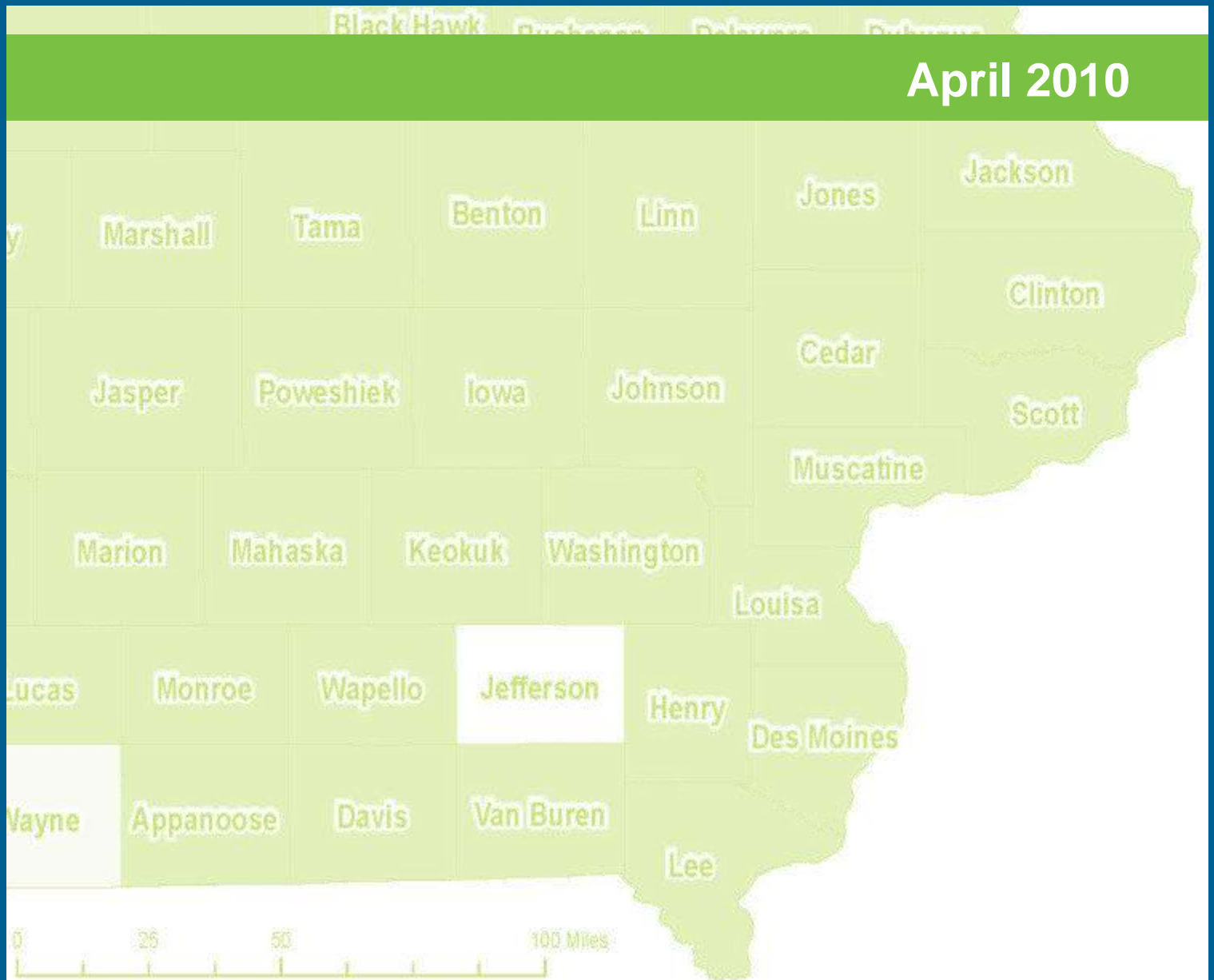


Rebuild Iowa Office Quarterly Report

April 2010



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

April 9, 2010

Governor Culver, Lt. Governor Judge and Members of the Iowa
Legislature:

In accordance with Section 10, House File 64, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) submits its April 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, awareness efforts for future flood events, and even more funding coming into the state for our long-term recovery.

You will also find new information that highlights the progress made and challenges experienced as we all work towards our goals and objectives in disaster recovery. We have built new housing and repaired more homes, but much work remains in the buy-out and construction process. 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. We are also beginning work on plans to smoothly and effectively transition out by June of 2011. Meanwhile, we will continue to work with leaders and individual Iowans alike to rebuild our state safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 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

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Executive Summary

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) continues to coordinate the state's recovery effort from the storms, tornadoes and floods of 2008. Although the road to recovery from Iowa's largest disaster is long and tedious, many Iowans are back in their homes or on the verge of a buyout, impacted businesses are reopening their doors and cities and counties are undertaking infrastructure projects of all sizes to rebuild their communities.

The RIO's April Quarterly Report updates the public, legislators and other local, state and federal recovery stakeholders on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa's recovery. In addition to outlining four economic recovery strategy methods, the RIO has identified 11 major goals that need to be addressed or implemented during this recovery process.

This report contains updates on housing progress through the Jumpstart Housing Initiative, Single- and Multi-Family New Construction Program, Residential Landlord Business Support Program, Interim-Mortgage Assistance and Community Development Block Grant and Hazard Mitigation Grant buyout programs. This report also outlines the complexities behind these programs and the bottlenecks communities are facing due to strict federal guidelines for implementation.

This report also addresses needs that remain within Iowa's small business community. Many disaster-affected businesses have reopened their doors, however their debt load continues to be overwhelming and many still struggle. This report describes how the Jumpstart Small Business Initiative, Business Rental Assistance Program, Loan Interest Expense Program and recent program modifications are assisting businesses.

The recovery is far from over and Iowa must maintain its commitment to helping ease the burden on impacted communities, businesses and families. Recent legislation shows Iowa's lawmakers remain dedicated to the 2008 disasters as well. This report outlines those measures that passed during the 2010 Legislative Session which include formalizing disaster case management for individuals in Iowa and creating a task force to address business case management, establishing Smart Planning Principles, passing additional funding for disaster-related projects, and creating educational campaigns on floodplain management.

The RIO recognizes and thanks the countless leaders and front-line workers from local, regional, state and federal government, businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens that have provided input, support and leadership. Their dedication to Iowa's disaster recovery has made the plans and projects on the following pages possible.

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 floodplain 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 \$1.4 billion.

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.

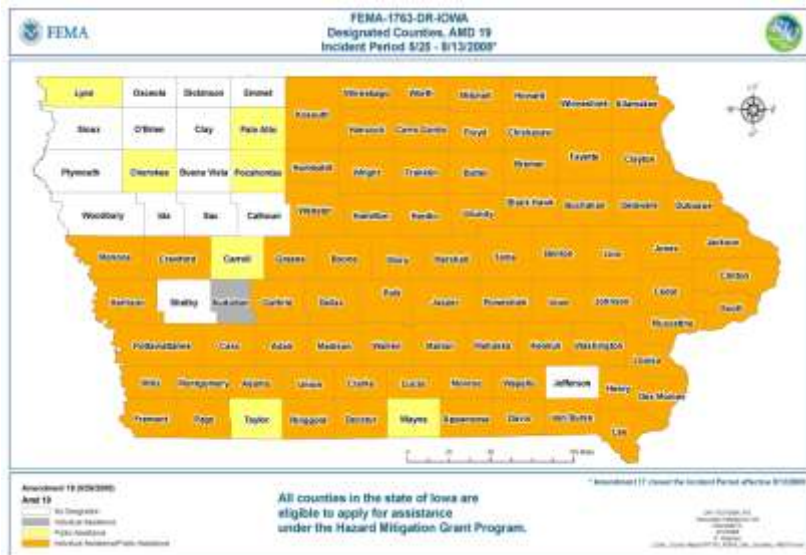
August 2008

- 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.

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



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.

