowa recover. 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 now and well into the future.

The State of Iowa contracted with the State Public Policy Group, Inc. (SPPG) for a comprehensive process of information-gathering and planning toward a statewide, strategic infrastructure plan. The contract is through the state's Economic Development Administration Strategy Grant, and was contracted by IDED and the RIO. This plan will ensure Iowa's infrastructure meets the needs of the state economy 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 were being held to research and gather information on existing infrastructure plans, initiatives, programs, and forecasted needs for future years (see sidebar). A statewide forum is being planned for February 2010. Public input sessions will also be conducted in early 2010, and a final draft report is expected to be completed in April 2010.

**Strategy:** Once complete, the Comprehensive Infrastructure Study will be used to improve all ranges of infrastructures in the state and will shape legislation and policy for the coming years.

## 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 Iowans access services and funding for their long-term individual recovery**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Through the work of Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs), non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations, disaster case management services continue to provide assistance to many individuals and families still recovering. Assistance provided includes financial and in-kind donations as well as referral services to other community service providers that can assist in the recovery process.

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 LTRC 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 by 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, \$414,327 has been expended. Much of this money goes to support some of the more than 65,000 hours of case management services provided throughout the state.

**Measures:** LTRCs representing 68 of 78 counties declared for Individual Assistance submitted the case management data below.

Total number of people assisted	17,261
Number of open cases	6,033
Total number of hours worked by Case Advocates	70,738
Number of outside referrals made	2,828
Total number of dollars given to clients (including private donated dollars; excluding funds from the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program)	\$2,948,676

**Strategy:** The CDBG funding for disaster recovery case management is provided through June 2010. During this time the contracted agencies will continue to provide disaster case management services to Iowans impacted by the 2008 disasters. While many local LTRCs throughout the state have indicated a decrease in the need for case advocacy services, there are still nearly 6,000 open cases. As the disaster recovery process moves forward, the complexity of working with these cases increases. The RIO will continue to work with local LTRCs to help coordinate activities, share resources and disseminate information.

### 2) Provide financial support for individual and family unmet needs

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:**

*FEMA Individuals and Households Program* - Once a disaster is presidentially declared and individual assistance is authorized, homeowners and renters impacted by disaster can apply for financial assistance with their housing and other necessary expenses. To be considered for assistance the home must be the individual's primary residence and must be located in the individual assistance declared area. The individual must apply for assistance with FEMA to be reviewed for eligibility for the following programs. In 2008 these programs provided a maximum benefit of \$28,800.

*Housing Assistance* - Housing Assistance is provided to eligible registrants whose primary residence was damaged by the disaster. Registrants can receive assistance for temporary housing (rent and lodging expense, including FEMA mobile home units); repair money; and/or replacement assistance to help individual's recover and get back to a permanent housing situation.

*Other Needs Assistance (ONA)* - For other necessary expenses related to the disaster, homeowners and renters may be eligible to receive financial assistance through the ONA program. Registrants cannot apply for ONA, but are referred if ineligible for an SBA loan. Registrants must apply through SBA and be denied for a loan before they are referred to ONA for assistance. The ONA program provides assistance for necessary and serious needs caused by the disaster. This includes medical, dental, funeral, personal property, transportation, moving and storage, and other expenses that are authorized by law.

*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 program was closed when all the funding was committed. The application deadline was Oct. 16, 2009. LTRCs have provided assistance to more than

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP

### 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

8,500 individuals in 3,303 households with this program through reimbursements or vouchers for goods and services.

#### Measures:

#### FEMA Individuals and Households Program

Total FEMA registrations approved	24,888
Total funding approved	\$138,741,858.51
Housing Assistance	\$122,403,852.02
Other Needs Assistance	\$16,338,006.49

#### IUNDGP Summary

Total households approved for the IUNDGP	3,303
Total amount awarded as of Dec. 12, 2009	\$7,640,648
Total amount approved for home repair	\$2,013,243

**Strategy:** A survey is being drafted to help map out the needs of families and individuals still in recovery. Informal gathering of information has shown a great need for homeowners moving through the buyout process.

### 3) Provide mental health services for all those who need it regardless of income

**Status:** Ongoing

#### Progress:

*Project Recovery Iowa* - The mission of the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP), called Project Recovery Iowa, was to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the challenging effects of natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. Project Recovery Iowa was a strengths-based model promoting resilience, empowerment and recovery. Services were anonymous and outreach oriented. Crisis counseling was provided in the community rather than in an office-based setting. The services Project Recovery Iowa provided were:

- Individual crisis counseling
- Group crisis counseling



## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

- Basic supportive or educational contact
- Public Education
- Community Networking and Support
- Assessment, Referral and Resource Linkage

The Project Recovery Iowa program ended on Sept. 30, 2009. However, a new program called "Ticket to Hope" was implemented for enhanced mental health therapy needs.

*Ticket to Hope* - This new mental health program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS). The Ticket to Hope program provides individuals with up to eight 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 or by visiting [www.tickettohope.org](http://www.tickettohope.org).

*Pharmacological and Mental Health Services* - This program provides funds for limited mental health pharmacy and medication management benefits for people of all ages experiencing mental health problems related to the 2008 weather disasters. This program provides limited coverage for medication management services with a licensed prescribing clinician and limited pharmacy benefit to cover the costs of necessary pharmaceuticals for these recipients who otherwise would not be able to pay for them thereby resulting in ongoing inability to function in daily activities, such as employment, family participation, and other areas of life.

Additionally, funding is provided for community-based mental health services to persons of all ages impacted by the disasters. Individuals with disaster-related mental health needs can receive mental health services they would not be able to receive otherwise. Central Point Coordinators (CPCs) will assist individuals in acquiring needed mental health services and will pay for services from this funding stream. Contracted counties are reimbursed for mental health and medication/medication management services.

*Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT)* - The Division of Mental Health and Disability Services (part of DHS) has developed an organized team of volunteer behavioral health providers to respond to the mental health needs of Iowa residents following disasters and critical incidents. Six regional Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams can

### WORKING TO RECOVER: CASE ADVOCATES

Annie Young never dreamed she would be providing services to people affected by natural disasters.

However, a few months after the historic floods of 2008, Annie became a disaster case advocate with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). LSI provides disaster case management services and has been a leader for providing these services in conjunction with Iowa's Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) for the 2008 disasters.

Annie works to manage the unmet disaster recovery needs of as many as 50 displaced Cedar Rapids families at any one time. More than one year later, many of Annie's clients are still trying to establish a sense of normalcy.

Annie has worked hard to gain assistance for her clients and takes pride in knowing her assistance makes a difference. "It's not just a job. These clients are close to my heart," said Annie. "Seeing their faces when you are able to help is priceless."

Statistically:

- Annie Young is one of 44 case advocates working with LTRCs in Iowa to assist disaster-affected Iowans.
- Lutheran Services of Iowa provides case advocates for 10 LTRCs.
- More than 14,400 disaster-affected Iowans have been assisted through LTRCs statewide.

be deployed anywhere in Iowa. These teams respond to disasters and/or critical incidents when local behavioral health resources have been depleted or are insufficient. The goal of the team is to provide an organized response to individual victims, family members, volunteers, responders, survivors or the community affected by critical incidents or disasters.

The mission of DBHRT is to lessen the adverse mental health effects of trauma for victims, survivors, and responders of traumatic events, whether natural or man-made.

#### Measures:

#### Project Recovery Iowa Contact Counts Current December 2009

Type of Contact	Total
Individual Crisis Counseling	16,055
Individual Referrals	13,518
Public Educational or Group Counseling Sessions	1,984
Group Counseling Participants	33,172
In-person Brief Educational or Supportive Contact	60,694
Material Distributed (handed, mailed and left)	414,389
Community networking and coalition building	38,717

*Project Recovery Iowa* - The final Project Recovery Iowa report was provided to FEMA by DHS. The final report will be released in the near future and will be included in future quarterly reports.

*Social Services Block Grant* - Iowa received \$11 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding that provides support to Ticket to Hope, Disaster Behavioral Health Response, and Pharmacological Service and Mental Health programs. Total SSBG Dollars Expended: \$431,677

Disaster Behavioral Health Response Expended: \$155,008

Disaster Behavioral Health Training: 964 people trained

Pharmacological Service and Mental Health Expended: \$168,476

Ticket to Hope Expended: \$57,938

Ticket to Hope vouchers distributed: 462

**Strategy:** The DHS mission is to provide disaster mental health services for people affected by the disaster events of 2008. These

services include on-the-ground outreach, counseling, education and support to communities, access to mental health therapy, and to provide funding to help with specific pharmacology needs and barriers to accessing therapy. DHS created programs and supportive services utilizing disaster federal dollars to enhance access to mental health therapy, assessment and provide funding to reduce the complications for accessing support.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE**

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The RIO has drafted a bill for the 2010 legislative session to begin the process of creating a case management framework. The bill, Disaster Recovery Case Management for Individuals, highlights the need to institutionalize disaster case management services so that individuals and families have access to information and resources in a timely manner following a disaster. The bill calls on DHS to create coordination mechanisms and standards for the establishment and implementation of a statewide system of disaster case management. This system will include disaster case management standards and policies, reporting requirements, and eligibility criteria. It will also include the development of formal working relationships with agencies and create interagency agreements for those providing disaster case management services. Most importantly this bill will create the development of a central point of coordination for services related to disaster recovery.

**Measures:** The RIO will monitor the Disaster Recovery Case Management bill as it moves through the legislative process.

**Strategy:** The RIO will be engaged in the rule-making process with DHS and other state agencies such as HSEMD should the bill pass.

The RIO is also currently working with federal, state and local partners in coordinating a one-day conference event. The Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference will bring together non-profit, faith-based organizations and government officials from Iowa and the Gulf States to:

- Share best practices, innovations and lessons learned in disaster recovery efforts;
- Discuss needs to prepare better for future disasters;
- Suggest specific changes to national disaster recovery policy and funding.

The event will be held in the greater Cedar Rapids area on Jan. 29, 2010, and is hosted by Congressman Loebsack, the RIO, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### Goal 5: Local Economic Recovery

*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 OBJECTIVE

##### 1) Create new revenue and contingency options for state and local government in times of disaster

**Status:** Close to completion

**Progress:** 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, House File 64, 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. Eligible counties (85) and all cities in those counties could use the funding for the following:

- Non-profit organization assistance
- Public purchase of land and accompanying structures
- Repair, replacement or upgrade disaster-damaged public infrastructure
- Increased costs associated with revaluing property due to natural disaster
- Small business assistance
- Assistance for replacing or rehabilitating housing.

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

Other bills providing revenue and contingency options:

- **Senate File 44** allows counties designated as federal disaster



**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.**

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.

- **Senate File 478**, 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 percent 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.
- **Senate File 457** provides 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.
- **Senate File 415** 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.

**Measures:** Previously mentioned legislation allowed cities and counties more flexibility in calling for a vote on a Local Option Sales Tax for disaster relief. Two key impacted cities were successful in passing this tax and it has served as an important source of revenue for recovery.

Since April 2009, the City of Cedar Rapids has collected an estimated \$78.12 million in Local Option Sales Tax revenue for disaster relief. The city has dedicated the revenue toward 90 percent rehabilitation, acquisition, and local match to federal programs, with 10 percent dedicated to property tax reduction.

Since July 2009, the city of Iowa City estimates the collection of over \$3.75 million in Local Option Sales Tax revenue for the purposes of 100 percent remediation, repair and protection

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



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.

of flood-impacted public infrastructure. These dollars can also be used as local matching funds for dollars received from any federal or state programs to assist with flood remediation, repair and protection of flood-impacted public infrastructure. Two projects the community of Iowa City is most interested in seeing progress are the elevation of Dubuque Street and the Reconstruction of the Park Road Bridge.

**Strategy:** The Rebuild Iowa Office continues to work with local entities as well as state agencies active in disaster recovery to assess the recovery progress by identifying recovery obstacles and implement solutions when possible. We also plan to include information on best practices for contingency measures following disasters behind as a part of a state strategy for future disasters.

### LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

#### 1) Assist local governments in their long-term recovery planning including connecting them with programs and funding sources

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Focused on recovery & rebuilding of Iowa's disaster-struck communities, the Rebuild Iowa Office's Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team of the RIO serves to connect local leadership with resources to help with long-term planning and implementation of disaster recovery strategies.

The RIO Community Liaisons are in the field working with impacted communities as they proceed in recovery. This provides a vital link between the impacted communities and the Rebuild Iowa Office's coordination and advocacy capabilities to address the individual recovery needs of each community in a timely manner.

The first step in the community recovery process is the development of the community's vision and goals. Once established, the following community recovery tools assist in realizing these goals:

- **Communications Mapping Tool** - A guide to identify community recovery stakeholder communications networks and implementation techniques
- **Decision-Making Tool** - A process and template to guide community recovery decision-making



- **Project + Program Development Guide** - A guide and template to assist in the development of community recovery projects and programs
- **Resource Guide** - A directory for community recovery technical assistance resources and funding opportunities

These community recovery tools were created by a partnership between the RIO and FEMA Long-Term Community Recovery and have been available for use by disaster impacted communities for nine months. The RIO has utilized community workshops, conference presentations, Web site availability of the tools and resources and articles in publications to facilitate effective outreach to impacted communities.

The RIO Planning Specialists have also developed the following Information to assist with the development of long-term planning that sets a framework for recovering safer, stronger and smarter.

*Proposal on Smart Planning* - Based upon proposed Iowa Smart Planning Principles, this document outlines a framework for a local, regional and statewide planning process, including a Plan of Action with comprehensive, priority strategies. More details on this initiative is located in Goal #6

*EPA Smart Growth* - The RIO is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) to bring smart growth assistance to five Iowa communities devastated by the natural disasters of 2008. More details on this initiative are found in Goal #6.

*Community Recovery Toolbox* - A partnership with FEMA produced strategies, reports, and comprehensive recovery plans for ten Iowa communities. Additionally, the "ESF #14 community recovery toolbox" was developed to assist other communities in their recovery planning.

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

*Leadership Training* - In discussions with the impacted communities the need for recovery project champions was identified as an additional critical need in many communities. The presence of effective project champions was seen as important to maximize any recovery projects chance for success. The RIO has pursued grant funding to provide local leadership training to address this unmet need.

## 2) Monitor revenue projections and plan for future local government needs

**Status:** Ongoing

### THE 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

**Progress:** The RIO works closely with impacted communities to determine the impacts of the disaster on their tax base and budgets. We have provided means of raising revenue and direct funding sources through legislation and other programs and will continue to do so as needed and as feasible. Some of the impacts may not be felt for years to come and the focus on this critical issue needs to remain.

### Measures:

#### *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 percent) 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 percent)** over the same period in 2007 due to sustained recovery-related spending.

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 percent increase which drove Linn County to an overall increase of \$50 million (3 percent). 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 percent).

*Johnson County Taxable Sales by Quarter* - All quarters of 2008 showed **modest gains** with the exception of the third quarter, which showed a comparably large increase of about \$39 million (8.6 percent)



over the same period in 2007. Categories to note include an increase in the retail sector of over \$19 million (7.5 percent) in part due to the replacement of flood-damaged property, a more than \$4 million (33.2 percent) 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 percent) increase in the lodging and campground category in part due to Johnson county residents displaced by the floods.

The first two quarters of 2009 have seen a **sharp decline in taxable sales**, down approximately \$41 million (4.8 percent) from the same period in 2008 and nearly \$27.5 million (3.3 percent) 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.

**Strategy:** The Rebuild Iowa Office will continue to assess recovery needs and assist with continuing and emerging recovery issues in communities that continue to experiencing major rebuilding efforts. The RIO's CaRRP team will continue to work toward the RIAC's vision for Iowa's 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 all of its people."

The RIO will continue to promote the recovery tools that have been developed and work to develop new recovery planning support like leadership training. The RIO's CaRRP team will also continue to work with other interested stakeholders in the policy areas of smart planning, economic recovery and resiliency, flood mitigation and regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives. The RIO Community Liaisons will continue to identify recovery needs and work with communities on developing workable recovery strategies.

### Goal 6: Smart Planning

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



**Cedar Falls Mayor Jon Crews speaks at a smart growth public input session in Sept. 2009.**



**The smart growth team discusses a potential development project in Cedar Rapids in Sept. 2009.**



**An example of infill housing in Cedar Rapids.**

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Council (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.

#### SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

##### 1) Create Iowa Smart Planning Principles

**Status:** Complete

**Progress:**

*Iowa Smart Planning Principles*

- **Ensure Stakeholder, Community and Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions** - Engage in the development and implementation of local, regional and statewide plans that have broad public support. Encourage involvement of all interested citizens and stakeholders in planning processes and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts. Create and implement a meaningful public outreach and participation strategy to ensure the public's voice is incorporated in planning processes.
- **Advance Equity: Predictable, Fair and Cost-Effective Development Decisions** - Individuals, communities, regions, state and federal government have shared responsibility to promote the equitable distribution of development benefits and burdens. Make regulatory and permitting processes for development clear, predictable, coordinated and timely to ensure predictability. Ensure that local plans and implementation steps are consistent with all of Iowa's Smart Planning Principles. Incorporate internal, horizontal and vertical consistency between

plans and associated regulations. Consider the long-term costs and benefits to the State of Iowa, local governmental units and future generations.

- **Promote Clean Energy Production and Increase Energy Efficiency** - Maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels. Iowa should retain its position as a leader in renewable energy production.
- **Increase Diversity of Job and Business Opportunities** - Improve access to education, training and entrepreneurial opportunities. Support the growth of a diversity of local businesses and jobs. Attract businesses and jobs to locations near existing housing, infrastructure and transportation options to ensure business owners and employees can access resources, reduce travel time and improve quality of life.
- **Concentrate Development and Mix Land Uses** - Facilitate the revitalization of established town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that conserves land, protects historic resources, promotes walkability and integrates uses. Encourage remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures and infrastructure as a priority over construction in undeveloped areas. Development should occur first where infrastructure already exists or can be provided in an efficient manner.
- **Expand Diversity in Housing Opportunities and Choices** - Support the construction and rehabilitation of homes to meet the needs of people of all abilities, income levels, and household types. Build homes near jobs, transit, and where services are available. Promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock. Foster the development of housing in a way that is compatible with a community's character and vision.
- **Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place** - Craft a community vision and set standards for development and construction which respond to local values and architectural distinctiveness. Such communities are interesting, unique and foster the types of physical environments which support a cohesive community fabric.
- **Protect, Preserve and Wisely Utilize Natural Resources and Working Lands** - Protect, preserve and restore environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, agricultural lands and cultural and historic landscapes. Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and recreational opportunities. Construct and promote developments, buildings and infrastructure that conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water and materials. Encourage the conservation of productive agricultural lands and discourage incompatible uses.
- **Incorporate Green Building Design and Infrastructure Utilization** - Incorporate green

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PLANNING?

#### Smart Planning Ensures Local Decision-Making

##### Smart Planning:

- Encourages civic involvement and ensures that community members have a voice in the future of their communities.
- Encourages the maintenance of rural character and strong community identities.
- Identifies a community's priorities and guides decision-making.

#### Smart Planning Attracts Dollars and Spur Action

##### Smart Planning:

- Produces resilient communities which in turn attract economic development.
- Proactively markets a region to attract opportunities for citizens, businesses, and government.
- Identifies priority projects and attracts greater private and public investment.

#### Smart Planning is a Practical Way to Protect and Enhance Resources

##### Smart Planning:

- Facilitates good fiscal management.
- Reduces the impact of natural and man-made disasters.
- Promotes the protection and preservation of sensitive and working lands, property, and human life.

building concepts, including consideration of lot siting; connectivity to surrounding development; water conservation; energy efficiency; utilization of reused, recycled, or renewable materials; and infiltration of stormwater runoff. Promote preservation and utilization of green infrastructure best practices.

- **Provide for a Variety of Transportation Choices** - Maintain and expand transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel and improve air quality. Prioritize rail, bus, shared-vehicle and shared-ride services, bicycling and walking. Ensure transportation options are integrated and consistent with land use objectives.

**Strategy:** See Objective #2 below.

## 2) Develop a plan to implement and maintain Iowa Smart Planning Principles

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Iowa Smart Planning Principles were developed as part of an overarching Smart Planning proposal (see long-term objective #2) that has been filed with the Iowa General Assembly for the 2010 legislative session. The basic concept is that the Principles serve as a guide for decision-making while developing local governments' comprehensive plans and supporting regulations and incentives. State agencies are directed to use the Principles, where appropriate, to guide program development and public investment decision-making.

The principles may aptly be considered sustainable development concepts as they comprehensively address economic, environmental, and cultural vitality. These Principles are one component of the proposed Iowa Smart Planning bill that the RIO will file in the 2010 legislative session.

The proposed Iowa Smart Planning Task will develop statewide goals based on the Principles and recommend a process by which progress will be measured and reported on an annual basis. The Task Force will also offer guidance for State agencies as they consider how to apply the Principles to appropriate programs, including technical and financial assistance, grants, the Enterprise Strategic Plan, and other investment and decision-making processes.

### **Measures:**

- Adoption of proposed Iowa Smart Planning bill during 2010 legislative session.
- Integration of Principles into appropriate State programs and decision-making processes; Iowa Smart Planning Task Force, if adopted, will facilitate this process.
- Establishment of statewide goals and annual measures to gauge progress based on the Principles; Iowa Smart Planning Task Force, if approved, will make recommendations.

**Strategy:** The RIO has filed the Iowa Smart Planning bill for the General Assembly's 2010 legislative session and is working with the Governor's Office, the Rebuild Iowa Legislative Committees and other elected officials and interested stakeholders to pass the bill. Should the bill pass, the RIO and Department of Management will coordinate the Task Force's activities and deliver recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010. The RIO will then work with partners to plan for implementation of the recommendations.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

#### **1) Improve Iowa's energy efficiency, sustainability, community identity and quality of life**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Many agencies, including the Office of Energy Independence, Department of Cultural Affairs and Department of Economic Development are already working toward improving Iowa's energy efficiency, sustainability, community identity, and quality of life. The proposed Iowa Smart Planning bill reinforces each of these concepts.

Two other initiatives developed as a result of the 2008 natural disasters provide assistance to communities, professionals, and citizens regarding rebuilding and planning in a more economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

*Smart Growth Partnership* - The RIO is committed to integrating sustainable development concepts into Iowa's rebuilding activities. One way in which the RIO is accomplishing this is through a partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Program, in collaboration with the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED).

The EPA's Smart Growth Program is intended to build upon the community recovery plans and strategies developed with the RIO and FEMA Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 – Long-Term Community Recovery during the fall of 2008. The goal of the assistance is to integrate smart growth principles into recovery activities, in order to facilitate recovery that benefits the communities' economy, environment, and public health. FEMA and EPA are providing funds to support this assistance.



## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**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.**

Five communities were selected through a competitive application process among the 10 communities that were assisted by the RIO and FEMA ESF#14 last fall. The five communities and a summary of the smart growth assistance provided to each are included below. For more details and to review reports developed through this program, please visit the RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning Web page at [http://www.rio.iowa.gov/community\\_recovery/index.html](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/community_recovery/index.html).

Below is a brief summary of the assistance provided to 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. Flooding from rivers was not addressed in this workshop. Green alternatives, including complimentary approaches to typical grey systems (storm sewers, etc.), were introduced at public forums. An idea for implementing a rain garden pilot project at the local school was developed to use as an educational tool to inform citizens of the usage and benefits of green infrastructure. The RIO's Community Liaison to northeastern Iowa communities is working with local stakeholders to organize and implement the pilot project. A *Green Infrastructure Playbook* was also developed for New Hartford, which includes sources for technical and financial assistance, as well as example design concepts, educational signage and renderings of potential rain garden and bioswale projects. The playbook can be downloaded from the RIO Web site.
- **Cedar Rapids** - The Cedar Rapids site visit was held on Sept. 9-10, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes touring impacted neighborhoods and potential infill sites to understand neighborhood character and typical development trends, and meeting with various stakeholder groups to learn about the various planning initiatives underway and to obtain input on potential improvements to development codes and regulations. Consultants hired by the EPA will complete an audit and provide recommendations for incorporating smart growth principles in the City's development policies and regulations, including its 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.

- **Cedar Falls** - The Cedar Falls site visit was held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes conducting a forum for elected representatives and Planning Commission members to discuss in general terms what smart growth development looks like and the benefits of incorporating smart growth concepts in a city's development codes. A workshop was also held to obtain input from the public to create a vision for redeveloping Center Street and develop options that incorporate smart growth concepts and foster revitalization of the North Cedar neighborhood, which was particularly hard hit by floods in 2008. Consultants hired by the EPA will provide a summary of the workshop outcomes as it relates to the redevelopment of North Cedar, as well as suggest options for incorporating smart growth and green infrastructure concepts in development codes and regulations throughout the city.
- **Coralville** - The Coralville site visit was held Nov. 4-5, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes an evaluation of the redevelopment options for Old Town and the surrounding area, which was flooded during the summer of 2008. Coralville is planning new structural improvements, as well as incorporation of green space, to enhance flood protection in the area, and would like to see redevelopment that incorporates a mix of uses. Consultants hired by the EPA will also 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 was held Nov. 11-13, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes conducting 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 improvements in the Riverfront Crossings District south of Downtown. A workshop was conducted with elected officials, the public, and key stakeholders to set a vision and objectives for the District, create preliminary redevelopment concepts, and make recommendations for incorporating smart growth concepts in the City's zoning and subdivision ordinances, design guidelines, green infrastructure for stormwater management, and parking and mass transit programs.

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

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



Hands-on participation during a COSC "Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa" workshop.



Presentation by the COSC as part of its "Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa" workshops.



On-site workshop hosted by the COSC as part of its "Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa" workshops.

The workshops build capacity for Iowa to rebuild in a more energy-efficient manner. Additionally, the workshops 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 is partnering with other organizations to hold workshops from fall 2009 through early summer 2010. Training topics 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 are targeted to commercial property owners and contractors, as well as homeowners. The workshops include classroom education, on-site demonstration and follow-up evaluations.

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](http://www.icosc.com).

### Measures:

- Implementation of recommendations included in the technical assistance reports from the EPA to the five participating communities:
  - Reports are being finalized in December 2009 and January 2010 for Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Iowa City.
  - In New Hartford, a committee has been formed to determine how to move forward with installation of a rain garden at the local school.
- Attendance at the Center on Sustainable Communities' "Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa" trainings:
  - In 2009, 71 workshops were held in 14 cities, with 1,028 attendees.



- Analyze lessons learned from the Smart Growth assistance provided for the five participating communities and provide a means of sharing this information with other interested communities: Reports have not yet been completed for all five communities.

**Strategy:** The RIO will continue to work with collaborating partners on the Smart Growth partnership to complete the technical assistance reports and connect the participating communities with resources for implementation of recommendations. The RIO will analyze the various reports for lessons learned and create a means of sharing this information with other interested communities across the state. Additionally, the RIO will continue to collaborate with the COSC to ensure that trainings are timely, relevant, and well attended.

### 2) Design and enact a system and structure for comprehensive and integrated local, regional and statewide planning

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Rebuild Iowa Office's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team drafted a report, titled *Recovering from the Storms, Planning for the Future: A Safer, Smarter, Stronger Iowa*, which proposes an integrated, statewide planning framework for Iowa. The report 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. Further, 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 Planning Principles** - The Smart Planning Principles would 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.

### 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.

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

During the late summer and fall of 2009, The RIO met with numerous interested organizations and individuals to discuss the concepts within the Report and obtain feedback. Comments were also submitted in writing, including letters from the City of Dubuque and the Iowa Association of Regional Councils. Staff also presented the concepts at the American Planning Association, Iowa Chapter Annual conference in Des Moines in October and at the County Zoning Official's Conference (part of the Iowa Association of Counties Fall School) in November. The feedback was overwhelming positive and supportive of planning reform in Iowa.

The RIO analyzed the feedback, noting many common themes, and used that feedback to develop the proposed Iowa Smart Planning proposal. The RIO will work with the Governor's Office, Legislative Leaders, and other interested organizations to pass this proposal during the 2010 legislative session.

### *Iowa Smart Planning Proposal*

- Designates local governments as the primary authorities for planning and managing development within their jurisdictions.
- Encourages local governments to adopt comprehensive plans and includes a definition of “comprehensive plan,” including elements that are typically included in such plans.
- Establishes Iowa Smart Planning Principles as a guide for decision-making while developing local comprehensive plans and directs State agencies to integrate the Principles into appropriate programs and investment decision-making processes.
- Establishes an Iowa Smart Planning Task Force with the following responsibilities:
  - Develop statewide goals consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and work with State agencies to integrate Principles into appropriate State programs.
  - Recommend an effective and efficient State planning and coordination structure.
  - Recommend assistance necessary to support and incentivize local planning.
  - Recommend a framework for regional planning and collaboration.

If passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, the Rebuild Iowa Office and Department of Management will coordinate Task Force activities, with a report due to the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010.

### **Measures:**

- Adoption of Iowa Smart Planning proposal during the 2010 Iowa legislative session.
- Submit report to the Governor and Legislature by Nov. 15, 2010, with recommendations for an effective and efficient State planning and coordination structure, assistance necessary to support and incentivize local planning, and a framework for regional planning and coordination.
- Adoption and implementation of recommendations contained in the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force report.

**Strategy:** The Rebuild Iowa Office has filed the Iowa Smart Planning bill for the General Assembly's 2010 legislative session and is working with the Governor's Office, the Rebuild Iowa Legislative Committees, and other elected officials and interested stakeholders to pass the bill. Should the bill pass, the RIO will fulfill its role as outlined in the bill to implement Iowa Smart Planning Principles and facilitate activities of the task force charged with developing a system of local and regional comprehensive planning in Iowa and recommending assistance necessary to encourage such planning.

### Goal 7: Statewide Mitigation Planning

#### BENEFITS TO MITIGATION PLANNING

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.

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

#### SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Ensure that all Iowa communities and counties have a current, approved hazard mitigation plan and that goals and objectives identified in the hazard mitigation plans are consistent with local comprehensive land use plans.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires a FEMA-approved local mitigation plan in order to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project funding. These plans must be updated every five years.

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.

While these program and hazard mitigation 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. Proposed Smart Planning legislation provides the structure to realize this objective (see Goal #6).

Efforts to encourage and support local and regional comprehensive planning in Iowa are described under Goal 6 through proposed Iowa Smart Planning legislation. One element of a comprehensive plan, as described in the legislative proposal, is a hazard mitigation section that would include the identification of natural and man-made hazards that have the greatest likelihood of impacting the local jurisdiction as they relate to land use and development decisions as well as steps to mitigate such risks, consistent with the FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan. Another element included, intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration, is described to encourage the identification of opportunities to collaborate and partner with neighboring jurisdictions and other entities throughout a larger region

for projects of mutual interest. Water resource management and flood mitigation measures often involve multiple jurisdictions and a supportive local and regional planning framework would create a process for coordination and resolution of multi-jurisdictional land use issues.

### **Measures:**

- The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division reports that 309 Iowa communities and counties have FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, and 661 have new or updated planning initiatives in progress. These plans may cover a single community or county, or the plan may cover multiple communities within a single county.
- According to ISU Extension Services, 39 percent of Iowa's communities and 84 percent of Iowa counties report having a completed a comprehensive plan; however, there is no data as to when the plans were completed and the elements included in the plan, such as consideration for natural hazards in land use designations.

### **Strategies:**

- The RIO and partners are continuing to work on several initiatives to help ensure the adoption of more hazard mitigation measures and planning.
- Members of the recently formed Iowa Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Team, comprised of state and federal agency representatives, have initiated discussions with community planning and design officials at Iowa State University to create a consistent platform for planning efforts in the areas of land use, mitigation, watersheds, and flood plain management. More information about the Flood Risk Management Team and their activities can be found on page 107.
- The use of proposed Iowa Smart Planning Principles to guide decision making and encourage local communities engage in comprehensive land use planning will help to integrate goals and objectives identified in hazard mitigation plans with local and regional comprehensive plans (see Goal #6).
- The RIO is also working to help form an Iowa Chapter of Flood Plain Managers Association to increase the number of knowledgeable and trained personnel at the local level about flood risks, flood plain management and mitigation measures.