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
- Floodplain 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 floodplain 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 floodplain and watershed management.
- 10) The State will complete floodplain 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

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2010

July 2009

- 10** The RIO releases its July Quarterly Report
- 21** Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting
- 27** The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

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

- 8** The RIO releases its January Quarterly Report
- 14** Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol
- 25** The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

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

April 2011

- Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting
- The RIO releases its April Quarterly Report
- The RIO submits its quarterly EDA progress report

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, implemented 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 \$3.8 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. Selected charts can be found in the Appendix.

Obtaining and maximizing funding through federal programs, state resources and local revenue streams is vital to recovery. So far, more than \$3.8 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 \$1.2 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 works hard to monitor the progress of funding and communicating that information.

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 necessarily 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. Further information on total funding and 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, at least some county-level information is available for 24 of the programs.** 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 \$3.8 billion.

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 impacts 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 the 2008 disasters. Working with HUD staff, the state was able to make needed changes to HUD's formula. As a result, Iowa saw a much higher percentage of the next allocation, receiving \$517 million.

To date, 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 most recent allocation will be 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 and its state partners have also worked with state leaders to secure more than \$450 million in state funds targeted to needs that were not easily met or sufficiently funded by existing federal programs. This has included funding for infrastructure programs, home repair programs, community funding and other individual assistance.

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 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 was equitable, transparent and effective. In some cases changes were able to be made, and in others legislation would be needed to make larger reforms. 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 those impacted.

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.

Highlights - State of Iowa officials have worked with HUD staff to request and receive every possible waiver to expedite and maximize the use of CDBG funds. Most recently, the state worked with HUD 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 IDED 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 and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) created the **Interagency Coordinating Team (IACT)**. This group of more than 40 state and federal agencies with disaster recovery roles met monthly for the first year of the recovery. The RIO became involved and as Iowa's response moved into recovery, it 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. The group 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

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2010

- Regional Approach to Recovery Planning
- 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 important that IACT members continue to share information about their agency's involvement in recovery. Seeing this need, the RIO continues to collect recovery updates 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 and will continue to meet in 2010.

At the May 2009 Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting, attendees each discussed their role in the disaster recovery process. Involvement ranged from areas of housing, economic recovery and floodplain management to education, cultural, energy and utility issues. Representatives were then asked to explain what concerns needed to be addressed to make the recovery effort more efficient and effective. Conversation 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 dollar can move faster and the lack of sharing information and databases between agencies.

At the July 2009 meeting, the group participated in a "Road Ahead Workshop." The workshop allowed members of the Council to discuss key aspects of the disaster recovery process, outline best practices and suggest improvements, goals and benchmarks going forward.

In October 2009, 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 2009, the group discussed specific recovery goals for upcoming years, including:

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS

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 floodplain 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.

The Council's next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2010.

Local Government - Local government is 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 keep them updated on current recovery issues.

Local Program Administrators - Along with IDED, the RIO participates in frequent conference calls, trainings and meetings with those administering programs on the ground. This important communication helps those at the state level to share information about recovery program changes. It also allows local administrators to share their experiences and issues, which helps to identify and address roadblocks. On March 25, 2010, the RIO held its second Disaster Recovery Housing Conference. This year's event once again brought together housing program administrators from local governments and state agencies to discuss programs, roadblocks, best practices and goals.

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, RIO staff also regularly shares recovery information at the COG Directors' monthly meeting. The RIO is also working on plans to incorporate COG recovery strategies into the RIO's final Economic Recovery Strategy.

Non-Profit Service Providers - The RIO's Voluntary Agency Liaison coordinates the work of non-profit and community organizations active in Iowa's disaster recovery. In most cases, this is handled through county-level Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs). 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 to create a set of overarching recommended changes to the 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.

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. 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 24 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, HUD, Homeland Security and FEMA were in attendance.

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.

As another means of feeding into this national conversation, the RIO also partnered with HUD and Iowa Congressman Dave Loebsack for an Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference on Jan. 29, 2010. The conference brought together representatives from non-profit organizations, voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations and community foundations active in both Iowa and Gulf Coast recovery.

The group recommended changes to local, state and federal recovery efforts and suggested 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 data that assists in better understanding the impact of the disaster 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 and again in Spring 2010. 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, 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.

under the Housing, Business and Infrastructure Goal sections in this report.

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.

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 \$665.2 million in disaster recovery 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

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

July 16-17, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
New Hartford, 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 March 2010, the RIO began a Civic Organization Tour in communities across Iowa. Presentations in front of groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, as well as local economic-based organizations, serve to remind Iowans of the state's continuing efforts to recover from the floods, storms and tornadoes of 2008. The presentations educate citizens on ways they can protect themselves and their communities from future flooding. Presentations have already been given to Rotary clubs in Atlantic and Winterset and more are planned through May.
- 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 seven press releases issued in March 2010, six in February and seven in January.

- 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

RIO-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES (CONT.)

Sept. 29, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Sept. 29, 2009:
WRCC Public Input Session
West Branch, Iowa

Sept. 30 / Oct. 1, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
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

Nov. 4-5, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
Coralville, Iowa

Nov. 11-13, 2009:
Smart Growth Public Workshops
Iowa City, Iowa

Jan. 6, 2010:
National Commission on Children
and Disasters Meeting
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jan. 29, 2010:
Non-Profit Conference with HUD
Cedar Rapids, IA

March 25, 2010:
Housing Working session
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

agencies to get information out to the public via press conferences, press releases or through other special events.

- The RIO organized publicity for the University of Iowa's Center for Global & Regional Environmental Research's flood symposium entitled "A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008; Lessons Learned – Preparing for the Future." The symposium featured experts in flood-related fields, a book signing and a panel discussion about how Iowa is preparing for the future on March 9, 2010. The event took place at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust St. in Des Moines.
- In February 2010, the RIO communications staff held weekly meetings to organize March as Flood Awareness Month. Once a week, a meeting was held with representatives from the RIO, the Iowa Insurance Division (IID), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). Talking points were put together and the RIO set up 36 interviews, two on Des Moines TV Stations and 34 on radio stations around the state. On March 4, 2010, Gov. Culver signed a proclamation making March Flood Awareness Month, and helped spread the Flood Awareness Month Message for the second year in a row. In March 2010, the Flood Awareness media tour campaign picked up in earnest with more than 30 interviews divided up among the four main agencies and was completed over a three-week period. The talking points included information about the National Flood Insurance Program, how people can make pre-flood preparations, what to include in disaster-ready "go-kits," and more.
- On Jan. 14, 2010, the RIO held "Rebuild Iowa Day" at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda so individuals could learn more about the state's disaster recovery efforts from the 2008 floods and tornadoes. The public, state legislators, city officials and the media were invited to view displays and speak to representatives from federal and state agencies assisting with the recovery from the 2008 severe storms and floods. There were also representatives from disaster-affected communities at the event to share their recovery stories. Attendees were able to get more information at booths covering the following topics: Individual and Business Case Management ; Flood Insurance/Flood Mapping; Smart

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Planning/Infrastructure; Water Resource Coordinating Council Recommendations; Community Representative; Disaster Funding Housing/Buyouts.

- In January 2010, the RIO created and released a “Funding Chart Booklet” which explains the intricacies behind each state and federal disaster funding source (see Appendix).
- On Jan. 6, 2010, the RIO assisted in publicizing and organizing a meeting between the National Commission on Children and Disasters and federal, state and local officials in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, one of the communities hardest hit by the severe flooding and tornadoes in 2008. The field visit brought to light the unique challenges of meeting the disaster recovery needs of children.
- In December 2009, the RIO, along with HSEMD, 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 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 IID and DNR to organize and declare the State’s first “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

**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 March 2010.

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

TOTAL CALLS	5,047
Complaint	35
Education	7
Employment	13
Family Farm	33
Federal Issue	122
Floodplain /Levee	67
Housing	2,015
Housing-Rental	163
Insurance	28
IWD/DUI/EJP	53
Legal Aid	6
Legislative	3
Local Issue	47
LTRC ONA Unmet Needs	412
Non Profit	39
NOT FLOOD RELATED	77
Public Asst.	73
General Recovery Asst.	198
Recovery Info & Outreach	1,216
Scheduling/Commemorations	11
Small Business	169
Student Aid	6
Taxes	24
Thank you	17
Vendor	175
Volunteer	34
Waiver	4

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 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.

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 & Expert Input section, 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 the sidebar on page 34 which categorizes calls placed with the RIO.
- The RIO issues press releases that outline passed and proposed legislation addressing disaster-related topics.
- The RIO worked with the Iowa Department of Revenue to address specific problems that may arise when disaster victims file their taxes in 2009 and 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

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY METHODS

RIO WEB STATS

The RIO Web site (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 - March 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.

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 and a new area for the Water Resources Coordinating Council Floodplain and Subcommittee.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

- The RIO's Civic Organization Tour started in March and will continue into the summer. Visits to local organizations have been set up between now and May in Cedar Falls, Wapello, Sioux City, Davenport, Oskaloosa, Anamosa and Charles City. Still others are in the planning stages (Ongoing).
- The RIO plans to host another Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol in 2011 to update legislators and the general public about progress and challenges in Iowa's disaster recovery (January 2011).
- The RIO will continue to work with the IID, DNR and HSEMD to establish activities to promote March as Flood Awareness Month in Iowa (March 2011).
- The RIO will continue to work with the IID and DNR to promote awareness of the National Flood Insurance Program (Ongoing).
- The RIO will further update the comprehensive Disaster Program Manual which can be accessed on the RIO Web site (Ongoing).
- The RIO will continue to 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).
- The RIO will work with FEMA, the IID and DNR 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 Iowans during the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and Task Force meetings in 2008, the RIO toured the state to reach out to Iowans in impacted areas. Speak Up Iowa! public input sessions provided an opportunity for RIO staff and federal agencies to connect Iowans 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 Iowans 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 Iowans 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 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.

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. This effort was held in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FEMA National Integration Center, the State of Iowa and the RIO. 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.

Speak Up Iowa Surveys and Listening Sessions - When the disasters first hit Iowa, the RIO 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 RIO 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. Various groups of people completed the survey, 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 publicized again to inform Iowans 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 updates to recovery programs and potential funding.
- The RIO Web site allows users to submit questions to RIO and contact staff directly.
- The RIO Communications team drafts letters to individual homeowners about new assistance programs for which they may qualify.

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.

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

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 RIO produces. 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 the RIO's 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 **Floodplain Management Task Force** public input events held in Mount Pleasant and West Branch

October 2009

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

November 2009

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

May 2010

- 1 **Speak Up Iowa III** surveys distributed



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 March 31, 2010.

- Total number of applicants: 4,313
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$72.7 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 3,648
- Total amount obligated: \$62.3 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$53.4 million
- Average award: \$17,070
- Applications ineligible for the program: 607

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 it is estimated that less than 10 percent remain displaced.

Immediately following the floods, some households moved in with relatives, some rented apartments, and about 10 percent relocated to FEMA mobile homes. Many of these households have returned to their repaired home or purchased a different home within their community.

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 to a habitable condition. State and federal funds were combined to create the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program.

The state Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), and the federal Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program is administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). The program helps homeowners make a down payment on a new house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgage while waiting for a potential buyout from FEMA. For down payment assistance and housing rehabilitation assistance, the maximum award is \$60,000.

"Jumpstart Express" Emergency Repair is an option under the Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program. This program helps homeowners repair their current home without having to meet all of the requirements of the federal program. The maximum award is \$24,999.

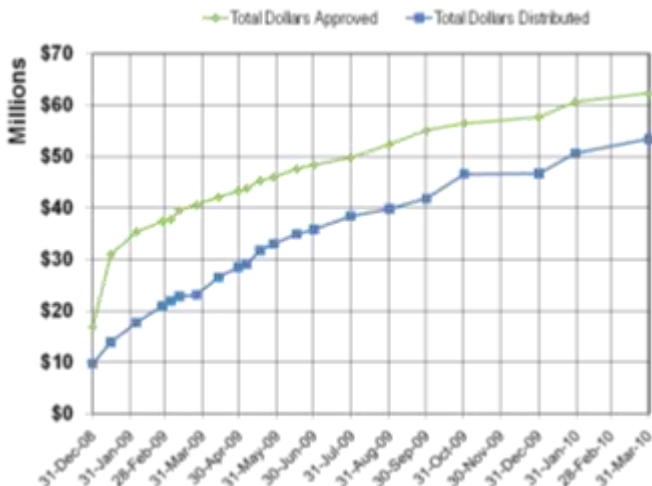
IDED contracted with 11 entities across the state of Iowa to disburse Jumpstart funds.

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2010

Measures: Survey data from 13 communities collected in February 2010, estimates that more than 6,600 households were displaced by the June 2008 floods. Sixty percent were owner-occupied, 30 percent were rental households and the ownership status for 10 percent of the units was unknown. Most of the damaged or destroyed housing was single-family housing. The 13 communities estimated that 76 percent were single family, 13 percent were condominiums, duplexes or townhouses and 8 percent were apartments. Less than 2 percent of the damaged housing units were mobile homes. Nearly half of all displaced homeowners (49.3 percent) have been able to return to their repaired home. Another 3 percent are living in newly constructed homes and 27 percent have purchased an existing housing unit in the same community. Fewer than 10 percent (9.6 percent) continue to be considered displaced.

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and IDED reported that as of March 29, 2010, there have been 4,313 total applications for Jumpstart Housing Assistance, including 3,648 applications approved. The total amount of assistance requested was \$72.7 million and the total amount approved was \$62.3 million. The estimated total number of unduplicated households that have received assistance as of March 31, 2010 is 2,933.

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 March 31, 2010. The gap between approved and disbursed funds is due to application processing, waiting for receipts to be turned in for reimbursements, etc.



The state-funded portion of the program had less restrictive eligibility requirements and served 2,607 households and the average award received was \$15,920 as of March 31, 2010. The total funds obligated under the state program was \$41.5 million and by the end of March, 94 percent of those funds had been disbursed.

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 federally-funded portion of the program assisted 1,041 households and the average award was \$19,951. A total of 774 duplication of benefit reviews have been completed, and 1,037 inspections have been conducted. The federal program obligated \$20.8 million and by the end of March, 73 percent of the funds had been disbursed.

Strategy: By the end of March 2010, the City of Cedar Falls and SICOG, the Council of Government (COG) serving nine counties in southern Iowa, had expended their Jumpstart awards. The other Entitlement Cities and COGs that administer Jumpstart funds are completing inspections, submitting receipts, and verifying duplication of benefits. Most of the administrative entities anticipate expending the committed Jumpstart funds by the end of 2010. The RIO will continue to monitor progress of the Jumpstart program as the remaining Jumpstart funds are expended and remaining funding is reallocated.

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 properties with one or two units, all must be affordable; for properties with three or more units, 51 percent of the units must be affordable.

Nationally, vacancy rates for rental properties were at eight percent for the fourth quarter of 2009. Across the United States, rents are dropping and landlords are providing more concessions to entice tenants to lease. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the vacancy rate for the state of Iowa was 8.5 percent at the end of 2009. For the Greater Des Moines area, the overall rental vacancy rate was eight percent in January 2010. In Linn County, the vacancy rate is believed to be higher than the national and state rates - closer to 12 percent. Higher vacancy rates and decreasing rents make it more difficult for landlords to have enough cash flow to repair and rehabilitate units.

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, the tax credit was extended and may continue to impact the rental housing market in Iowa for the first half of 2010 as renters with the financial ability move toward home ownership. Under the new law, an eligible taxpayer must buy, or enter into a binding contract to buy, a principal residence on or before April 30, 2010 and close on the home by June 30, 2010.

The Flood Impacted Landlord (FILL) group represents landlords in the Cedar Rapids area. The RIO has met with the group several times to discuss their concerns about barriers and obstacles to program participation. FILL has stated that their data shows that nearly half of all flood-impacted properties in Cedar Rapids were affordable rental property. They have expressed concerns with Jumpstart rental programs due to their issues with rent limits, tenant income restrictions, and deed restrictions for affordability required by federal program guidelines.