## **2) Minimize future disaster-caused loss by implementing hazard mitigation measures during the recovery and rebuilding process.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Utilization of FEMA Public Assistance (PA), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and HUD's Community Develop Block Grant (CDBG) funding enables rebuilding that

### 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.

includes mitigation measures.

- FEMA's **Public Assistance Program** funds the repair and replacement of public facilities damaged in a declared disaster. This can include some hazard mitigation measures including moving buildings from flood risk areas, inclusion of safe rooms, etc.
- FEMA's **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** provides funding for projects designed to reduce damages from future hazards by taking steps to protect lives and property. Iowa's HSEMD administers this program which is funded based on other federal dollars appropriated for disaster recovery. FEMA funds 75 percent of eligible, approved mitigation projects submitted by the State. Because of the magnitude of the floods of 2008, Iowa's mitigation program is eligible receive over \$316 million.
- The State sets the priority for which mitigation projects will receive grants. Purchasing frequently flooded property, constructing safe rooms and other measures such as flood walls are typical mitigation examples. All projects selected by the state must then pass a benefit-cost analysis and be approved by FEMA.
- Although HUD's **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** funding is not designed as a disaster-relief or mitigation program, the state has received approval to utilize CDBG funds to enable local entities to acquire flood-damaged properties located outside of the 100-year flood zone for potential re-development. Participation in this program is also voluntary for landowners. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan has also undertaken an initiative aimed at increasing the amount of hazard mitigation achieved with CDBG funds. Of the last appropriation, HUD set aside \$312 million for a Hazard Mitigation Fund. This fund will be distributed to impacted states in 2010 based on their use of past CDBG allocation for mitigation-related projects such as buyouts and infrastructure.

#### 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 stronger with more protected infrastructure in the future. As of Oct. 2009, 23 percent of the state's Public Assistance projects included

mitigation measures. When compared with a national average of 9 percent in other impacted states, it is clear that Iowa is going above and beyond to ensure mitigation measures are included. Mitigation measures are approved when the benefit cost analysis indicates that current investments will minimize losses in future flood events. Examples are:

*Hazard Mitigation Grant Program* - To date there are 246 project applications in development, 105 applications submitted to FEMA with 83 approved projects valued at \$102.5 million under HMGP. Approved projects to date include:

- Thirty-nine acquisition projects that involves 963 properties, valued at \$94.3 million. These projects are underway and are expected to culminate in the demolition of destroyed homes to be replaced by open-space green belts that will enhance the community and prevent future losses from flooding.
- Four safe room projects, valued at \$5 million. Waverly-Shell Rock, Mount Ayr and Nevada school districts will receive grants to incorporate safe rooms into their reconstruction projects. The community of Huxley will receive funding for a safe room to be included in the construction of a new community center.
- Two infrastructure projects (a waste-water treatment system and a flood wall) valued at \$1.5 million have been approved. Iowa HSEMD reports that there are a potential of nearly 100 projects statewide with 21 applications approved at the state level and submitted to FEMA including the two that have been approved.
- Thirty-eight local/multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning projects, valued at \$1.6 million

### *Community Development Block Grant*

- To date, more than \$43 million in CDBG funds has been awarded to mitigation-related infrastructure projects.
- In addition to infrastructure funding, \$230 million has been set aside for housing acquisitions.

## **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

### **1) Review and improve local, state and federal policies that can impact disaster mitigation**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Recent studies have shown that the costs to taxpayers for responding and recovering from natural disasters across the nation continue to increase. Therefore, taking measures to reduce the likelihood of future loss is critical to Iowa's long-term recovery efforts.

### 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

The RIO is committed to ensuring that Iowa recovers from the 2008 disasters and rebuilds safer, smarter and better than before. This means that local, state and federal policy should be consistent with the objective that long-term recovery is done in a way that minimizes future loss during disaster events.

Understanding the causes of flooding in Iowa and identifying strategies to reduce the adverse effects of future flood events was central to the work of the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) over the past year. There is no one thing that the state or federal government can do to solve the problem of flooding in Iowa. There are many causes requiring many strategies to be implemented for mitigating future losses. The RIO provided vital support to the WRCC during the process of developing recommendations to be considered by the Iowa Legislature. More information about the work of the WRCC can be found on page 109.

In addition to making recommendations at the state level, the RIO has provided our federal partners with recommendations to help improve programs and processes that could lead to more timely and effective service. These activities are described in the section, "Advocate for Changes to the Federal System of Funding disaster Recovery," beginning on page 23.

*Value Stream Mapping* - Value Stream Mapping (VSM) is a method that assists a team in seeing and understanding the flow of both documents and information. By identifying each step in each process, the team can see where there are weaknesses and opportunities for increased efficiencies. Working under the auspices of the Water Resources Coordinating Council, a 16-member team convened Nov. 30 through Dec. 4, 2009 to apply the VSM process to flood management in Iowa and identify gaps in data, policy and authority in an effort to reduce the adverse impacts of flooding in the State.

Serious flooding has occurred in Iowa eight out of the past 15 years which has resulted in eight Presidential Disaster Declarations. The team recognized that:

- different results from flooding cannot be expected if we continue to do the same things in regards to water resource management;
- flood events are predictable natural occurrences and their impact can be greatly reduced;



- there is a growing recognition that a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional approach is needed to reduce flood impacts; and that
- Iowans need to make better and more informed decision to minimize damages from flooding.

During the course of the week, the team mapped out 23 processes representing nearly 50 flood management programs and activities carried out by local, state and federal governments, such as flood plain mapping, flood plain permitting, easement programs, and local planning and zoning practices. Through this exercise, the team developed a series of recommendations with action steps that were presented to the WRCC for consideration by the Iowa Legislature in its deliberations on further improvements to flood management.

Recommendations include:

- Implementation of WRCC recommendations for strengthening flood plain regulations.
- Expand WRCC recommendations “J” and “K” (see page 109) to include the benefit of infiltrating 1.25 inches of precipitation/24 hours in urban settings and 3 inches of precipitation/24 hours in rural settings.
- Support and emphasize need to adopt proposed *Iowa Smart Planning Principles* (page 86) to facilitate desired change.
- Seek funding from state and federal sources for the WRCC to create nine river basin plans that would cover the entire state.
- Develop model communication plan for communicating risk to citizens.
- WRCC members should dedicate two full, consecutive days per year to meet for the purpose of sharing goals, strategies and the coordination of services to ensure effective use of resources.
- Improve and streamline communication between state and local government on enforcement and compliance issues.
- Increase number of communities actively enforcing and implementing the national Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) ordinances.
- Enable dam owners and affected communities to develop an Emergency Action Plan for every high hazard dam in the state.
- Provide information on dams to local entities to aid their planning and decision-making.
- Inventory of existing technical information on flood plain projects.
- Standardize flood plain data and store in central location.

### VALUE STREAM MAPPING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Agency representative who participated in the VSM include:

- **Department of Natural Resources:** Kelley Myers, Bill Ehm, Chuck Corell, Lori McDaniel, Jason Conn
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Marty Adkins, Al Ehley
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** Steve Rumble
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** Laura Hubbard
- **Rebuild Iowa Office:** Annette Mansheim
- **Pottawattamie County:** Kay Mocha
- **City of Cedar Falls:** Marty Ryan
- **Iowa Flood Center, U of I:** Nathan Young
- **Iowa Veterans Home:** Ann Hogle
- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship:** Wayne Peterson

The event was facilitated by John Helbling, JK Helbling Consulting, LLC who volunteered his services to the State.

The team drafted 19 recommendations and 31 action steps that will lead to improved data sharing and communications, improved planning efforts, and tightened enforcement and compliance of flood plain management regulations. Each action step has been assigned a team lead for implementation and a target completion date. The VSM event concluded with a presentation of recommendations to the Water Resources Coordinating Council for consideration by the Iowa Legislature in its deliberations on further improvements to flood management. The team will track and report progress on the implementation of action steps regularly to the WRCC.

**Strategy:** The RIO will advocate for passage and monitor progress on changes to state and federal policy based upon the recommendations that have been made as described above. Many of the state-level recommendations made as a result of the VSM event do not require legislative action so the RIO will continue collaborative efforts working towards implantation of all identified action steps.

The RIO will continuously seek information and hold discussions to identify policy that may pose a roadblock to reducing the adverse affects of flooding. As new information is learned, the RIO will work with partner agencies to draft and put forth additional recommendations to affect a positive impact on disaster mitigation for this and future disaster events in Iowa and around the nation.

“Local governments must become the focus of hazard mitigation efforts. Using comprehensive local plans that consider the entire watershed and address multiple community issues and concerns is the best way to manage development so that a viable client is created for economic growth, hazard resiliency, resource protection, and social and environmental equity” (National Flood Programs and Policies in Review, 2007). With this in mind, the RIO will continue to support and advocate for the adoption of Iowa Smart Planning legislation.

- 2) **Increase individual disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, including the purchase of flood insurance, through public education efforts.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Iowa Insurance Division, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the RIO 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 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. In January and February 2010, the Iowa Insurance Division hopes to issue an RFP to a media company to assist with the production of a radio and/or TV commercial that will capture the attention of Iowans needing to purchase flood insurance.

In addition to the campaign, the RIO will continue to organize media interviews to promote the importance of flood insurance on radio and TV stations across the state during Flood Awareness Month in March 2010 and 2011. This proved to be very effective in March 2009 with more than 30 media outlets agreeing to an interview.

**Measures:** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will provide regular updates on the number of communities enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as well as the number of individual households that purchase flood insurance.

**Strategy:** In November, the Iowa Insurance Division submitted recommendations (under SF759) to the 2010 Iowa Legislature to incentivize the purchase of flood insurance in Iowa. Some of the recommendations for consideration include:

- *Offer consumers a tax credit for new flood insurance policies they purchase. These tax credits should be based on the requirement that coverage should be for both property and contents, and should, to the extent possible, be for the full value of the home -* Agents commonly say clients resist the purchase of flood insurance if they can avoid it, or will elect minimum levels of protection if protection is required. This minimum protection helps the lender, but may leave the consumer with a large personal risk. As an example, a \$300,000 home could be insured for the program maximum of \$250,000 and could have \$100,000 worth of contents coverage. If that homeowner had a lot of money down or otherwise had a large amount of equity, it could be that the amount of the mortgage on the home might be \$100,000. A \$100,000 structure flood policy would satisfy the bank's requirements. However, a flood could destroy the house and contents totally, for a loss totaling \$400,000 which would only be protected for 25 percent if the

### SAFE ROOM PROJECTS

HMGP-funded safe rooms have been approved for the following projects:

- Construction of a new Community Center in Huxley: **\$798,645**
- Addition to the weight/ wrestling room at the high school in Mount Ayr School District: **\$635,290**
- Addition to the wrestling room at high school in Nevada School District: **\$2,156,541**
- New construction of the Elementary/Jr. High School in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District: **\$1,453,859**

consumer chose that minimum arrangement.

- *Support the marketing efforts of sellers of flood insurance* - FEMA currently provides support for sellers of flood insurance by providing a 75 percent subsidy of yellow page advertising fees for listing as agents under "flood insurance." The state could further assist in this simple way of helping consumers looking to purchase flood insurance protection in their communities by paying the additional 25 percent of the advertising cost, or some portion of the 25 percent.
- *Expand FEMA's pilot program to all counties through the state* - FEMA is currently engaged in a three-county pilot project in Iowa in which they have solicited the participation of insurance agencies. In this project, a FEMA-trained trainer visits each participating agency, providing its agent force with materials and knowledge about the flood insurance program. FEMA also pays for a mailing to a defined number of the agent's homeowner clients on the topic of flood insurance, with the intent of the letter being to ask the client to schedule a meeting with the agent to review coverage, including flood insurance. The assumption driving this pilot program is that increased conversations about flood insurance will translate into increased enrollment.
- *Require changes to the real estate disclosure form* - Anecdotes of flood victims who indicated they were unaware of the fact that their home was in a flood zone or had previously suffered flood damage unknown to them were not uncommon following the floods of 2008. The state could require changes to the real estate disclosure form to assure that buyers of properties know of the buildings status and history so that they can adequately protect themselves against losses from floods.
- *Require a check-off form with the application for insurance whenever homeowners or renters coverage is sold or renewed acknowledging that the insurance agent selling the coverage has discussed the need for flood insurance with the client.* This could be expanded to include in a separate question the declination in writing of optional sewer back-up coverage.

### 3) Increase the number of weather safe rooms in all public construction.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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. House File 705 passed during the 2009 legislative session tasked the State Building Code Commissioner, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Defense, the Department of Natural Resources and the RIO with reviewing and assessing best practices in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings, safe rooms and storm shelters to reduce the risk of personal injury from tornadoes and other severe weather. The review and assessment is part of the rulemaking process to set standards for safe rooms and storm shelters. This bill is not to be interpreted to require the inclusion of a safe room or storm shelter in a building construction but to identify standards for safety purposes when they are included. According to the act, administrative rules shall be adopted by the state building code commissioner and effective prior to July 1, 2010. It is very likely that the recommended standard will be the International Code Council/National Storm Shelter Association (ICC/NSSA) Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters, which is recognized by FEMA.

Safe rooms currently being constructed in Iowa are built to specific standards set by FEMA guidance which requires the rooms provide shelter for larger groups of people in extreme-wind events. The criterion specifies the materials, design and construction of a shelter that makes it able to withstand winds up to 250 miles per hour.

**Measures:**

*Increasing the number of quality safe rooms* - The City of Parkersburg included a safe room into the design and reconstruction of their high school that was severely damaged by an EF5 tornado during the 2008.

Other communities are considering utilizing funding through FEMA's HMGP program to include a safe room into the design and renovation of an existing facility or a new construction project. HSEMD reports that they have received 15 project applications for review of which 7 have been submitted to FEMA for approval. Three applications are still in the approval process by FEMA and four have been approved.

**Strategy:** The RIO and other state agencies will continue to promote the importance of safe rooms. Currently, with funds available under HMGP, it is very cost-effective for these to be built in new construction and renovation projects. We are also working on a plan going forward to continue promoting the benefits of including safe rooms in public construction, particularly schools.

## Goal 8: Flood Plain & Watershed Management

*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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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 percent of the cost for levees and structures built with federal funds, and 75 percent of the cost for private levees built with non-federal funds, but participating in the program.

Closure of the break in the levee in Levee District 16 southwest of Oakville has been essentially completed with finishing work to be completed next spring. 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 in the process of being repaired. The levee surrounding LD #11 was breached in seven locations during the 2008 flood. Current plans underway will only close 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 utilizing 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.

**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 is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2010. It will examine levee and other flood



**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.**



**Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis cuts the ribbon to officially reopen County Road X99 near Oakville.**

control options in the Cedar River-Cedar Rapids corridor.

**Strategy:** A strong effort is being made to re-establish the level of protection that existed in pre-flood conditions by closing breaks in levees, repairing damage to floodworks, and simultaneously mitigating future damage where possible. An interagency working group has coordinated funding requests for levee repairs and flood plain wetland easements to avoid duplication. Opportunities are also being sought to re-establish natural flood plains where possible, and connect existing wetlands to the river system. Highest priority is being given to levee breaks and damaged infrastructure. Repairs by federal agencies are also being coordinated with mitigation efforts to avoid duplication of effort, and to maximize the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

- 1) **Improve the inspection and maintenance of Iowa's flood plain management infrastructure and work to reduce flood risk and mitigate future flood damage.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The 2009 Session of the Iowa General Assembly authorized funding and FTE's for seven new positions in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Flood Plain Management Program, beginning July 1, 2009. Two existing field employees have been re-assigned to flood plain duties. Four of the five remaining positions have been hired, and the last position, dealing with dam safety, is in the process of being filled. The appropriation made in the 2009 legislative session provided \$2 million to the agency's flood plain management program.

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.

*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 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.



### 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

Both Regional and State Silver Jackets teams are working to reduce flood risk in the Upper Mississippi Basin. 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.

**Strategy:** The strategy going forward for flood plain management needs to include continued annual funding for the staff positions re-established in DNR's Flood Plain Management Program, implementation of more stringent and effective flood plain management policies, and continued coordination of state permitting and regulatory programs regarding flood plain development. DNR will also be able to increase inspection frequencies for bridges, dams, and flood plain permits. Programs in place will also maintain teams and working groups assembled during the Floods of 2008 in order to be better prepared for future flood events. As flood recovery efforts are completed, federal and state agencies will re-focus their attention on reducing flood risk so that future floods of equal magnitude do not cause damage at the levels seen in 2008.