Measures: The Small Project Program is available to landlords with buildings containing seven or fewer units. As of March 30, 2010, \$14.5 million had been allocated for 480 units in three cities (Des Moines, Waterloo, and Cedar Rapids) and three counties (Black Hawk, Linn, and Cerro Gordo). The Large Project Program is available to landlords with buildings containing seven or more units. Linn County has received \$950,765 in funding for 32 units and Cerro Gordo County has received \$1.1 million for 75 units. IDED has committed \$16.4 million for rental rehabilitation and to date \$3.8 million has been expended.

Strategy: The RIO will continue to coordinate with IDED to monitor program participation in the rental rehabilitation programs available to small and large rental projects. The RIO will continue to meet with FILL and other groups while working with the City of Cedar Rapids to develop criteria and guidelines for use of their local option sales tax (LOST) receipts to provide additional funding for those landlords who do not qualify for other funding. On April 6, 2010, the City of Cedar Rapids Council approved using \$25 million in Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) funds for rental rehabilitation. Details on the specifics of this city program are still being determined.

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. A total of 506 mobile homes were located in commercial parks and a total of 86 mobile homes were provided 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 March 31, 2010, 18 mobile homes are in use in four counties.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



The newly-renovated Brown Apartments in Cedar Rapids



A home being constructed in Parkersburg



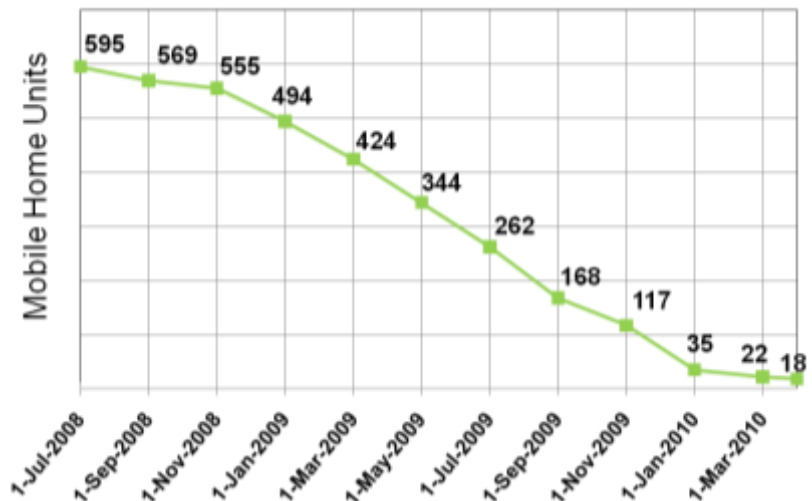
Flood-damaged homes, like this one in Oakville, are still being gutted and rebuilt.

For those households reporting a move out reason in 2009, more than 38 percent were able to return to their previously flood-damaged home. An additional 33 percent were able to purchase another 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 began 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 (LTRCs) and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs).

Measures: The following chart shows the number of occupied FEMA mobile home units that remain in Iowa. Iowa began with 592 units and as of March 31, 2010, only 18 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 their temporary housing unit (THU) 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 18 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.

Many of the homes 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 floodplains. Iowa is ranked fifth nationally for having the oldest housing stock based on the percentage of housing built before 1950. According to RIO's February 2010 community survey, it is estimated that 3,524 housing units where occupants were displaced were located in the 100-year floodplain. This number represents 56 percent of the housing units damaged or destroyed in the June 2008 floods.

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

NATIONAL MARKET FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES

Sales of new single-family houses in February 2010 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 308,000, according to estimates released on March 23, 2010 by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This is 2.2 percent (± 15.3 percent) below the revised January rate of 315,000 and is 13.0 percent (± 12.2 percent) below the February 2009 estimate of 354,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in February 2010 was \$220,500; the average sales price was \$282,600.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of February was 236,000. This represents a supply of 9.2 months at the current sales rate.

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 March 4, 2010, stating that Iowa homes sales in 2009 were down slightly from 2008. The total number of homes sold across Iowa in 2009 was 30,518 which was down 2.1 percent from 2008 when 31,169 homes sold. Prices also decreased by 2.2 percent from 2008 to 2009. The average sales price throughout 2009 was \$140,899 while the average in 2008 was \$144,113. One year after the flood, June 2009, led the year with an average sales price for homes sold that month at \$152,350. In 2009, the number of days on the market increased by three days or 2.9 percent over 2008. In 2008 the average length of time on the market was 102 days; in 2009 it was 105 days.

The National Association of Realtors® publishes quarterly reports for larger cities. Three of the communities that they tracked in 2009 showed that median sales prices varied by geographic area. In Des Moines, the 2009 third quarter median sales price of homes was \$156,600 with a modest one-year appreciation rate of only 0.8 percent. In Cedar Rapids, the median price for homes during the third quarter of 2009 was \$145,700 and one-year appreciation was 7.6 percent. In the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area, median home prices for the same period were at \$118,200 with one-year appreciation at 2.4 percent.

Replacement Housing- 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 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.

Single-Family Unit Production - IDEED has announced that \$30 million is available in the second round of funding for the construction of new single family homes. 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.

Construction activity in the state of Iowa is below the long-term average. From September 2008 to September 2009, the current level of construction activity in Des Moines was 60.4 percent below the long-term average. For the Cedar Rapids area, 604 building permits for single family homes were issued in the same time frame, which represented a 55.3 percent drop below the long-term average. In the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area, the drop in single family home construction was less dramatic and was 29 percent below the long-term average. Low construction rates will help to maintain a tight supply and help stabilize prices.

Multi-Family (Rental) Unit Production - IDEED has also announced a second round of funding for Multi-Family (Rental) Unit Production. Any of the 11 CDBG Disaster Housing Recovery Recipients, as well as Iowa's five additional CDBG entitlement cities 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.

IDEED has approved funding for two new multiple family housing projects in Cedar Rapids under this program. One project consists of 45 new units and is approved for \$1,250,000. The other is for 90 units with funding at \$2.25 million.

Measures: IDEED has committed \$10.3 million in new rental production and to date \$3.8 million has been expended. IDEED has committed \$77.5 million to housing repair and home buyer's assistance, \$156 million for housing production, and \$250 million to housing buyouts for the years 2009 and 2010.

The Single Family New Construction program administered by IDEED provides funding to build replacement housing for low and moderate income persons. As of March 2010, 292 units are

PILOT PROJECT: WOOD FROM FLOOD-DAMAGED HOMES FOR BIOMASS ENERGY

At the end of March 2010, the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency conducted a pilot program to extract wood from three flood-damaged homes for the purpose of converting the wood to biomass energy.

An excavator and other large equipment was used to deconstruct the homes and remove as much of the wood as possible. It was not a typical deconstruction project because parts of the homes that normally would be salvaged - floors, doors, cabinets, etc. - contained mold and could not be reused.

The pilot project anticipated generating 33 tons of wood from the three homes which would be diverted from the landfill to the biomass program. The wood chips are burned for fuel at an energy company.

The results of the pilot project will be assessed by a consultant with a report due in the next month. The report will consider the amount of time it takes to deconstruct a house and extract the wood, and the cost of that work. The pilot will determine if the process can compete with traditional demolition techniques.

under construction, 241 units are completed, and 271 units have been sold. Applications were approved for 437 households and 54 units have been pre-sold. IDED has committed \$18.4 million to single family new production and has expended \$9.6 million.

The chart below shows progress of the Single Family New Construction Program as of March 22, 2010. The program is currently funded with more than \$18 million in CDBG dollars.



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 to reduce the potential for future flooding risk is hazard mitigation. Following a major natural disaster due to flooding, acquisition of damaged and destroyed properties begins under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Those properties in the most at-risk flood areas are then converted to green space so that in future disasters there are fewer structures in the flood's 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.

HMGP - This program provides funding for communities to acquire property with the caveat that it must have a deed restriction filed against it in perpetuity for the property to remain open space. This stipulation helps to ensure that there are fewer structures in high-risk flood areas. HMGP requires a local match, and IDED has allocated over \$20 million to assist in local matches for property acquisitions. In Iowa, \$97.1 million has been approved through HMGP to acquire 998 properties. More than three-fourths (77 percent) of the properties to be acquired under the HMGP program were considered substantially damaged and 88 of them were repetitive loss properties that had previously sustained flood damage.

CDBG Acquisition/Buyout - The other program available to cities to reduce future flood risks is the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from HUD. Acquisitions made through HUD's CDBG program are more flexible for the community and generally allow a homeowner to voluntarily sell their substantially damaged or destroyed home to the community and the community can then develop a plan to determine future land use. IDED has currently allocated over \$230 million to acquire 1,850 properties. To date, 10 households have been assisted with federal funds for buyouts.

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.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

Nearly 20,000 communities across the United States and its territories participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain 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 floodplain 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 and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources)

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.

Demolition - IDIED has committed \$23 million of the \$230 million for housing activities to demolition. No demolition occurred during the winter months. A 19-point checklist must be followed in order for FEMA to reimburse communities for demolition. The estimated cost ranges from \$12,500 to \$15,000. This cost includes assessment, remediation and demolition costs.

Elevation - While removing homes from the floodplain is the primary method of preventing future risk, some homeowners choose to repair their home and elevate it by raising the first floor at least one foot above the base flood elevation (BFE). The BFE is the elevation for the 100-year flood. An estimated 56 percent of the damaged or destroyed homes were within the 100-year floodplain. The RIO's February 2010 community survey asked the communities to estimate the number of repaired homes in the 100-year floodplain that had been elevated as part of the repair or rehabilitation from the June 2008 floods. Seven communities indicated that 82 homes had been elevated.

Relocation-Another option for hazard mitigation is to actually remove the home from its current location and transport it to another area outside of the floodplain. The community survey reported that one home each was moved in Elkader, Iowa City and Waverly.

Measures:

HMGP - As of March 24, 2010, HSEMD reported that more than one-third of the properties identified for HMGP acquisition have been acquired (389 properties; an estimated 90 percent of these acquired properties were residential). HSEMD reports approximately 15 percent (a total of 138) of the acquired properties have been demolished. Demolition activity will increase with the arrival of favorable weather in the spring of 2010. The City of Cedar Rapids intends to demolish 700 properties by the fall of 2010.

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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.



CDBG - IDED had expended \$1.9 million as of March 24, 2010 on buyouts. The administrative entities are preparing property files for duplication of benefit review and are continuing to schedule closings. Because the acquisitions are voluntary, property owners can withdraw up until the time of closing which makes it difficult to project how many acquisitions will be completed in 2010. The property owners can also appeal the amount offered which can further delay the acquisition process. Most of the administrative entities hope to complete the acquisition process by the end of 2010.

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

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.

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. Newly created subdivisions must meet the Iowa Green Streets Criteria pertaining to both unit design 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 \$3.1 million was disbursed to assist relocated homeowners with appliances and heating and air-conditioning (HVAC) purchases. 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, and mortgage). These funds were disbursed as part of the program that assisted people with up to \$60,000 in down payment assistance and appears as part of the State Jumpstart award dispersals.

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 floodplain 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 meetings included discussion of acquiring properties that reverted to contract for deed sellers and their post-flood status, the need for a housing assessment, and rental landlord issues. 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 regularly in 2010. A second housing work session was held on March 25, 2010 in Cedar Rapids (the first work session was held in February 2009). Approximately 50 people from across the state representing cities, COGs, IFA, IDED, HSEMD, SHPO, non-profit housing groups, and the RIO met to discuss program concerns, best practices, future allocations and goals for 2010. The work session acknowledged the progress that had been made to finding permanent housing solutions for households in FEMA mobile units and the number of households that had been served through Jumpstart programs. The attendees discussed the close out and file audit process ending Jumpstart and discussed acquisition and demolition targets for the end of 2010. Most all of the administrative entities hope to close out Jumpstart programs by the end of 2010 and complete the acquisition process.

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 to evaluate the needs of disaster-impacted businesses. Businesses have so far received assistance in the form of low-interest Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, other loans, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-funded assistance programs and state assistance programs, such as the Jumpstart Assistance Program (see sidebar).

The Economic Development Administration's regional offices also award competitive grants to establish revolving loan funds. In Iowa, Councils of Government (COGs) are the recipients of these awards and disburse money from these funds for loans at lower interest rates to businesses that cannot otherwise obtain loans. As the loans are repaid, the COGs use a portion of interest earned to make new loans.

In November 2009, Governor Culver announced four new CDBG-funded disaster assistance programs for small businesses and landlords impacted by the 2008 storms and floods, as well as improvements to the duplication of benefits policy for homeowners.

Business Rental Assistance Program - This program is for businesses remaining in or locating in rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 disasters. Initially, this program allowed business owners up to \$50,000 to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months. Now in addition, recipients will be allowed to use the \$75,000 for expenses associated with replacing damaged machinery, office furniture, supplies and other equipment.

Loan Interest Expense Program - The continued existence of many businesses is threatened by new debt acquired as a result of the disasters. 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.

Commercial Rental Income Gap Program - 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.

Residential Landlord Business Support Program - 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.

Measures: In February, the RIO conducted community surveys in 12 communities affected by the disasters of 2008. The findings from the survey are impressive to note. The city of Cedar Falls estimated 500 new jobs have been created since the disaster, with an estimated 60 jobs being created directly due to the disaster. Additionally, the city of Waterloo has seen a spike in new businesses with approximately 40 new businesses opening since the disaster. Around half of those businesses are located in flood impacted areas of the community. The city of Coralville had an estimated 200 businesses close because of the disaster, however nearly 185 of those businesses are open and operating now.

Cities included in survey: Cedar Falls, Charles City, Coralville, Des Moines, Elkader, Iowa City, New Hartford, Oakville, Palo, Vinton, Waterloo and Waverly. Cedar Rapids was not able to provide information in time for this report.

CIRAS - 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 Center offers assistance to small manufacturers in rural communities and entrepreneurs developing start-up companies. Three primary areas of assistance include providing technical assistance to Iowa businesses and industry, assisting companies implement of new technologies, and supporting and assisting 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 people. The survey concentrated in the zip codes of the disaster area which covered 1,400 businesses. Of the 1,400, CIRAS contacted 1,074 businesses. 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. Not only was the workforce 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. For companies directly impacted by the disasters,

REGION 12 COG HELPS BUSINESSES

Barry Branson made assisting small businesses with disaster preparedness his niche after going to work as a disaster recovery coordinator for the Region 12 Council of Governments (COG) in May of 2009.

Despite the Region XII area being included in the presidential disaster declarations from the floods and tornadoes of 2008, the area didn't sustain the level of devastation experienced in the eastern Iowa areas, Branson said. However, the 2008 disasters prompted Branson to make local disaster preparedness for small businesses his mission.

"In our area, we didn't have a lot of physical problems, but we needed to continue to help Iowans prepare for the next disaster," said Branson who works out of the Region XII office in Carroll. "After talking to county emergency coordinators in my region, we all agreed the business area was one very important aspect of disaster preparedness planning that needed attention."

Focusing on disaster preparedness, he created a template for a disaster preparedness, recovery and continuity plan that could be easily adapted to any small business.

Branson then began visiting with businesses, business organizations, chambers of commerce, mayors and other officials from smaller communities to get the word out. To date, he's worked directly with more than 40 small businesses to help them create their own disaster preparedness booklet from his original template.

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. 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. 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 CDBG-funded business 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) Attract new businesses to disaster-impacted areas

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) worked closely with business leaders and landlords across the state to develop the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP). BRAP has been designed to provide financial assistance to a business located in or planning to locate in a business rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. Assistance is in the form of rental assistance to offset rental lease payments for a maximum of six months or \$50,000.