- 2) **Develop and implement recommendation to encourage regional watershed cooperation and overall planning for flood plains that mitigates disaster impact**

**Status:** Ongoing



### **Progress:**

*Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC)* - 2009 Iowa legislation, House File 756, required 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." At its meeting on June 12, 2009, the WRCC named a subcommittee to work on recommendations.

The subcommittee met on July 13, 2009, and identified four work groups to work on components of the recommendations required by HF 756. Work groups had a diverse representation, including members from groups outlined in HF756 that should be consulted, including "hydrological and land use experts, representatives of cities, counties, drainage and levee districts, agricultural interests, and soil and water conservation districts, and other urban and regional planning experts."

The work groups include:

- 1) **Flood Plain Management and Regulation**, chaired by Chuck Corell, DNR
- 2) **Lowland Focus**, Wetland protection, restoration and construction; and conservation easements and other land management, chaired by Marty Adkins, NRCS
- 3) **Upland Focus**, Perennial ground cover and other agricultural conservation practices; and permanent or temporary water retention structures, chaired by Tom Oswald, HSEMD
- 4) **Stormwater**, Promulgation and implementation of statewide stormwater management standards; and pervious pavement, bioswales, and other urban conservation practices, chaired by Jessica Montana, IDED

Work group meeting dates and times were published on the RIO Web site, and the public participated in person and by teleconference. The work groups' recommendations were considered by the subcommittee on Sept. 15, 2009, edited slightly, and 48 draft recommendations were submitted to the Water Resources Coordinating Council for preliminary consideration on Sept. 18, 2009.

The WRCC authorized the subcommittee to solicit public input on these 48 draft recommendations at public meetings held in Mount Pleasant, West Branch, Ankeny, Waverly, Lewis and Storm Lake. The public input was collected, summarized, and considered by the subcommittee at meetings held on Oct. 20, 2009 and Oct. 27, 2009.

Based on consideration of public input and thorough subcommittee discussion, recommendations were revised, combined or deleted to result in sixteen policy recommendations (A - P) and nine potential funding options (AA - II).

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**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.**

In addition to these recommendations and options, it is strongly urged that the Governor and General Assembly recognize that excellent recommendations have been generated from past water resources task forces in 2001, 2003 and 2007 and should be reconsidered and existing water resources programs should be managed to include flood risk management.

### *Regulatory Recommendations*

- A)** The 0.2 percent flood should be the regulated flood plain instead of the 1 percent flood. This change should be phased in as the 0.2 percent flood plains are identified on Flood Insurance Rate Maps published by FEMA. Potential funding assistance has been identified in recommendations G and K, and funding option DD.
- B)** The State should prohibit reconstruction of substantially damaged structures in the floodway and limit reconstruction or new construction in the flood plain to no more than 3 vertical feet of fill above the natural ground line. Means other than fill to elevate structures may be allowed. These provisions do not apply to features and structures necessary for the construction or maintenance of utility facilities, transportation, water control facilities, or public infrastructure that are otherwise subject to permitting requirements by state and federal regulations.
- C)** Areas on the landward side of a flood control levee recognized by the FEMA as protecting against the 0.2 percent flood should not be considered as being in the 0.2 percent flood plain and should not be subject to the regulations for the 0.2 percent flood plain.
- D)** New Class I Critical Facilities should be located outside the 0.2 percent flood plain whenever practical. New Class I Critical Facilities should also be designed and located as to maintain their function during a 0.2 percent flood whenever practical.
- E)** Explore opportunities for enhancing and implementing minimum statewide stormwater laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, limiting water runoff, reducing future flood damage, focusing on stream channelization, and improving water quality.
- F)** Amend National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to require soil quality restoration after one or more acre of land is disturbed, including, but not limited, to mitigating soil compaction and replacing top soil after construction is complete.

### *Planning and Project Recommendations*

- G)** Focus public investments in levees on built-up areas where there are no other practicable alternatives for mitigating flood damage risks. Elsewhere, reconnect streams and rivers to their flood plains through levee modifications or removal, coupled with compensatory agreements with farm owners that provide for continued farming with higher assumed flood loss risks. Provide \$10 million annually for rural levee modification and farmland compensatory agreements.
- H)** Provide interagency assessment and project planning to support and inform infrastructure / easement / land purchase investment decisions in flood plain areas.
- I)** Integrate multi-purpose wetlands into watersheds with drainage districts or larger drainage systems. Systems would be retrofitted to enable nutrient trapping and treatment; more water infiltration and evapotranspiration; greater retention of run-off; and habitat to support biodiversity. Maintain a holistic view of watershed management and targeting funds and programs within those watersheds.
- J)** Conduct a hydrological tiling study to determine the impact tile drainage has on infiltration, surface runoff, and flooding and to evaluate the feasibility of seasonal retention of water in tile drained fields as a drainage management strategy. The impact of potholes, wetlands and water retention structures should be considered in the study.
- K)** Fund planning, implementation and monitoring of a pilot HUC-12 urban/rural watershed demonstration. It is recommended to plan for total costs of \$35 million, with \$23 million in state funds leveraging \$12 million of local funds.

### *Research and Education Recommendations*

- L)** Support the formation of a local chapter of the Association of State Flood Plain Managers in Iowa that would provide a vehicle for local managers and planners to discuss flood plain issues and learn from each other.
- M)** The Iowa State University Extension, working in conjunction with flood plain and hydrology experts, should be tasked with and appropriated funds for educating the general public about flood plains, flood risks and basic flood plain management principles.
  - Develop a state-wide soil moisture monitoring network for assessing flood risk through the Iowa Water Center and Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, both at ISU; and make extensive use of existing tools and knowledge focused on soil health, specifically, the NRCS Soil Conditioning Index as a common metric for improved agronomic and conservation practices.

### WRCC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subcommittee members include:

- University of Iowa (UI) -- IIHR-Hydroscience & Engineering, Iowa Flood Center: Larry Weber
- Iowa State University (ISU) – Leopold Center: Jerry DeWitt, alternate Jeri Neal
- University of Northern Iowa (UNI) – Center for Energy and Environmental Education: Kamyar Enshayan
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IHSEM): Tom Oswald, alternate Steve Zimmerman
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Jerry Skalak
- Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT): Scott Marler, alternate Dave Claman
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Rich Sims, alternate Marty Adkins
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR): Bill Ehm, alternate Sharon Tahtinen
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS): Chuck Gipp
- Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED): Jessica Montana  
Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO): Ken Tow, alternate Susan Judkins
- U.S. Geological Services (USGS): Rob Middlemis-Brown, alternate Kaylene Carney

**Projected Costs: \$170,000 (\$85,000/yr for 2 years, doesn't include indirects).** Expand Iowa Daily Erosion Project (WEPP model) for a statewide soil moisture monitoring network by synching with LIDAR and real time satellite data. Yr.1: Supplies \$5,000; \$30,000 (salary for 6 months) to rewrite/optimize IDEP scripts and automate input of new management scenarios; \$90,000 (salary for 1 year) for coding IDEP point sampling (6 months), hill slope delineation (4 months), and rotation database (2 months); and \$45,000 to create and code methodology to determine residue cover (6 months).

- Develop educational materials and programs in consultation with flood plain experts.

**Projected Costs: \$370,000 (\$100,000 year 1; \$85-90,000/yr for years 2-4).** One FTE – \$80,000 Salary & Benefits, \$10,000 for current expenses, materials prep, & transportation; \$10,000 for trainings and meetings (YR 1); \$85-90,000 for salary, benefits and expenses for following years

- Expand use of existing integrated farm/land resource management tools, specifically I-Farm, to assist planners, landowners, and farmers to plan and create infiltration systems to accommodate one inch rainfalls and support conservation and business planning

**Projected costs: \$1,000,000 (\$250,000/yr for 4 years).** Redesign of I-FARM user interface to increase user accessibility; re-code the algorithms in a newer, more flexible and maintainable programming language; and create a set of optimization algorithms and results visualization methods for users that return an overall “optimize” solution among alternatives and their environmental impacts, profitability, etc.

- N) Include flood plain or alluvial soils information as part of the disclosure form used as part of real estate transactions.
- O) Reassess criteria for conservation practices because of changing climate.
  - NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (conservation criteria)

- NRCS Engineering Field Manual (design criteria)
- P)** Develop and implement a statewide watershed education and outreach marketing campaign, as outlined in HF2400. Estimated first year funding is \$1 million.

### *Funding Options*

- AA)** Approximately \$16 million in sales tax is currently collected by public water suppliers for drinking water. A percentage could be allocated for watershed protection projects, a percentage to an infrastructure replacement revolving loan fund, with approximately 10 percent going to the Department of Natural Resources for management of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Additional sources could include a new sales tax on bottled water sales, and/or collecting a redemption fee on bottled water similar to pop bottles.
- BB)** Amend the Iowa Code Amend the Iowa Code which authorizes soil and water conservation sub-districts to fund local watershed projects; include integrating levee, drainage and SWCD watershed project taxing authority.
- CC)** The state should create a grant program to help entities bear the cost of certifying existing flood control levees.
- Projected Costs: Rough cost estimates for the evaluation and certification of applicable levee systems (e.g. those levee systems known to provide or potentially providing protection from the 1 percent or greater flood event). Our District's experience to date in accomplishing the rigorous evaluation work necessary to support certification and, ultimately, levee accreditation suggests a reasonable average cost per levee system would be \$200,000 (+/-). We estimate there are approximately 30 levee systems in the State still needing/wanting to be evaluated and certified for purposes of accreditation and for which there are no known other funding source(s) to accomplish this work. Based on these numbers the total estimated cost would be \$6,000,000 (\$200,000 x 30).
- DD)** Provide \$3 million annually for local and regional watershed-based flood plain management planning. Provide \$50 million annually to leverage local and federal funds for flood damage risk mitigation projects, with a priority given to projects that employ non-structural strategies.
- EE)** Provide authority for the purchase of easements in upland areas that are part of planned flood risk reduction projects. The easements would stipulate the use of water infiltration practices that are appropriate for each situation, consistent with the Field Office Technical Guide. Practices might include contour farming, strips of perennial vegetation, ponds, wetlands, no-till, and other measures.
- FF)** Increase leveraging of federal funds with state funding for programs including the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), Farm and

### WATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Legislation is being drafted as a result of the WRCC's legislative recommendations that suggests funding the planning, implementation and monitoring of a pilot HUC-12 urban/rural watershed demonstration.

A HUC-12 is a hydrologic unit termed a "subwatershed" by the US Geological Survey. A HUC-12 averages 40 square miles, with a range from 10,000 to 40,000 acres.

They recommend that the pilot project should integrate the following:

- Maximizing soil water holding capacity from precipitation.
- Minimizing severe scour erosion and sand deposition during floods
- Managing runoff in uplands under saturated soil moisture conditions
- Structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction and mitigation strategies.

Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) programs with state matching funds.

**GG)** Recommend increased funding for staff at research as well as project implementation levels in the public and/or private sector. An effective watershed level planning effort that leads to an effective locally-led implementation project typically ranges from 10,000 – 30,000 acres in size. Staff is typically IDALS/DSC or ISU -Extension Service technical positions that are dedicated to that project. The USDA/NRCS also provides technical and/or financial assistance. Current staffing levels are not adequate to provide the technical expertise needed. Funding needs at the state level would require an additional 50 dedicated technical positions estimated at \$4.2 million annually.

**HH)** Recommend continued funding established in 2009 via HF822 for:

- The Iowa Flood Center: \$1.3 million
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources: \$2 million for flood plain management section

**II)** Support and enhance existing stormwater funds, including the State Revolving Fund (currently funded on an 80 percent federal/20 percent state basis with the federal share received from EPA funds dependent on federal appropriations and the state share contributed by state bond funds) and the Watershed Improvement Review Board (currently funded at \$5 million).

**Strategy:** The RIO is working with other partners to draft legislation based on the above recommendations. We will continue to work with WRCC partners and others towards their implementation.

### 3) Complete watershed studies for the primary watersheds across the state

**Status:** Ongoing (one study underway)

**Progress:** 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.

**Strategy:** The Governor and General Assembly should review these recommendations and implement them where there is concurrence in order to reduce the continued risk exposure to future flooding. All recommendations to do need to be implemented immediately, but should be considered and modified as necessary over the coming years. State and Federal agency members of the Water Resource Coordinating Council will be utilized as part of a continuous process of making decisions as to how flood plain lands and water are to be used.

#### **4) Provide incentives and develop and promote practices that encourage water retention and reduce urban stormwater issues**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Retention and stormwater issues are addressed in the WRCC recommendations above. Legislation being drafted in response to those recommendations will require the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt minimum statewide stormwater standards to be implemented as of July 1, 2011. Standards developed will limit water runoff, reduce future flood damage, assess the effects of stream channelization, and improve watershed management in terms of both water quality and water quantity. DNR would likely work from the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual (ISMM), which presents planning and design guidelines for the management of stormwater quality and quantity in the urban environment, and encourages the use of enhanced design practices for stormwater management, including best management practices and low impact development. The ISMM is Iowa-specific and is part of the Iowa Statewide Urban Designs and Specifications Manual. The ISMM outlines eleven minimum standards as community development guidelines.

**Education** - The legislation would also require Iowa State University Extension and the WRCC and its member agencies to work with flood plain and hydrology experts to educate the general public about flood plains, flood risks and basic flood plain management principles. Their efforts must include developing educational materials and programs in consultation with flood plain experts, and expanding the use of existing integrated farm and land resource management tools to assist planners, landowners, and farmers to plan and create infiltration systems to accommodate one-inch rainfalls and support conservation and



### TILING STUDY

Another provision in the legislative proposal is intended to gather data to assist with stormwater issues.

The provision requires the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to conduct a hydrological tiling study to determine the impact tile drainage has on infiltration, surface runoff, and flooding and to evaluate the feasibility of seasonal retention of water in tile drained fields as a drainage management strategy.

The impact of potholes, wetlands and water retention structures will also be considered in the study.

business planning.

**Strategy:** The RIO and its partners will continue to work with State and Federal agency members of the Water Resource Coordinating Council to determine the contribution to flooding from stormwater runoff and tile drainage. Simultaneously, the group will develop programs to inform and educate the public with regard to flood risk and flood plain management. Efforts will also involve further study of governance models for carrying out more effective stormwater and flood plain management programs at interstate, state, regional and local levels.

### 5) Improve the state's ability to model and predict flood events

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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. The Flood Center will work with state and federal agencies to 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 DNR's Flood Plain Management Program. 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.

**Strategy:** Continued funding for the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa is needed to foster the development of better tools for predicting and forecasting floods, and preparing for flood fight

efforts. Integration of inundation mapping and GIS tools with new flood plain mapping will take advantage of new technologies and provide a more accurate basis for mitigating damages from future floods, as well as preparing for high water when it comes. Libraries of inundation maps for various flood stages will be available online or in hard copy for all users. Now a member of the Water Resource Coordinating Council, the Iowa Flood Center will be able to contribute to the efforts of all state and federal agencies and local communities involved in mitigation and flood fighting efforts. The Iowa Flood Center staff will also participate in basin level studies for Iowa's nine major river basin areas in cooperation with other participating State and Federal agencies on the Water Resource Coordinating Council.

### 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

**Status:** Complete

**Progress:** \$15 million in CDBG funds was identified and committed to flood plain mapping in Iowa's Action Plan. Efforts are now 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 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Web site to local communities and private users for planning and flood inundation studies. Current plans call for completing new maps for all 85 counties in 5-7 years.

##### 2) Develop a plan to complete mapping on a specific timeline

**Status:** Complete

**Progress:** Efforts to complete LiDAR data collection continue, and are expected to be completed by June 1, 2010 as crop, tree cover, and weather conditions allow.

The University of Iowa Flood Center has contracted with DNR 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 contract to map the remainder of the 85 counties and eventually the entire state.

As part of additional staffing provided to the DNR in the 2009 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.

### **3) Provide support to local governments and individuals in understanding and using completed maps**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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 improve flood plain regulation and allow more property owners having the ability to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP.

In the 2009 Legislative Session, House File 759 was enacted 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 receiving a new map. 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 deadline outlined in the bill.