Measures:

Business Rental Assistance Program - Participation in the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) increased significantly between December 2009 and March 2010. The amount of total assistance sought in applications increased from \$4.5 million to \$9.4 million.

According to RIO Community Surveys, 19 new businesses have opened in some flood impacted communities. In addition, 97

businesses relocated to some flood impacted communities; with 43 of those businesses operating in flood impacted properties.

Strategy: The benefit of BRAP is two-fold. There is an incentive for a business to stay or relocate to a disaster affected area with the assistance of rental payments for six months or \$50,000. The commercial landlords also benefit from the incentive renters have to stay or relocate in the disaster impacted area – leaving less vacant store fronts and office space. The RIO, IDED and local communities will continue to promote and administer this program.

3) Create and retain jobs in recovery and provide skills training to help connect people to those jobs

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The State of Iowa has received a National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for \$28.7 million dollars toward the Emergency Public Jobs Program (EPJ) and the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant.

The Emergency Public Jobs Program was designed to put Iowans who have lost their job due to the tornadoes or floods back to work (up to 1,040 hours - approximately 6 months). The program is administered by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and the wages are paid at the prevailing wage for the worksite. IWD has currently expended or obligated nearly all of its funding for the EPJ Program.

The Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant (otherwise known as the Business Capitalization Grant) is also part of Iowa's National Emergency Grant. The grant's purpose was to assist small businesses (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, business grant focused on the number of workers dislocated and to help the owner return to the pre-disaster levels of employees.

Measures: The application deadline for the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant program was Sept. 30, 2009. A total of 117 grants totaling \$494,829 were issued to Iowa small businesses through this program.

As of the end of December 2009, the EPJ program had 1,714 workers statewide at approximately 107 worksites. The EPJ program has spent nearly \$22.3 million of the National Emergency Grant through February 2010.

Strategy: IWD is currently evaluating the future needs for completion of the EPJ project.

CONTINUITY PLAN CASE STUDY

One of the largest employers in Waverly with nearly 500 people, CUNA Mutual Group provides a valuable case study for why creating a continuity plan is an important thing to do before disaster strikes. Three flood events in Waverly have contributed to their plan that is in place today.

In Waverly, flooding in 1993, 1999 and then again in 2008 affected one of two CUNA buildings close to the Cedar River. After each disaster, lessons learned were incorporated into the company's continuity plans. For example, in 1999, the company was not allowed to keep anyone in the building to operate sump pumps. Had an employee been allowed to stay, the damage would have been minimized. In 2008, the company sought permission from local emergency personnel to keep a person on-site, and was allowed to do so. After the 1999 flooding, the basement was also renovated to hold conference rooms and was no longer used to house work stations to minimize risk.

Since the 2008 flood, the company has synchronized its phone system technology so it is easier to continue company communications during a disaster. The company also reworked its delivery systems plans. For example, in 2008 the post office was shut down in Waverly because it was flooded and there was no electricity. Now, plans have been set up so that if the mail delivery system is threatened, mail processing can be rerouted to Madison, Wis., right away so business operations can continue as usual.

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 state agency officials, the partnership helps 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), RIO, IDED and the SBA, businesses affected by the disasters of 2008 also had an opportunity to be assisted by a business case manager through the SBDC's Business Recovery Centers (see the Appendix). Participating 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 SIP is offering free Business Continuity Training (BCT). The goal is to develop individual continuity plans for businesses to use during a disaster. Sessions are four days. Attendees cover four different aspects of a continuity plan each day. Ideally the same businesses will attend each day to have a plan finalized by the end of the session. The participants are provided information and given homework to complete before the next session.

CIRAS is also holding day-long workshops for businesses interested in learning more about Business Continuity Plans. To date, CIRAS has

held nine sessions creating Business Continuity Plans for businesses and plan to host more.

Strategy: The RIO recommended a bill that passed in the 2010 Legislative session for the development of a statewide focused task force 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 RIO recommended a bill that passed in the 2010 Legislative session for the development of a statewide focused task force on Business Case Management. The RIO worked with the Governor's Office, the Rebuild Iowa Legislative Committees and other elected officials and interested stakeholders to get the bill passed.

A task force will be established to research business case management assistance needs in major disasters and recommend action steps to prepare to provide such assistance in future disasters. The task force will consult with experts, businesses impacted by previous disasters and other interested stakeholders to make recommendation for business case management assistance the next disaster. The task force will submit these written recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010.

Representatives to the task force will be appointed by the Governor from IDEED, the US Small Business Administration (SBA), Iowa Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP), Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI), Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI), Iowa Retail Federation (IRF), Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC), Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA), two business owners and four ex-officio, nonvoting members, two from each chamber of the general assembly. The RIO will serve as staff to the task force and plans to begin holding meetings in June 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 \$854,255,663 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 \$127,788,621. 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 was passed in 2009 and includes several parts, but focuses on disaster recovery. The I-JOBS Initiative is funded with bonds to be repaid with existing state gaming revenue, meaning no tax increase.

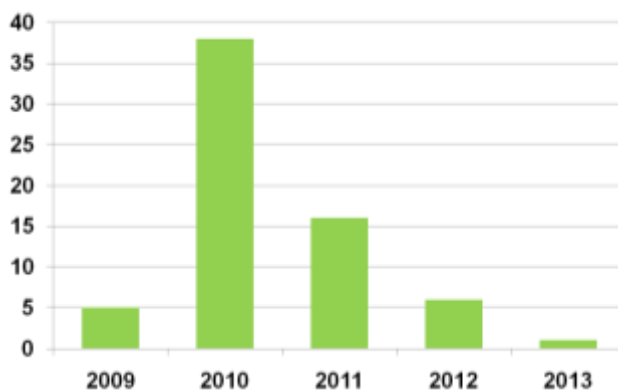
There has been \$118.5 million in competitive grants awarded to 58 projects statewide for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities hit by last year's disasters. There was also \$46.5 million in grants targeted to specific key projects identified in the I-JOBS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

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- 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

I-JOBS Projects Scheduled for Completion (by Year) Total Disaster-Related Projects Approved in 2009: 66 Current March 31, 2010



Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund bill - In the 2010 legislative session, Senate File 2389 (the “Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure bill”) also made several flood-related appropriations as follows:

- City of **Cedar Rapids** - \$4.4 million for renovation of city hall, and \$2 million for renovation in and around a courthouse.
- City of **Des Moines** - funding, including sewer improvement funding in the amounts of \$1.25 million for the Riverpoint area and \$3.05 million for the Court Avenue area; \$700,000 for erosion control in the Tonawanda Drive area; and \$500,000 for controlling peak flows during wet weather events in the Wastewater Reclamation Authority’s existing equalization basins.
- **Kirkwood Community College** - \$1.2 million for a small business center for economic development to serve the Cedar Rapids/Linn County area.

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.

- **North Iowa Area Community College** - \$1.5 million for a small business center for economic development to serve the Mason City/Cerro Gordo County area.
- City of **Davenport** - \$1.05 million for flood protection, replacement and construction improvements at Woodman Stadium.
- City of **Waterloo** - \$5 million for a public works building to allow the city to provide disaster-related services.
- City of **Iowa City** - \$2 million for the demolition, relocation, and reconstruction of a public wastewater treatment plant and the development of public green space.
- City of **Belmond** - \$600,000 for installation of backflow prevention devices for the city's storm sewer system.
- City of **Norwalk** - \$300,000 for grading to mitigate future water damage to residences.
- City of **Jesup** - \$475,000 for construction of their city hall.
- City of **West Union** - \$1.175 million for a pilot green project.
- **Watershed Improvement Review Board** - awarded \$2 million for grants for construction and restoration of wetland easements and flood prevention projects.
- \$30 million in additional I-JOBS funding will establish a Disaster Prevention Grant Program at the Iowa Finance Authority. Cities and counties that follow smart planning principles and comprehensive planning guidance outlined in SF 2389 will be eligible to apply.

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

The RRLGP received \$1.5 million in funding through I-JOBS. Many modes of transportation in Iowa will benefit from I-JOBS, including a

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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: The RIO's February 2010 community data survey from 13 heavily impacted communities reported a total of 108 government buildings were closed following the 2008 floods. As of March 2010, more than 60 percent of the facilities have been reopened, most at the same location. Of the 40 facilities still closed, local officials plan to reopen all but five.

Nearly 50 cultural and arts facilities closed after the floods in 13 impacted communities. As of March 2010, all but four facilities have been reopened.

Cities included in survey: Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Coralville, Des Moines, Elkader, Iowa City, New Hartford, Oakville, Palo, Vinton, Waterloo and Waverly.

Key projects:

Listed below are other disaster-related infrastructure projects underway in Iowa:

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

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

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

Louisa County Bridges (Wapello, Louisa County)

- CDBG: \$1,557,000 (\$5,726 expended)

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

CEDAR RAPIDS STEAM ENERGY CONVERSION

The Cedar Rapids Steam Conversion business program provides financial assistance to benefit businesses that relied on Alliant Energy's Sixth Street and Prairie Creek generating stations in Cedar Rapids, which were heavily damaged by the 2008 flood.

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.

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

- EDA: \$4,650,000

Mercy Medical Center Steam Plant (Cedar Rapids, Linn County)

- EDA: \$4,057,300

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

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 (see page 71), encourage more funding from FEMA and champion disaster-related projects seeking I-JOBS funding. The RIO will also monitor the already approved projects to make sure Iowa's communities are being good stewards of the funding.

It is important to note that the shortfall in infrastructure dollars in Iowa is significant; both I-JOBS and CDBG programs received more applications than could be funded. The CDBG program was unable to fund more than \$300 million in project applications. The I-JOBS program was unable to fund more than \$200 million in project applications. 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 disaster-damaged structures are scheduled to be demolished. 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.

Preservation Iowa 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.

In early 2009, 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, Preservation Iowa, state agencies, and other partners have been able to overcome some of these obstacles. Spearheaded by Preservation Iowa, 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 Iowa's 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 479 demolitions have been completed as of April 1, 2010, leaving 2,315 remaining to be demolished.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CABINET OF ADVISORS

Participants in this weekly meeting are agency directors who 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)

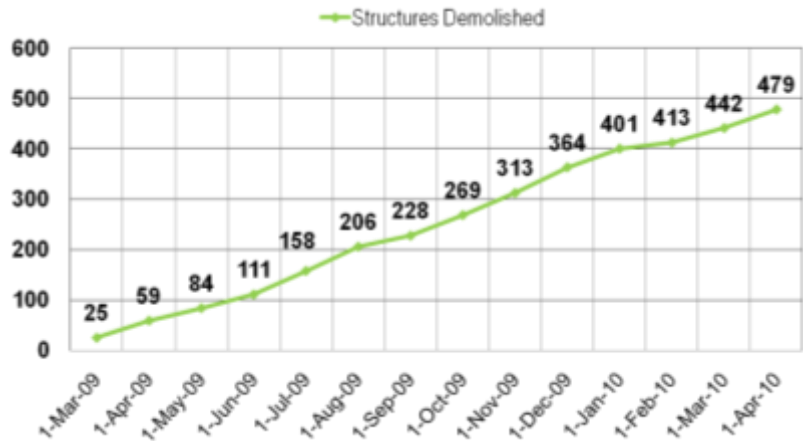
Members help guide the process and strategy, and participate in and chair Sector Committees comprised of private, academic, issue-based, and public representatives. This approach provides a diversity of perspectives.

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.

Strategy: Cities have been developing demolition plans to fit the needs of their specific communities. In Cedar Rapids, which has the most damaged structures, officials are continuing to do environmental assessments and abatements prior to demolition. Demolition of the next round of 400 properties is set for completion by late winter 2010.

Structures Demolished
(Structures remaining: 2,315)
Current April 1, 2010



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 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 Smart Growth Partnership.

Projects that are being replaced rather than repaired have a unique opportunity to be more energy efficient and use smart planning principles. For example, the Cedar Rapids Commerce Center project will be LEED-certified. This complex will use smart planning principles as well as using the space to the fullest extent with communal purposes.

Measures: The RIO will work to implement recommendations included in the technical assistance reports from the US EPA to Iowa's five participating communities.

Strategy: The RIO submitted an 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 creates a smart planning task force to examine how to encourage local comprehensive planning, consider how to integrate smart planning principles into state programs and recommend a structure for regional planning (see Goal 6 for more information on this initiative).

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 IDED to create that strategy and help guide efforts and project decisions now and well into the future.

State Public Policy Group, Inc. (SPPG) is undertaking a comprehensive process of information-gathering and planning toward a statewide, strategic infrastructure plan. The Comprehensive Infrastructure Study is funded through a federal EDA Strategy Grant. The plan will ensure Iowa's infrastructure meets the needs of the state's economy in future years. The project period is Oct. 1, 2008, to April 30, 2010.

To date, SPPG has developed draft working papers and informational resources which are being used with state agency leadership to guide the project. Weekly meetings were held to research and gather information on existing infrastructure plans, initiatives, programs and forecasted future needs (see sidebar page 70). Statewide public input sessions were also 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 infrastructure 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 lowans 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.

One of the groups instrumental in this process in 2008 and even today is the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, also known as the IDHRC. This group is coordinated through the Iowa Homeland and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and assisted with the establishment of Long-Term Recovery Committees across the state.

The RIO has granted \$1,150,300 in Community Development Block Grant funding to eight agencies that provide disaster recovery case management services to affected lowans 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.

Measures: Iowa had 78 counties declared for individual assistance and each was represented by an LTRC. The data in the following chart represents the case management data from these LTRCs.

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2010

Total number of people assisted	17,483
Number of open cases	6,145
Total number of hours worked by Case Advocates	73,795
Number of outside referrals made	2,936
Total number of dollars given to clients (including private donated dollars; excluding funds from the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program)	\$3,385,066

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. Many LTRCs are coming to a close in providing assistance for the 2008 disaster events. These LTRCs have contributed a significant amount of advocacy services, both in financial and community resources, to help Iowans recover. While many local LTRCs throughout the state have indicated a decrease in the need for case advocacy services, there are still over 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 individuals recover and get back to permanent housing.

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

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

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.

Measures:

FEMA Individuals and Households Program

Total FEMA registrations approved	24,888
Total funding approved	\$138,749,926.87
Housing Assistance	\$122,403,852.02
Other Needs Assistance	\$16,346,074.85

IUNDGP Summary

Total households approved for the IUNDGP	3,303
Total number of individuals assisted	8,500
Total amount awarded as of March 18, 2010	\$7,640,648

Strategy: A survey has been sent LTRCs 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. The results of this survey will help determine what steps are needed to be taken to continue addressing the needs of those impacted by the 2008 disaster.

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

Ticket to Hope - Since June 2009, Ticket to Hope has provided Iowans with up to eight free mental health counseling sessions from a licensed professional. Individuals must 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.

This program is available until June 30, 2010. Individuals can receive more information by contacting the Iowa Concern Hotline (1-800-447-1985) or by visiting www.tickettohope.org. Ticket to Hope is administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).

The goals of Ticket to Hope are:

1. To increase access to professional mental health services for people affected by the 2008 natural disasters.
2. To provide a simple, non-invasive process for engaging people in needed mental health services.
3. To reduce barriers to improving mental health and overall quality of life.

County Pharmacological and Mental Health Services - In July 2009, DHS launched a program to provide funding for limited mental health and medication/medication management benefits for people of all ages experiencing mental health problems related to the 2008 natural disasters.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



Congressman Dave Loebsack speaks at the Disaster Recovery Learning Conference.



Workgroup attendees discuss best practices at the Disaster Recovery Learning Conference.



Attendees discuss local, state and federal disaster policy at the Disaster Recovery Learning Conference.

Specifically, this program provides limited community-based mental health services with a licensed prescribing clinician and limited pharmacy benefits to cover the costs of necessary pharmaceuticals. Many of these recipients would not be able to pay for these services thereby resulting in ongoing inability to function in daily activities, such as employment, family participation, and other areas of life.