The bill also required 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. A report detailing those recommendations was submitted to the House and Senate Rebuild Iowa Committees on Nov. 15, 2009. The recommendations focused in a few key areas, including:

- Financial incentives for purchasing flood insurance including tax credits
- Increased marketing of flood insurance

### 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](http://www.fema.gov) and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources)

- Training for insurance agents
- Methods for increasing homeowners awareness of their risk

**Strategy:** As new maps are approved, ongoing education for the public and local officials will be critical to the success of these initiatives. New maps (especially those based on updated data) often include more areas at flood risks. This can result in frustration and confusion on the part of impacted homeowners. The state needs to play a role in assisting those affected in understanding their risks and reasons for any changes.

### LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

#### 1) Improve Iowa's river gage system

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Two new gages were added on the Cedar River above Cedar Rapids following the 2008 Flood, one at Palo, and one at Vinton. River gages are utilized by federal agencies in managing water resources and in forecasting river and flood conditions. Local communities like Vinton and Palo pay for the annual installation and year to year maintenance of the gages and benefit from more localized, real-time forecast information.

The US Geological Survey collects data from rivers and streams and measures stream behavior during floods. The National Weather Service uses the data provided by USGS to provide hydrologic forecasts and warnings for the United States. The US Army Corps of Engineers uses the data and forecasts provided by both agencies to manage the nation's rivers system, reservoirs and waterways.

**Strategy:** Investments in establishing new gages and replacing older equipment will maintain the capability that currently exists to provide flood predictions and warnings. Advances in technology are expected to improve the accuracy and timeliness of current forecasting, and provide more durable and affordable gages.

Methods being studied and tested by the Iowa Flood Center may provide new technology to augment current forecasting efforts. Newly developed gages will measure the distance from stream level to a bridge deck. Iowa's river monitoring network managed by USGS

currently has about 156 gages. Iowa has about 25,000 bridges with known elevations. Monitoring of smaller streams where no gaging currently exists would improve the detail and capability of future flood forecasting efforts.

### 2) Complete new flood plain maps for the entire state

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** As detailed above, the first steps in this process have been completed. Funding for new data has been identified and that data collection is nearly complete. The DNR and other involved agencies have completed a plan that outlines a strategy to complete new maps in the next 5-7 years.

**Strategy:** Plans are in place to monitor benchmarks towards completing this goal over the next several years. An ongoing focus on these benchmarks is needed to ensure that the timeline for completion is maintained.

Current efforts are centered on completing a pilot study resulting in a county-level flood plain map to establish parameters to be used in producing maps for the entire state. Actual production of work maps will be done on a watershed basis but will also generate county specific maps in order to meet FEMA requirements. The last step in the process will be FEMA certification to allow the new Iowa maps to be used as DFIRM's or Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The management and updating of flood plain maps will be an on-going, continuous process. Maps will be updated electronically as conditions and available information change.

Flood plain maps will also be web-based and available online.

### 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)*

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

#### SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Provide technical assistance and support to impacted cultural and historic institutions and non-profits**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA), Iowa Museum Association, Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance, the Iowa Cultural Coalition, the RIO and other organizations have worked hard to address the needs of impacted cultural and historic institutions and other non-profits in the wake of the 2008 disasters. Cultural and historic organizations and professionals provide economic activity in Iowa's communities through employment, tourism, and other activities, and also greatly enhance the state's quality of life. While there is still much work to do, various technical assistance and funding programs have been made available. The DCA also undertook a survey in an attempt to measure disaster impacts on cultural and historic organizations and to quantify the remaining unmet needs.

**Arts and Culture Professionals and Organizations** - The Iowa Arts Council (IAC) staff worked with impacted organizations soon after the flood waters receded to connect them with technical and financial resources. IAC redirected funds for emergency recovery grants and stipends of \$500 for artists and arts organizations impacted by the storms. Additionally, The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the IAC \$100,000 to administer and award grants to support professional artists, arts organizations, and arts projects that incurred new costs as a direct result of damages or displacement due to the floods and tornadoes of 2008. An anonymous Iowa artist who was working overseas for several years was moved to contribute \$5,000, which she asked to be distributed as five \$1,000 grants to affected Iowa artists. She subsequently learned that her own studio storage space in Iowa



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



had been flooded, and most of its contents destroyed. Still, she wanted to support other artists in Iowa with this gift.

IAC also worked with organizations to extend grant contract deadlines, where appropriate, to ease the administrative burden on impacted organizations.

Governor Culver's I-JOBS bonding initiative was approved by the General Assembly during the 2009 session with the primary goals of strengthening the state's economy and preserving or creating thousands of jobs. A portion of the bond funds was allocated for disaster recovery projects. The following museums and cultural attractions were awarded grants for disaster recovery:

### *Cedar Rapids (Linn County)*

- African American Museum of Iowa: \$268,510 competitive grant for disaster relief
- National Czech and Slovak Museum: \$10 million non-competitive grant for disaster relief
- Paramount Theater: \$5 million non-competitive grant for disaster relief
- Legion Arts - Restoration of CSPS Hall: \$4.8 million competitive grant for disaster relief

### *Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County)*

- Cedar Falls Historical Society - Ice House Museum Restoration: \$545,700 competitive grant for disaster relief

These projects will create both temporary construction-related jobs as well as permanent positions as they recover from the 2008 disasters and prepare for the potential of future floods.

In Sept. 2008, the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference "Ready for Preservation!" included timely disaster recovery information for individuals and preservation organizations. A session entitled "High Waters, High Winds: Disaster Recovery and Historic Preservation" included speakers from Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, and FEMA. The session addressed advance disaster planning as well as what to do during and after disaster strikes. Since 2008, the State Historic Preservation Office has continued to provide technical assistance regarding disaster recovery to preservation professionals and organizations throughout Iowa. This technical assistance includes one-to-one contact, site visits, and presentations. SHPO staff has also attended public meetings throughout Iowa as part of the Section 106 consultation process.

The RIO team has worked specifically with representatives of several cultural institutions important to the economic development of affected communities, including the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids. The Museum is vital to Cedar Rapids' economic recovery and initially estimated needing a total of \$25 million in order to

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**Gov. Culver assists the family of a tornado victim in planting a memorial oak tree in New Hartford.**



**Volunteers load flowers for delivery to Palo residents.**



**General Dardis discusses recovery progress in Mason City.**

recover, including \$10 million from state sources, which it received via I-JOBS, and \$10 million from federal sources. Thus far, the Museum has experienced significant delays and frustrations in receiving assistance through either SBA or FEMA. State staff continues to work to assist them in navigating this system and successfully obtaining needed resources. Another hard-hit cultural organization, the African-American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids re-opened on December 26, 18 months after it was flooded. The Museum raised \$700,000, including funds from the I-JOBS initiative, to rebuild. Its new flagship exhibit, "Endless Possibilities," traces African-American's roots in Africa all the way through the election of the United State's first black president, including Iowa's prominent role as the first caucus state every four years.

Cyndi Pederson, DCA Director, and Robert Massey of Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids have been involved with developing a nation-wide initiative titled "ArtsReady," which is creating a web-based tool designed to help arts organizations be more resilient following a minor disruption to business or a major crisis, such as the one Iowa arts organizations faced during the floods of 2008. ArtsReady is an initiative of the Southern Arts Federation supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. More information can be found at [www.artsready.org](http://www.artsready.org).

Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) has just released its new Studio Protector, a compact, artist-designed resource for artists that provides extremely practical information about advance readiness planning, emergency response actions, and short-term recovery actions. IAC placed an early order for 100 of these and is initially distributing them to two groups: artists who attended IAC's "No More Starving Artists" workshop last June (at which a representative from CERF previewed the Studio Protector), and artists who attended a Cedar Rapids workshop presented by Legion Arts last June (also featuring a representative from CERF). We will continue to promote this tool for artists, as it can be purchased for approximately \$16 directly from CERF or from some retail outlets, such as the Art Store in Des Moines. More info about the tool can be found at [studioprotector.org](http://studioprotector.org).

*Non-Profit Organizations* - Non-profit organizations are vital to our quality of life and provide much needed services and opportunities to individuals and communities. 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 58 non-profit organizations have received SBA loans totaling more than \$15 million. So far, 172 non-profit organization project worksheets have been completed for FEMA Public Assistance funds and IJOBS bonding infrastructure funds were awarded 11 cultural and/or historic projects for a total of more than \$23 million. 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.

**Measures:** All grant funds already allocated for disaster recovery for cultural and historic institutions have been exhausted, with the exception of an additional \$10 million from the State Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credit's Disaster Recovery Fund, which will be available July 1, 2010, for state fiscal year 2013. Some non-profits may be eligible for one or more of the new business programs.

*SBA Loans to Non-Profits* - Fifty-eight applications for a total of \$15,345,000 were approved by the US Small Business Administration for non-profit organizations to assist with disaster recovery. To date, 16 loans totaling \$4,615,100 have been disbursed.

*FEMA Public Assistance for Non-Profits* - Currently, there are 172 Public Assistance projects for non-profit organizations.

**Strategy:** The DCA, IHPA, the RIO, and other organizations continue to offer technical assistance and guidance to impacted cultural and historical institutions and other non-profits.

## 2) Provide incentives for maintaining historic properties and community identity in rebuilding

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:**

*State Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credits* - 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 percent 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

### HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM CHANGES

During the 2009 legislative session, the RIO supported a bill allowing greater flexibility for the Historic Site Preservation Grant program, administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa, to respond to emergency situations.

Specifically, the Program was amended to replace language allowing only two grants per county per year with a \$200,000 cap per county per year.

This change will allow more small grants to be awarded to hard-hit counties during future disasters.

properties that were damaged or destroyed in the 2008 disasters. The additional credits will ensure that historic properties are rehabilitated at a quicker pace than would have otherwise occurred. The RIO provided input for development of the program's administrative rules, which are written and enforced by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

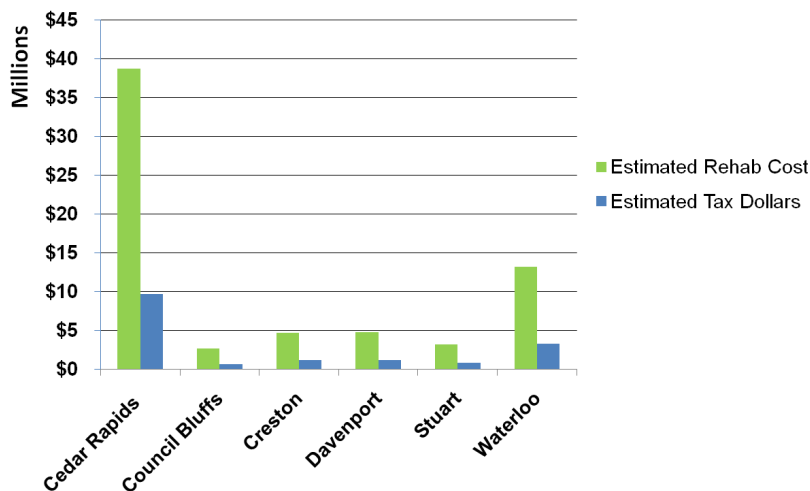
*Identifying Historic Properties in Impacted Disaster Areas* - In preparation for housing demolitions under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a Section 106 review is required. This review documents the effect of federal programs on historic properties. If properties 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 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.

Where historic properties will be lost, the SHPO continues to work with local, state and federal partners to mitigate for the loss of historic properties and rehabilitate the properties that can be saved. The loss of six historic buildings in the Bohemian Commercial Historic District in Cedar Rapids will result in the survey and nomination of an associated historic district across the river (the Czech Village). The loss of the Waverly School will result in documentation of the important building. And, the loss of housing across the state will result in new historic property surveys, nominations, and public outreach efforts. Many of the communities benefiting from this consultation include cities and counties that at the beginning of the disaster reported they had no historic properties to lose. Now the loss will result in an ultimate gain for preservation through a new awareness about the historic properties lost and saved.

### Measures:

#### *State Historic Tax Credit Program Disaster Project Applications Current December 2009*



*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's 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.

The SHPO was able to reserve credits for each of the 28 disaster project applicants; a few were approved with conditions. The table below summarizes the approved disaster projects and their associated city, estimated rehabilitation cost and estimated tax credit eligibility.

*Identifying Historic Properties in Impacted Disaster Areas* - Provide up-to-date information regarding the outcome of the Section 106 reviews (statistics on number of homes surveyed, historic properties and districts identified, and interesting MOA examples).

Approximately 9,500 Section 106 reviews of properties for historic significance have been conducted to-date. Of those, approximately 650 have been deemed eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as part of a historic district. Eighteen new historic districts have been identified. Identification of historic properties is the first step in the nomination process which, if approved, provides eligibility to access state and federal historic tax credits and other incentives for historically sensitive rehabilitation and preservation.



## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**Lt. Gen. Dardis speaks at the groundbreaking for the Waverly-Shell Rock school safe room.**



**Waverly-Shell Rock students break ground for their new safe room.**



**John Benson with HSEMD talks about the importance of safe rooms.**

**Strategy:** The Iowa Smart Planning Principles incorporate concepts such as green building, directing development toward established communities, and enhancing community identity; each of these components can be addressed, in part, through historic preservation. Historic preservation will be included in guidance the RIO produces concerning application and integration of the Principles. More information on the Iowa Smart Planning Principles can be found in Goal 6 of this report.

### **3) Provide support to disaster-impacted school districts and institutions of higher learning to minimize disruptions and rebuild in a more resilient manner.**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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 \$145 million and have received just over \$105 million to cover these costs so far. 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 were held this year 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.

*Cedar Rapids Community School District* - Several district support facilities were affected by the June 2008 flood including 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, which will also include a safe room.

*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, including a safe room. Although portions of the new high school are still under construction, classes there began in August 2009.

**Strategy:** The RIO will continue to assist schools in their rebuilding plans and work towards a system of greater planning and preparation by school districts for future disasters.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

#### **1) Increase assistance concerning and utilization of best practices concerning records retention, management, preservation, and proper storage**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The natural disasters of 2008 illustrated the vulnerability of the records retention and management systems 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 serving in an advisory capacity to a consortium of groups that was awarded a \$40,000 "Connecting to Collections" grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences in February 2009 to develop a statewide disaster preparedness and response plan for cultural resources in Iowa, including records and archives. The collaborating partners have finalized their survey instrument, which was sent



### **“ARCHIVE MONTH” CHECKLIST POSTER**

The Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board printed a disaster response checklist poster for its annual “Archive Month” activity.

The posters were distributed throughout the state to records keepers.

It was an identified activity funded by the state grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

out as an on-line survey on November 30, 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.

Additionally, 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 State Historical Society of Iowa. The goal is to have an updated manual available online by the end of 2010.

**Strategy:** During the 2009 legislative session, the RIO advocated for additional, long-term capacity to provide direct assistance and training to records management, preservation and storage organizations. Due to historic budget constraints, funding for this assistance and training was not provided and is not likely in the 2010 session. The RIO will continue to advocate for resources for this important challenge.

### **2) Increase the support of public art associated with construction of new and damaged buildings and the maintenance of those projects**

**Status:** Not started

**Progress:** Historic budget issues have made advocacy of incorporation of public art, which increases project costs, very difficult.

**Strategy:** Budget issues continue to be a major concern for the State of Iowa. The RIO does not foresee legislative action on this topic in the 2010 session.

### **3) Continue to use Iowa’s rivers and waterways as an asset to communities and the state**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** Utilizing Iowa’s rivers and waterways as an asset is a common theme that is present throughout many of the RIO’s activities,

policy advocacy and long-term strategy for the state's recovery. The RIO's Smart Planning proposal and partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency both advocate for ways of managing water as a precious resource and promote reconnecting communities with their rivers and other waterways in a manner that reduces flood risk. Various property acquisition programs funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Community Development Block Grant allocations will produce green space along rivers and other flood-prone areas, much of which may not be redeveloped. The RIO has encouraged communities to view this new green space as opportunities to enhance recreation opportunities and passively address flooding and storm water issues.

The River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism program administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development supports projects that promote and enhance recreational opportunities on and near rivers or lakes within cities. This program recently made its first award to the City of Waterloo, providing \$135,000 to develop a 4,000 square foot family-friendly park with play features and splash equipment overlooking the Cedar River, along with performance structure that will turn a 15,000 square foot amphitheater into a stage for concerts, shows, and exhibitions. Redeveloping Waterloo's riverfront into a park and performance venue is one component of the community's overall flood risk reduction strategy.

**Strategy:** The RIO continues to encourage using Iowa's rivers and waters as an asset and to partner with other organizations to assist local stakeholders as they look for ways to do so while minimizing flood risk.

### Goal 11: Emergency Management

#### EMAC

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) have actively promoted the importance of emergency management and emergency planning to the general public and to local leaders.

The RIO provides weekly press releases that cover a variety of recovery topics and a monthly newsletter, The Iowa Recovery Times. A December release highlighted the work of the Story County Emergency Manager, Lori Morrissey, and her contributions at a national forum on the National Flood Insurance Program.

HSEMD distributes a bi-weekly electronic newsletter titled “Secure and Prepared” designed to educate the general public on emergency management issues and provide emergency management professionals up-to-date information on Emergency Management. A publication titled “Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Local Officials” provides a general overview of essential emergency management information to newly elected officials.

The RIO has also worked closely with members of and advocates for the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) to identify areas of potential improvement regarding communications with local governments and education of the general public. Input has been obtained from IEMA representatives regarding a proposal to codify the individual disaster case management system in Iowa law since they frequently interface with long term recovery committee representatives in disaster affected areas. A case management bill is being drafted for consideration by legislators in the 2010 Iowa legislative session.

**Strategy:** The RIO and HSEMD will continue to promote the importance of emergency planning at the local and state level in the areas of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. This includes incorporating hazard mitigation and emergency plans into overall comprehensive planning (see Goal 6).

### 2) Increase the utilization of the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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.

The RIO actively and successfully supported passage of SF441 during the 2009 Iowa legislative session. This bill adds emergency management commissions to the list of participating governments that are part of the statewide mutual aid compact. It also strengthens the potential level of government participation in a compact by changing from an opt-in compact (where a participating government must pass an ordinance or resolution to adopt the compact) to an opt-out compact where the compact automatically applies to all emergency management commissions counties, cities and other political subdivisions unless they opt out through the adoption of an ordinance or resolution.

**Strategy:** HSEMD continues to provide information about IMAC and EMAC. Helpful information like forms and frequently asked questions about IMAC and EMAC are available on the HSEMD Web site.

## LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

### 1) Support and assist local emergency management agencies in expanding their capacity

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** 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

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



**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.**

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.

**Strategy:** HSEMD will continue to provide technical and financial support to local emergency management to the greatest extent possible. Currently financial support is in the form of federal grant funding for specific emergency management activities. This support facilitates the work of emergency management at all levels of government. This ongoing partnership between local and state emergency management and other emergency management partners is critical to effectively reducing vulnerability to hazards where possible and effectively addressing the consequences of unavoidable hazardous situations that do occur.

The RIO continues to work with IEMA representatives to identify workable solutions to these long-term objectives, with an initial focus on identification of "minimal capacity" and definition of "expected responsibilities" to ensure greater consistency. Regional efforts are also being considered. These discussions will assist in determining the appropriate level and source of funding from local, state and federal sources.

**2) Further define the expected responsibilities of local emergency managers to ensure greater consistency in services and planning**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Progress:** The RIO and HSEMD have participated in several discussions with the Iowa Emergency Managers Association on ways going forward to improve consistency and further define responsibilities as necessary.

**Strategy:** We will continue to evaluate the best practices in emergency management in partnership with local emergency coordinators, their professional association and municipal and county officials.

---

## Conclusion

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) will continue to further outline its goals, methods, and objectives in future quarterly reports, as the state's long-term recovery operation progresses. However, it is important to note that while the disasters occurred approximately 18 months ago, the RIO firmly believes that Iowa is still in the initial phase of long-term recovery. While many accomplishments can be noted and are outlined in the January Quarterly Report, there is still much work to be done. Until Iowans have established a sense of normalcy, all entities involved with this recovery effort must continue to improve programs, further streamline processes and make improvements to the disaster recovery system at both the local, state and federal level, to ensure Iowa has a healthy and successful recovery.

The RIO remains dedicated to the recovery goals outlined in this report. And, while some methods and objectives may evolve, the RIO will continue to report each quarter on the accomplishments and challenges, as well as measures and key projects. The RIO will seek input through public workshops, forums and meetings, the RIO Coordinating Council and other stakeholders as the state carries on its recovery efforts. The RIO will also continue to voice its concern for disaster reform at the national level by holding discussions and meetings with officials from Washington, D.C. It is imperative the rest of the nation learn from Iowa's biggest disaster and gain information on best practices and challenges that remain with utilizing federal funding and instituting an effective long-term recovery system.

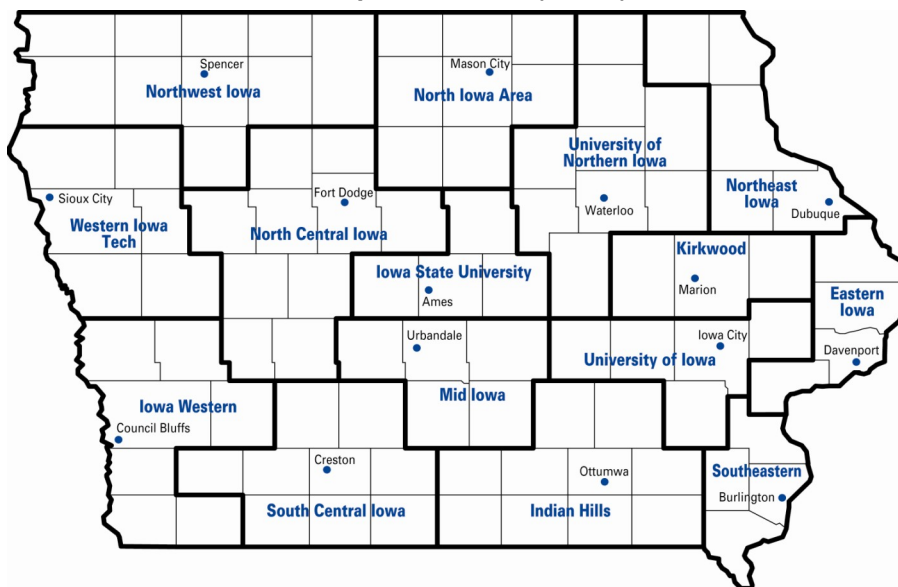
As the RIO's sunset date of June 30, 2011, approaches, future reports will include specific information about how the Office's responsibilities will transition to other state and local entities. The RIO's final report will serve as a comprehensive outline of Iowa's disaster recovery strategy, progress and future needs and goals. It is vital that this strategy be 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) so the entire state is well prepared for future disasters and recovery efforts.



# APPENDIX

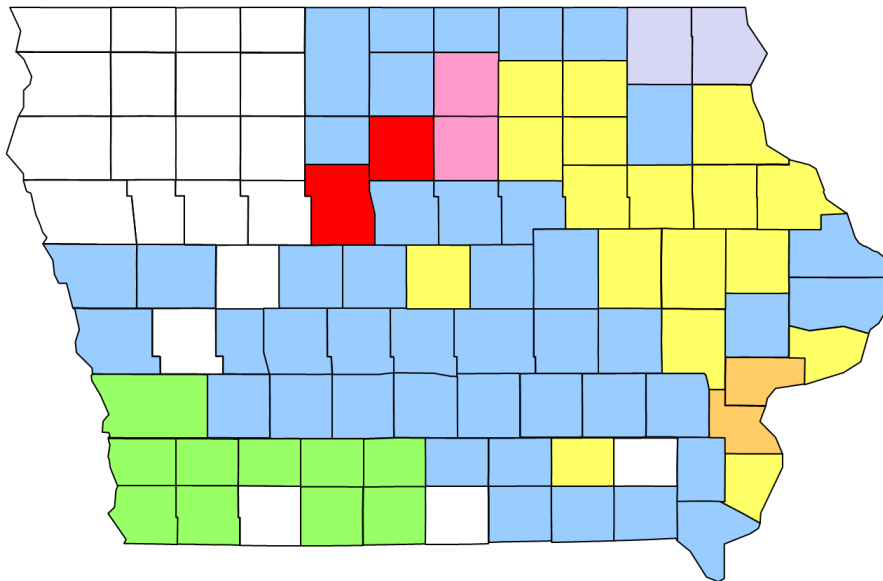
## Maps, Charts & Graphs

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Locations in Iowa**



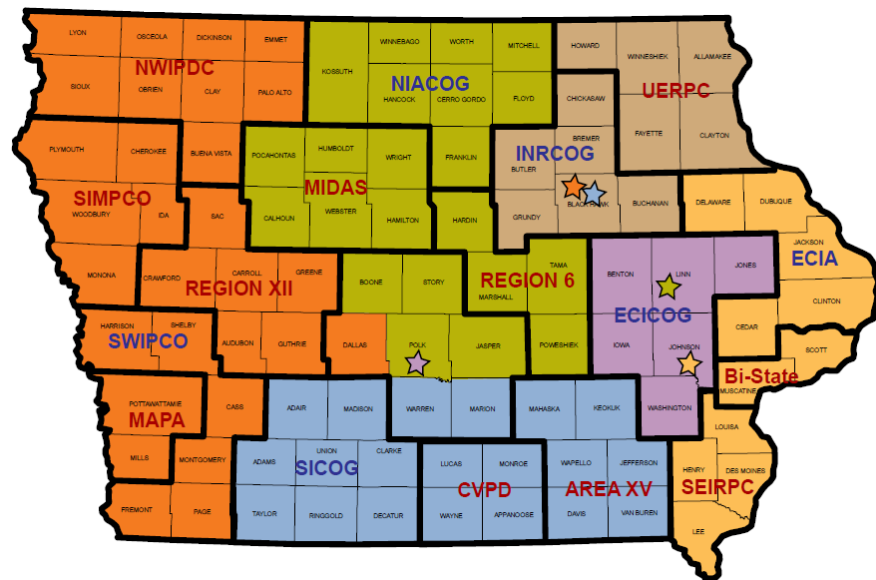
<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>City</b></i>	<i><b>Phone</b></i>
ISU SBDC	Ames	515-296-7828
Southeastern SBDC	Burlington	319-208-5381
Iowa Western SBDC	Council Bluffs	712-256-6552
South Central Iowa SBDC	Creston	641-782-1483
Eastern Iowa SBDC	Davenport	563-336-3401
Northeast Iowa SBDC	Dubuque	563-588-3350
North 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



<b>County</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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



Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)	402-444-6866
Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission (NWIPDC)	712-262-7225
Region XII Council of Governments	712-792-9914
Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)	712-279-6286
Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)	712-243-4196
Midas Council of Governments	515-576-7183
North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG)	641-423-0491
Region 6 Planning Commission	641-752-0717
Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG)	641-782-8491
Chariton Valley Planning and Development	641-437-4359
Area 15 Regional Planning Commission	641-684-6551
Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)	319-235-0311
Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC)	563-864-7551
East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)	319-365-9941
Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC)	309-793-6300
East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)	563-556-4166
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC)	319-753-5107

**Revolving Loan Funds** - The EDA's regional offices award competitive grants to establish revolving loan funds to government, educational and non-profit 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 loans are repaid, the COGs use the interest to pay administrative expenses and make new loans. Following the 2008 disasters, COGs were given additional funding for these loans in order to help disaster-impacted businesses.

### **East Central Iowa COG**

- Received from EDA: \$1.5 million
- Loans to Date: \$779,912 to six flood-impacted businesses in Linn and Benton Counties

### **East Central Intergovernmental Association**

- Received from EDA: \$675,000
- Loans to Date: \$646,000 to 3 companies

### **MIDAS COG**

- Received from EDA: \$302,120.69
- Loans to Date: \$179,749.73 to five companies

### **North Iowa Area COG**

- Received from EDA: \$400,000
- Loans to Date: None

### **Region XII COG**

- Received from EDA: \$600,000
- Loans to Date: \$300,000 to two companies

### **Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Council**

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

### **South East Iowa Regional Planning**

- Received from EDA: \$900,000
- Loans to date: None

## Iowa Disaster Recovery Assistance Programs Timeline

### June 2008

- 6 First **SBA** loan approved
- 23 **SBA** opens Disaster Recovery Center in Cedar Rapids
- 25 **Disaster Unemployment Assistance** made available

### July 2008

- 12 First of 595 families moved into **FEMA Mobile Homes** for temporary housing

### August 2008

- 15 **Disaster Unemployment Assistance** deadline extended  
**FEMA Public Assistance** deadline extended

### September 2008

- 2 FEMA/the RIO provide **Long-Term Community Recovery Planning Assistance** to 10 impacted communities over the next 4 months
- 12 **Jumpstart** Iowa Housing and Small Business programs announced
- 25 **FEMA Individual Assistance** deadline extended
- 26 Applications available for **Jumpstart** Iowa Housing programs
- 30 **Jumpstart** Iowa Small Business applications available

### October 2008

- 1 All displaced Iowans who requested **temporary housing** have been assisted
- 10 **Disaster Relief Grants** awarded to 414 impacted Iowa college students
- 13 **FEMA Public Assistance** requests deadline
- 17 First **Jumpstart** Iowa program assistance funding is provided
- 31 **FEMA Individual Assistance** deadline

### November 2008

- 12 Communities' Notice of Interest forms due for **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** property acquisitions
- 13 FEMA completes initial **Public Assistance** process
- 17 20th damaged structure **demolished**

### December 2008

- 10 **Jumpstart** Express Emergency Repair program announced  
First FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program property acquisition application is received
- 17 IFA awards first disaster-related **Low-Income Housing Tax Credits**

### January 2009

- 14 Small Project **Rental Rehabilitation** program announced  
EPA/FEMA/the RIO/IDED partner to bring **Smart Growth** technical assistance to five communities in Iowa

### February 2009

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

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

---

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

### March 2009

- 2 FEMA/the RIO provide workshops on **Long-Term Community Recovery Tools** and complete recovery plans and strategies for 10 impacted communities
- 19 New **Business Rental Assistance** Program announced
- 24 First round of **CDBG Infrastructure** awards announced
- 25-27 EPA/FEMA/the RIO/IDED **Smart Growth** partnership members visit the five participating communities to meet with leaders and develop scopes of work

### April 2009

- 7 **Workforce Development** Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program announced
- 9 Large Project **Rental Rehabilitation** Program announced
- 15 **Jumpstart** Iowa Small Business program closes
- 15 **Long-Term Community Recovery Tools** are provided to 22 additional impacted communities
- 28 First **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** property acquisition applications are approved
- 30 State's **Unmet Needs Grant** program begins accepting applications

### May 2009

- 22 Second round of **CDBG Infrastructure** awards announced

### June 2009

- 5 \$22 million in **Community Disaster Grants** are awarded
- 29 First **I-JOBS Infrastructure** projects are approved

### July 2009

- 2 **Steam Energy Assistance** Program for Cedar Rapids businesses announced
- 9 First **Single-Family New Construction** awards made
- 16-17 **Smart Growth** partnership holds green infrastructure for storm water management workshop in New Hartford
- 17 **Small Business Development Centers** begin providing additional case management assistance to disaster-impacted businesses
- 31 **I-JOBS Disaster Damage Housing Assistance** program announced  
Deadline for community applications for **CDBG Property Buyouts and Infrastructure** projects

### September 2009

- 1 State **Jumpstart** Housing application deadline
- 9-10 **Smart Growth** partnership holds workshop in Cedar Rapids with stakeholders concerning infill development, development code revisions, and green infrastructure for storm water management
- 30-1 **Smart Growth** partnership holds workshop in Cedar Falls concerning redevelopment options in North Cedar neighborhood

### October 2009

- 16 Deadline for **Unmet Needs Grant** program applications
- 23 **FEMA Mobile Home** assistance extended until June 2010  
**Workforce Development** Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program closes



### November 2009

- 4-5 **Smart Growth** partnership holds workshop in Coralville concerning redevelopment options for Old Town neighborhood
- 5 Second round of CDBG-funded infrastructure awards announced
- 6 First round of **CDBG Property Buyout** awards announced
- 9 New **Disaster Recovery Business Programs** for lost equipment, rent, business expenses and loan interest announced
- 11-13 **Smart Growth** partnership holds workshop in Iowa City concerning redevelopment options for Riverfront Crossings neighborhood
- 27 **FEMA Mobile Home** rent waived until January 2010

### December 2009

- 2 Groundbreaking for Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School **safe room**

### January 2010

Many in **FEMA Mobile Homes** will be charged rent

### June 2010

- 30 Deadline for **FEMA Mobile Home** assistance

## Iowa Disaster Recovery Funding Timeline

### June 2008

- 30 First **HUD CDBG** disaster appropriation bill including Iowa is signed into law

### August 2008

- 4 HUD announces that Iowa will receive **\$85 million** for its **first CDBG allocation**

### September 2008

- 5 Governor Culver announced **state funding** for disaster programs  
Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops **\$500 million**
- 8 **FEMA** Grants Iowa 90 percent Federal cost share for most FEMA programs
- 11 Official Notice of Funds Available for the **first CDBG allocation** is published
- 20 Iowa submits **first CDBG allocation** action plan to HUD
- 23 HUD approves action plan for Iowa's **first CDBG allocation** of \$85 million
- 30 Second **HUD CDBG** disaster appropriation bill including Iowa is signed into law

### October 2008

- 3 **Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act** signed into law
- 23 **U.S. DOT** awards Iowa \$23 million for transportation recovery efforts
- 27 HUD announces that Iowa will receive **\$72 million** in **second CDBG allocation**

### November 2008

- 7 Governor Culver signs **Executive Order Number Nine**, allowing the Iowa Finance Authority to finance disaster recovery projects through additional bonding as a result of the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act
- 13 Iowa submits **second CDBG allocation** action plan amendment to HUD
- 26 HUD announces Iowa will receive **\$125 million** in third CDBG allocation (from the September appropriation)

### December 2008

- 18 Iowa requests assistance from **US Army Corps of Engineers** to begin Iowa/Cedar River Basin Study
- 19 Official Notice of Funds Available for the **second CDBG allocation** is published
- 30 HUD approves Iowa action plan amendment for **second CDBG allocation**

### February 2009

- 2 **House File 64** is signed into law by Governor Culver, providing \$56 million in state funds for disaster relief
- 13 Official Notice of Funds Available for **third CDBG allocation** is published
- 16 Iowa submits **third CDBG allocation** action plan to HUD

### March 2009

- 3 Linn County approves a one cent **Local Option Sales Tax** for disaster recovery
- 16 HUD approves Iowa's action plan for **third CDBG allocation**

### May 2009

- 12 Governor Culver signs **I-JOBS** into law providing more than \$265 million in disaster recovery funding for infrastructure and housing
- 21 Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops **\$1 billion**

**June 2009**

- 10** New HUD Secretary visits Iowa and announces Iowa's **\$516 million fourth CDBG allocation** (the last of the September appropriation)
- 12** Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops **\$3 billion**

**July 2009**

- 6** Iowa's **National Emergency Grant** funding to provide disaster-related employment is increased

**August 2009**

- 14** Official Notice of Funds Available published for Iowa's **fourth CDBG allocation**
- 20** Iowa submits action plan for **fourth CDBG allocation**

**October 2009**

- 5** HUD approves action plan for Iowa's **fourth CDBG allocation** of \$516.7 million

**November 2009**

- 9** Iowa's disaster assistance funding tops **\$3.5 billion**

**December 2009**

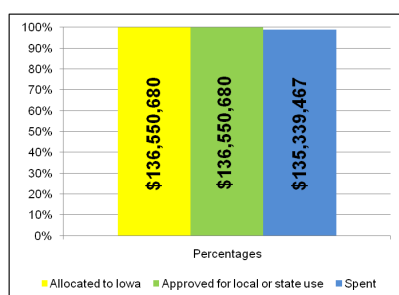
- 7** Iowa disaster assistance *spending* tops **\$1 billion**

## **Glossary**

<b>CDBG</b>	Community Development Block Grant
<b>COG</b>	Council of Government
<b>DCA</b>	Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
<b>DHS</b>	Iowa Department of Human Services
<b>DOT</b>	Iowa Department of Transportation
<b>EDA</b>	Economic Development Administration
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>HSEMD</b>	Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
<b>IDA</b>	Iowa Department on Aging
<b>IDED</b>	Iowa Department of Economic Development
<b>IDH</b>	Iowa Department of Health
<b>IFA</b>	Iowa Finance Authority
<b>IWD</b>	Iowa Workforce Development
<b>LTRC</b>	Long-Term Recovery Committee
<b>NEA</b>	National Endowment for the Arts
<b>NEG</b>	National Emergency Grant
<b>SBA</b>	U.S. Small Business Administration
<b>US ACE</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>USDA</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture
<b>US DHHS</b>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<b>US DOL</b>	U.S. Department of Labor
<b>US DOT</b>	U.S. Department of Transportation

## Disaster Recovery Funding Sources

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 lowans in need as quickly as possible.



### FEMA Housing and Other Needs Assistance (ONA) Funds

**Type:** Federal

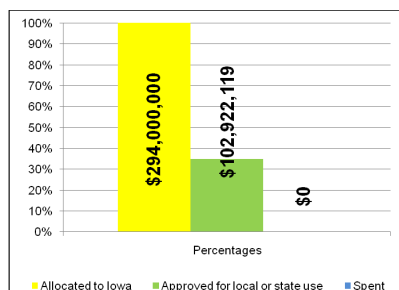
**Status:** Complete, final deadline was October 31, 2008, applications now accepted only through appeal process

**Applicants:** Disaster-affected homeowners and renters

**Administration:** FEMA, HSEMD and Iowa Department of Human Services

**Description:**

- These funds go to disaster victims immediately following the disaster to cover personal property losses, home repairs and other items.
- The maximum award is \$28,800.



### FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Funds

**Type:** Federal (75 percent); Local (15 percent); State (10 percent)

**Status:** Active

**Applicants:** Eligible cities, counties, schools, certain non-profit organizations and other government entities.

**Administration:** HSEMD, with final review, approval and funding from FEMA  
**Description:** Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the HMGP is funded by FEMA to implement long-term mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce loss of life and property resulting from natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster. Projects must be cost effective. Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms
- 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 storm water 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
- Hazard Mitigation Planning

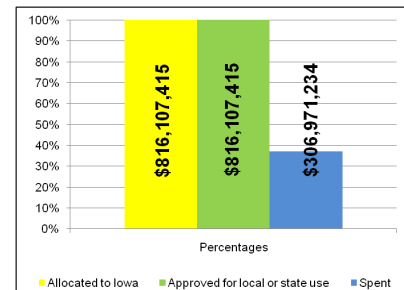
The total amount of FEMA HMGP funds available to Iowa is \$294 million, which is an amount equal to 20 percent of the total estimated assistance provided under the Stafford Act. While this amount is available as a maximum, projects must be approved individually before funds can be spent. NOTE: The remaining 25 percent of local and state HMGP funds are included under the State Executive Council section.

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

### FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected cities and counties  
**Administration:** FEMA, HSEMD  
**Description:**

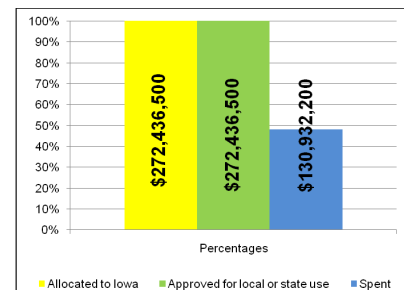
- This funding provides assistance to applicants to conduct emergency work as well as permanent work projects and includes the repair and/or replacement of public infrastructure, buildings, roads, bridges, drainage facilities and parks damaged in the disaster.
- More than \$1.4 billion is expected to be spent in Iowa through this program related to the 2008 disasters.
- The PA Program may also provide funding related to eligible damage repairs for applicable codes and standards, hazard mitigation actions and relocation in accordance with applicable federal policies.
- A form called a project worksheet is utilized jointly by FEMA, HSEMD and applicants to identify each project, scope of work and cost estimate. Each project must be approved by FEMA before projects can move forward.
- Large Projects (those over \$60,900) are funded on a reimbursement basis as the project is completed.

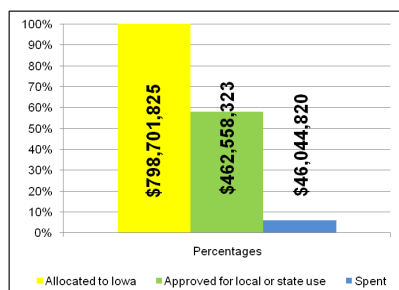


### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected homeowners, business owners and non-profit organizations  
**Administration:** Small Business Administration  
**Description:**

- The SBA offers low-interest loans for disaster-affected homeowners and business owners.
- In some cases, those approved for a loan choose not to take it.
- In order to apply for FEMA and sometimes other funding sources, most home owners and business owners must apply for an SBA loan first
- All non-profit organizations that are not considered "critical services" must apply for an SBA loan before being considered for FEMA funding.
- Allocated: Amount that has been approved for lending
- Spent: Total loan amount loaned to approved applicants

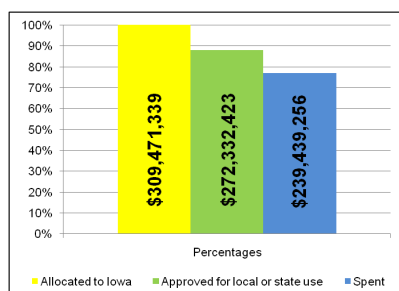




### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Various  
**Administration:** HUD, IDED, COGs and Entitlement Cities  
**Description:**

- CDBG funds in Iowa are being used for many programs and purposes, including but not limited to the following:
  - Jumpstart Housing (including home repair, down payment assistance and interim mortgage assistance)
  - Jumpstart Small Business
  - Large & Small Project Rental Rehabilitation
  - Disaster Recovery Case Management.
  - Infrastructure
  - Housing acquisitions (“buyouts”)
  - New housing production
  - Flood plain mapping
- CDBG funds are not specifically meant for disaster recovery use. They are generally allocated to states for housing and community development purposes. In recent years, Congress has chosen to use this program as a vehicle for delivering additional disaster aid to states with major disasters.
- CDBG funds have the potential to be used for many different purposes, making them seem to be “the most flexible” form of funding.
- CDBG funds come with a number of restrictions as to their specific uses and who is eligible to use them (for example, they are often considered to be a “duplication” of other federal funds and come with income restrictions for homeowners who wish to use them).
- Allocated: These funds are appropriated by Congress in large sums and then HUD allocated them to state designated in the appropriation.
- Approved: With each allocation, states must complete an “Action Plan” detailing plans for the funding. Once that occurs, the state can begin committing the funds to specific projects. At this point that they are considered approved.
- Spent: This program is reimbursement only. Funds are never transferred to the state. Checks are cut for specific projects after their completion.



### U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Some programs are ongoing, some have closed  
**Applicants:** Farmers, rural communities and rural homeowners  
**Administration:** USDA  
**Description:**

- These programs are administered directly through federal offices including Rural Development, the Farm Services Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Programs include the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) and Rural Development grants and loans.
- No state agencies are involved in administering the funds.

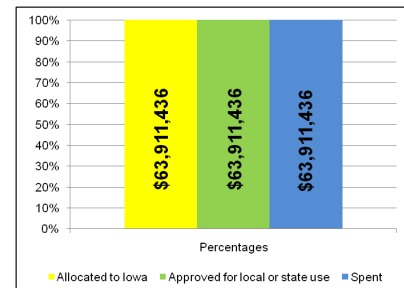


## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

### US Army Corps of Engineers

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** US ACE  
**Description:**

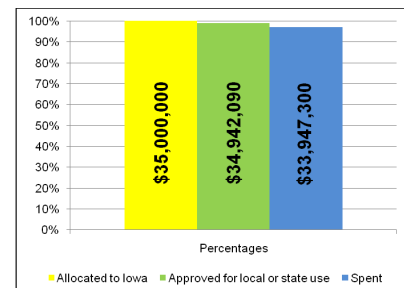
- This program is administered directly through federal offices.
- No state agencies are involved in administering these funds
- These funds are used to repair levees and other floodworks in Iowa.



### Initial State Jumpstart Funds

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Complete, final application deadline for businesses was April 15, 2009 and Sept. 1, 2009 for homeowners.  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected homeowners and business owners  
**Administration:** IDED (business), IFA (housing)  
**Description:**

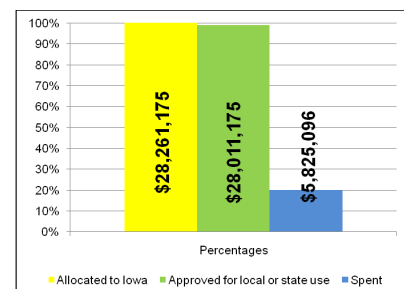
- These funds were made available to disaster-affected Iowans in September 2008.
- Immediately following the disaster, Gov. Culver and the Executive Council transferred funds from other state programs for use in disaster recovery.
- These funds were meant to serve as interim funding and offer immediate relief in the months before federal funding arrived.
- The funds were split into the following two programs:
  - The Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program for repairs, replacement housing and mortgage assistance.
  - The Jumpstart Business Assistance Program.

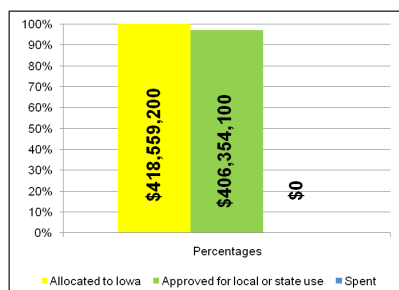


### State Executive Council Funds

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** HSEMD, DHS  
**Description:**

- These funds were transfers authorized by the State Executive Council
- This funding is primarily used to fulfill Iowa's cost share for FEMA programs including the following:
  - 10 percent cost share for FEMA PA programs
  - 25 percent cost share for FEMA HMGP and ONA programs
  - Much of the funding for this purpose will be held aside until near the end of the infrastructure projects (when the state share is due).
- This funding also covers necessary costs for HSEMD.

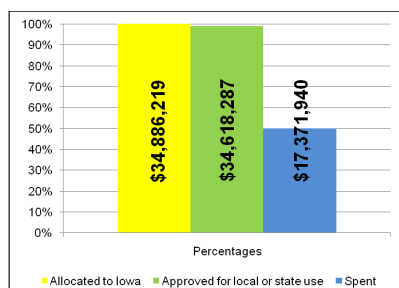




#### Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** 2009 tax credits have all been used, more will be available in 2010  
**Applicants:** Housing developers (in conjunction with local governments)  
**Administration:** IFA  
**Description:**

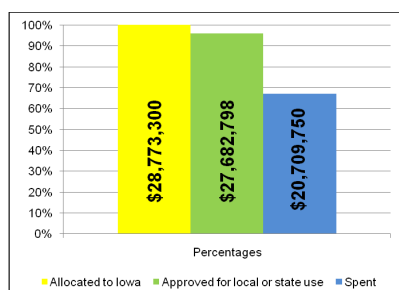
- These Low-income Housing Tax Credits assist in spurring the development of affordable housing projects around the state.
- These tax credits are targeted for use in communities affected by the 2008 disasters.
- These are not direct funding and do not provide a check to recipients. Because of this, they are not considered "spent" until the project is complete.
- 10-year terms in the tax credits.



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

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** US DOT, DOT  
**Description:**

- These funds are to assist the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) with disaster-related transportation costs, including repairs and other expenses.



#### National Emergency Grant Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Government and non-profit organizations employing these workers for disaster specific projects, individuals, business owners  
**Administration:** US DOL, IWD  
**Description:**

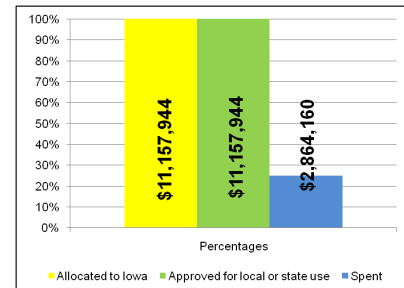
- These funds are currently being used for the Emergency Public Jobs (EPJ) program.
  - This program provides work for disaster-affected and long-term unemployed Iowans on disaster-related projects in affected areas.
  - Individuals can work for approximately 6 months in the program and can earn up to \$12,000 and are often provided training.
  - Individuals are paid at the prevailing rate for the worksite, which provides higher compensation than unemployment insurance benefits.
- These funds were also used for a Small Business Disaster Grant Program
  - This program application deadline was in October 2009.
  - This program assisted businesses which experienced temporary or permanent displacement of employees due to the disaster with grants of up to \$5,000.

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

### Social Services Block Grant Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** US DHHS, DHS, IDH, IDA  
**Description:**

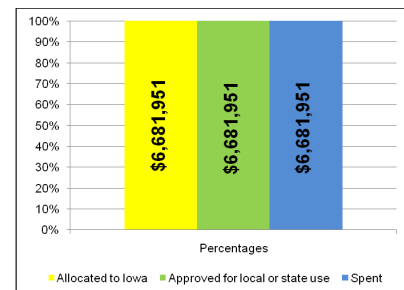
- These funds are primarily being used for disaster-related mental health programs, public health needs and services for the elderly.



### Disaster Unemployment Assistance Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Iowans unemployed due to the disaster  
**Administration:** US DOL, IWD  
**Description:**

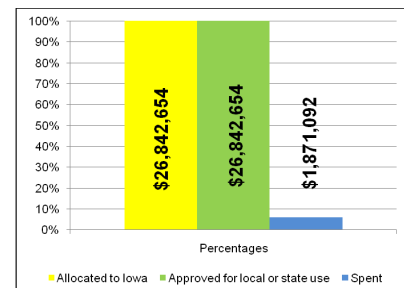
- These funds provided temporary financial assistance to individuals unemployed due to Iowa's summer disasters of 2008.
- This program has ended and is no longer available.



### Economic Development Administration (EDA) Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Local governments including cities, counties and COGs  
**Administration:** EDA and COGs  
**Description:**

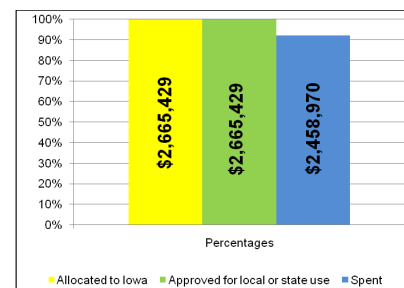
- A small portion of these funds support the development of a strategy for planning the economic recovery from Iowa's summer disasters of 2008 both at the statewide and regional level.
- These funds also support disaster-related infrastructure projects approved on a case-by-case basis and revolving loan funds for businesses administered by the COGs.

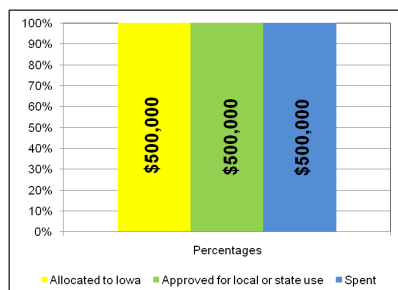


### Crisis Counseling Grant Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** US DHHS, DHS  
**Description:**

- These funds include support for disaster programs including Project Recovery Iowa, a post-disaster counseling program assisting affected individuals and families.
- Funds from this grant had to be used by the Iowa Dept. of Human Services by Sept. 30, 2009. Unused funds were returned to the US DHHS.

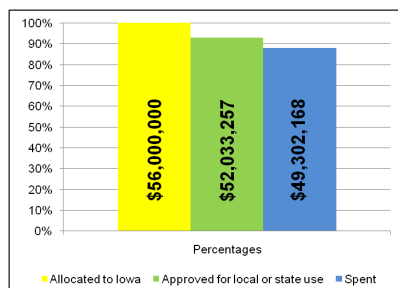




#### State Scholarship and Grant Reserve Funds

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected college students  
**Administration:** Iowa College Student Aid Commission  
**Description:**

- These funds provided scholarships to college students impacted by Iowa's summer disasters of 2008.
- This was a one-time appropriation of for this purpose and funds were all awarded prior to the 2008 school year.
- The maximum award was \$1,594, the minimum was \$708, and the average was \$1,164.



#### Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill Funds

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Individuals and communities  
**Administration:** IFA, DHS, HSEMD  
**Description:** These funds allocated by HF64 in February 2009 for the following purposes:

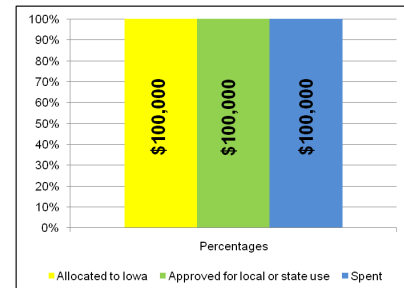
- Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance
  - Includes repair and down payment assistance
  - Administered at the state-level by IFA.
  - Administered locally by COGs and Entitlement Cities.
  - The application was Sept. 1, 2009.
- Individual Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program
  - Administered at the state-level by DHS
  - Administered locally through LTRCs.
  - The application deadline for these funds was Oct. 16, 2009 due to limited funds.
  - Some of this funding was in the form of vouchers to individuals. Those funds are not considered expended until the individual uses the voucher and the retailer submits information for reimbursement.
- Community Disaster Grants for cities and counties affected by Iowa's summer disasters of 2008
  - Administered by HSEMD.
  - These funds were allocated using a specific formula outlined in legislation.
  - Communities were asked to submit paperwork explaining their plans for use of the funds.
  - Work should be done by June 30, 2010. However, if funds are encumbered, work can be done and paid for using these funds after that date.

## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

### National Endowment for the Arts Emergency Support Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected artists and arts organizations  
**Administration:** NEA, DCA  
**Description:**

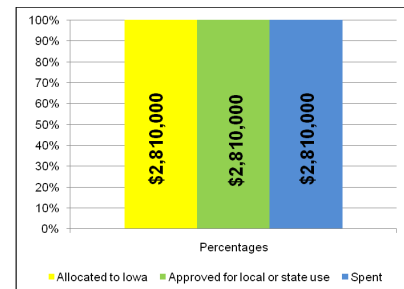
- The Iowa Arts Council (Department of Cultural Affairs) received a \$100,000 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant in 2008 to assist artists and arts organizations in their disaster recovery.
- These funds have been expended and are no longer available.



### Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA)

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Disaster-affected small businesses  
**Administration:** IDED  
**Description:**

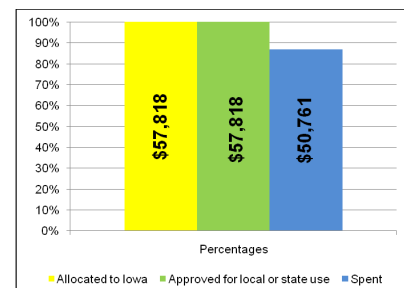
- This program, normally used for loans and forgivable loans to assist small businesses during normal times, was also made available with fewer restrictions to disaster-affected businesses.
- The application period for this program has ended.



### Administration on Aging Funds

**Type:** Federal  
**Status:** Complete  
**Applicants:** Local Area Agencies on Aging  
**Administration:** IDA  
**Description:**

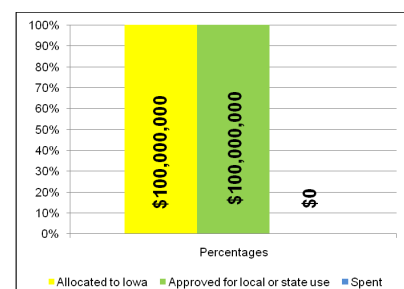
- Disaster-related funding through the IDA.
- This program was a one-time allocation and is complete.

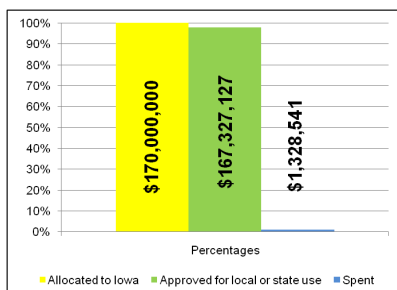


### Regents Bonding Funds

**Type:** State  
**Status:** Active  
**Applicants:** Not applicable  
**Administration:** Iowa Board of Regents  
**Description:**

- 2009 legislation authorized the Iowa Board of Regents to bond for up to \$100 million in funds for disaster-related expenses and rebuilding at Iowa Regent institutions.





#### I-JOBS Bonding Funds

**Type:** State

**Status:** Active

**Applicants:** Local governments, homeowners

**Administration:** IFA, COGs and Entitlement cities

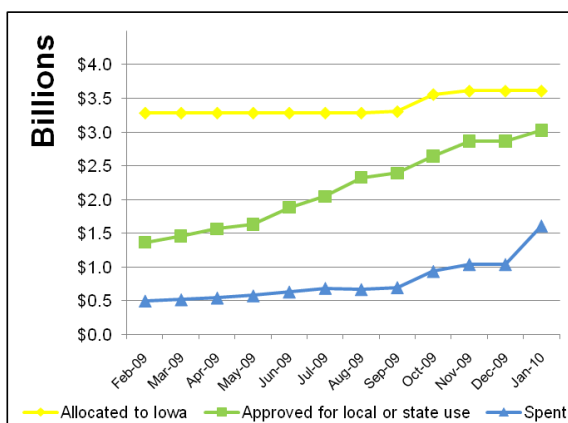
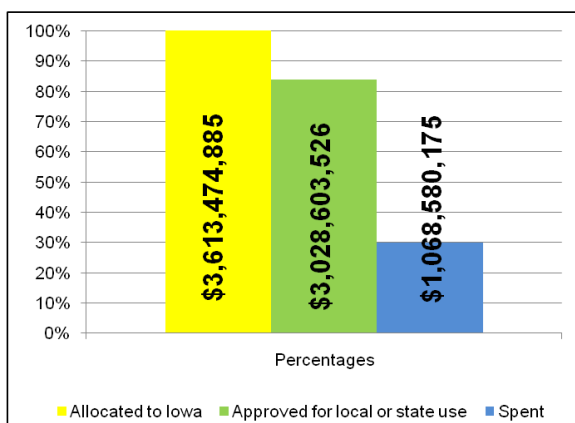
**Description:**

- 2009 legislation authorized bonding for disaster-related infrastructure projects and further Jumpstart Housing Assistance.
- Some recipients of this funding were outlined in the legislation, while others applied through a competitive process.
- All applications for competitive infrastructure funds were due Aug. 3, 2009 and have been awarded. Funds will not be expended until projects are underway.

#### Disaster Recovery Funding Totals (Current Jan. 8, 2009)

**Allocated to Iowa: \$3,613,474,885**

**Approved for Local or State Use: \$3,028,603,526 | Spent: \$1,068,580,175**



## RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010

Funding Source	Allocation to Iowa	Approved for Local or State Use	Spent
FEMA Housing & Other Needs Assistance	\$136,550,680	\$136,550,680	\$135,339,467
FEMA Infrastructure Funds (Hazard Mitigation & Property Acquisition)	\$294,000,000	\$102,922,119	—
FEMA Public Assistance	\$816,107,415	\$816,107,415	\$306,971,234
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan	\$272,436,500	\$272,436,500	\$130,932,200
Community Development Block Grant	\$798,701,825	\$462,558,323	\$46,044,820
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$309,471,339	\$272,332,423	\$239,439,256
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$63,911,436	\$63,911,436	\$63,911,436
Initial State Funding for Jumpstart Housing & Business Programs	\$35,000,000	\$34,942,090	\$33,947,300
State Executive Council Action	\$28,261,175	\$28,011,175	\$5,825,096
Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits	\$418,559,200	\$406,354,100	—
U.S. Department of Transportation	\$34,886,219	\$34,618,287	\$17,371,940
National Emergency Grant for Labor/Jobs Assistance	\$28,773,300	\$27,682,798	\$20,709,750
Social Services Block Grant	\$11,157,944	\$11,157,944	\$2,864,160
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951
Economic Development Administration	\$26,842,654	\$26,842,654	\$1,991,125
Crisis Counseling Grant	\$2,665,429	\$2,665,429	\$2,458,970
State College Scholarship & Grant Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64)	\$56,000,000	\$52,033,257	\$49,302,168
National Endowment for Arts Emergency Support	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
CEBA Disaster Recovery	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000
Administration on Aging	\$57,818	\$57,818	\$50,761
Regents Bonding	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000	—
I-JOBS Bonding	\$170,000,000	\$167,327,127	\$1,328,541
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,613,474,885</b>	<b>\$3,028,603,526</b>	<b>\$1,068,580,175</b>

Funding as of Jan. 8, 2010.

For monthly updates on disaster recovery funding, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

### Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program - **NO LONGER AVAILABLE**

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 percent 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.

### 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.

### 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 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, 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 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 causes 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.

### Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The 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 - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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.

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

### ***PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS:***

#### Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program

Administered by IDED, 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.

#### Loan Interest Expense Program

Administered by IDED, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program provides funds to business owners to pay for the interest on an SBA or private loan for disaster recovery. Up to a total of \$50,000 in funds will be provided to a business, for a maximum of three (3) years.

For more information, contact your local Council of Government or Entitlement City Housing Representative.

#### Commercial Rental Income Gap Program

Administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program is designed to assist with cash flow for commercial building owners to offset lost revenue from vacant rental space that was physically damaged by the disaster. A maximum of \$25,000 for lost rent will be reimbursed to commercial landlords per unit.

For more information, contact your local Council of Government or Entitlement City Housing Representative.

#### 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.

### 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.

### Iowa Workforce Development Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program - NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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 IDED, 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 IDED.

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 IDED.

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.

## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

### ***PROGRAMS FOR LANDLORDS:***

#### Small Project Rental Rehabilitation Assistance

Administered by IDED, 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 IDED, 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.

#### Residential Landlord Business Support Program

Administered by IDED, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

This program is designed to compensate disaster-impacted residential landlords providing affordable housing for lost rental income. Landlords may receive up to \$15,000 per business impacted by the disaster.

For more information, contact your local Council of Government or Entitlement City.

### ***PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES:***

#### Public Assistance (PA) Program

Administered by FEMA 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 FEMA 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 Loan (CDL) Program

Administered by FEMA 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 IDED.

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](mailto:info@iowapreservation.org).

### 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.



## **RIO Quarterly Report: January 2010**

---

### ***PROGRAMS FOR CONTRACTORS & DEVELOPERS:***

#### Single-Family Unit Production (New Construction) Program

Administered by IDED, 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.

#### Multi-Family Unit Production (New Construction) Program

Administered by IDED, Councils of Government and Entitlement Cities.

The Multi-Family Unit Production (New Construction) Program, administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, is a program working 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 IDED.

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't 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 \$174,592. This amount does reflect the Oct. 8, 2009 10 percent across-the-board reduction in appropriated funds and projected savings from mandatory unpaid days off and suspension of State's contributions for deferred compensation.

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

<b>RIO All Funds</b>	<b>FY 2010 Budget</b>	<b>Total FY 2010 Expenditures (as of Dec. 31, 2009)</b>
Personnel	\$1,434,766	\$578,369
Travel	\$81,163	\$14,177
Supplies	\$22,400	\$1,900
Contractual	\$1,524,460	\$307,993
Equipment	\$26,575	\$23,061
Other	\$192,546	\$89,768
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,281,910</b>	<b>\$1,015,268</b>

## 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	Rebuild Iowa Office	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	Rebuild Iowa Office	Judy Lowe	CDBG
Media Specialist	Rebuild Iowa Office	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	Rebuild Iowa Office	Jacqui DiGiacinto	EDA
Volunteer/Case Management Specialist	Department of Economic Development	Julie Struck	CDBG
Environmental Specialist	Merit Resources	Ken Tow	EDA & State

## 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 the RIO through an interagency agreement and eventually will be funded through the RIO's federal grant funds.
- EFFECTIVE DATES — 10/1/2008 to 4/30/2010
- ESTIMATED CONTRACT TOTAL — \$297,000
- TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as of 12/31/2009) — \$161,894



Lyon	Osceola	Dickinson	Emmet		Winnebago	
Sioux	O'Brien	Clay	Palo Alto	Kossuth	Hancock	C

502 E. Ninth Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
515-242-5004  
[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

Rebuild Iowa Office  
January 2010

Monona	Crawford	Carroll	Greene	Boone	Story
Harrison	Shelby	Audubon	Guthrie	Dallas	Polk
Pottawattamie	Cass	Adair	Madison	Warren	
Mills	Montgomery	Adams	Union	Clarke	
Fremont	Page	Taylor	Ringgold	Decatur	V