The program works when the county Central Point Coordinator (CPC) reimburses providers for mental health and medication/medication management services for lowans who meet the eligibility described for the Ticket to Hope program. Next, DHS reimburses contracted counties for these approved services. These services are available until July 31, 2010.

Measures:

Ticket to Hope statistics are listed below:

- 57 counties served with 116 locations
- 57 approved contracts, including 333 Iowa Department of Public Health-licensed providers
- 816 vouchers mailed to lowans

Other Mental Health Services:

- 12 counties contracted to provide services
- 5 counties have submitted the following amounts to be reimbursed by DHS:
 - \$797,770.48 for mental health services
 - \$121,379.95 for medication/medication management services
 - \$919,150.43 total

Strategy: Program administrators are working to provide grassroots outreach to community service and faith-based groups, businesses, schools and agencies in 30 targeted counties and the entire state. They also plan to launch a full scale marketing and media campaign through television, radio and print ads to increase awareness and utilization of the Ticket to Hope program and will continue providing Ticket to Hope counseling sessions and other services to lowans affected by the 2008 disasters.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

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: On March 22, 2010, Governor Culver signed into law the Disaster Recovery Case Management bill. This bill provides for the establishment of a statewide system of disaster case management to be activated following the governor's proclamation of a disaster emergency or the declaration of a major disaster by the president of the United States. The bill 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. Additionally, this bill also creates a business disaster case management task force to research disaster recovery case management assistance needed for businesses following a major disaster.

In 2007, the Iowa General Assembly created the "Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Fund" for meeting unmet needs of individuals or families impacted in a disaster for which the governor proclaims a disaster emergency. Administered by DHS, this grant program provides eligible applicants up to \$5,000 for items damaged related to personal property, home repair, food assistance, and temporary housing assistance. Eligible applicants need to have resided in a county that received a state declaration for individual disaster assistance and have an annual household income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Historically, administrative rules required that an applicant must seek reimbursement for expenses they have incurred as a result of the disaster. However, this year a bill was unanimously passed that authorized DHS to develop a voucher program that will make it possible for eligible individuals to receive assistance even when they don't have the resources to make up-front payment. This new voucher program will be administered within the local disaster area.

Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference - The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), along with the Office of Congressman Dave Loebsack and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) hosted the Iowa Disaster Recovery Learning Conference on January 29, at Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education in Cedar Rapids. The conference brought together more than 100 representatives from non-profit organizations, voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations, government and community foundations active in Iowa's recovery from the 2008 floods and tornadoes. The group shared best practices, innovations and

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 in Iowa provides case advocates for 10 LTRCs.
- More than 14,400 disaster-affected Iowans have been assisted through LTRCs statewide.

lessons learned and offered recommendations to strengthen local, state and federal recovery policies. In addition to creating a forum for best practices, the conference served to inform the work of President Obama's Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group, which will offer recommendations on improving disaster recovery policy.

The conference also promoted national peer learning: representatives from the Gulf Coast shared their experiences with disaster recovery in the wake of Hurricane Katrina while learning from the Iowa attendees. Chris Monforton, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast, Inc. and Zack Rosenberg, Director and Co-Founder of the St. Bernard Project, participated in a discussion forum with attendees during lunch.

Strategy: The RIO will convene an advisory committee of key disaster case management agencies, federal, state and local government partners, and non-profit and faith-based agencies to address the establishment of a statewide disaster case management system.

2) To establish and sustain Community Organizations Active in Disaster statewide

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) has assisted communities in creating and maintaining Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs). The IDHRC was created in 2000 and consists of representatives from faith-based and voluntary agencies, as well as key government agencies including DHS, Iowa Department of Public Health, FEMA and the RIO. The IDHRC serves as the state's Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD).

The IDHRC brings together faith-based, voluntary and government organizations active in disaster services to foster a more effective disaster response and recovery for the people of Iowa. The IDHRC works with county emergency managers and city leaders to identify resources and address unmet needs of disaster-affected Iowans.

Work of the IDHRC is guided through the four principles of coordination, cooperation, collaboration and communication. These principles have assisted the Council to:

- Provide webinars assisting communities in Iowa wanting to develop a COAD, Citizens Corps Council or Citizen Emergency Response Team.

- Provide technical assistance and guidance through one-day events to share best practices, introduce the elements of COAD development, and build local community partnerships to address unmet needs after disasters.
- Assist in bringing together special needs' providers and federal, state, and local entities involved in disaster preparedness, response and recovery to increase involvement of and improvement of services of people with special needs affected by disaster.
- Utilizing the vast expertise from the over 100 faith-based, voluntary, non-profit, and government, partners, the IDHRC will provide training, technical assistance, and guidance to communities in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Even in non-disaster times, the IDHRC is active encouraging the formation of local Long-Term Recovery Committees and identifying groups of volunteers that can be quickly organized once a disaster strikes. The IDHRC provides local communities guidance and support on recruiting, training and sustaining LTRCs to become COADs.

Strategy: The RIO will continue to support the work of the IDHRC and assist in special outreach and publicity efforts.

3) To improve disaster behavioral health response in future events

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The Division of Mental Health and Disability Services at DHS has developed an organized team of volunteer behavioral health providers to respond to the mental health needs of Iowans following disasters. Six regional Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams can be deployed anywhere in Iowa when local resources have been depleted or are insufficient. The team's goal is to provide an organized response to victims, families, volunteers, first responders and others in order to lessen the mental health effects of trauma.

Since June 2009, the Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team has signed on 320 volunteers and trained over 1,000 individuals in Psychological First Aid, Disaster Behavioral Health Response, Critical Incident Stress Management and Mental Health First Aid.

Measures:

- Six regional teams in Iowa
- 320 Members
- Responded to six requests for service

Strategy: DHS plans to continue to recruit volunteers and team members and train more individuals to be a part of these response teams.

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)



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.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

- 1) **Connect local governments with programs, technical assistance, and funding sources to enable the development and implantation of long-term recovery plans**

Status: Ongoing

Progress: Focused on recovery and rebuilding of Iowa's disaster-struck communities, RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team serves to connect local leadership with resources to help with long-term planning and implementation of disaster recovery strategies. 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 RIO's coordination and advocacy capabilities to address the individual recovery needs of each community in a timely manner.

Different communities are at different levels in the recovery progress. Parkersburg, for example, has rebuilt many of its damaged homes and is now planning on a major rework of the highway that passes through town where the tornado's path was. A Visioning Committee has been formed to plan for the improvements that will be implemented. With the assistance of Iowa Northland Regional Council of Government (INRCOG) a design engineer will be hired to finalize the suggestions. Restructuring the highway corridor will help attract new businesses and residents. Despite much property loss, the community has replaced over 80 percent of the homes that were lost and 13 of the 15 businesses. Parkersburg has also had five new businesses come to town. The school's student population also saw an increase despite the loss of some residents.

The City of Cedar Falls has several projects underway to stabilize and strengthen the local economy, and be proactive to minimize future flood damage. Cedar Falls is in the process of developing a new 103 acre Industrial Park in Northern Cedar Falls in 2010. This new park to be developed with federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) "flood assistance" and local money is aimed at providing job

growth not only in the flood impacted part of Cedar Falls, but the entire City. The first occupant will be the East Central Iowa Cooperative which was severely damaged in the 2008 flood. There are other flood damaged companies considering relocation from flood prone sites to the new Industrial Park. This new Industrial Park has the potential to have a significant long-term economic impact on Northern Cedar Falls.

The City has also set up a local citizen committee that is working with a consultant to develop a long-range development plan for northern Cedar Falls. This plan, to be developed this year, will evaluate economic development opportunities, roadway improvements, recreational improvements, etc., all aimed at improving the investment climate in the flood-damaged area of Cedar Falls. The City has also implemented new floodplain regulations pertaining to future development in the 100-year floodplain (basically prohibited) and restricted development within the 500-year floodplain (no basements, etc.). These new regulations coupled with the current FEMA Buyout Program will hopefully minimize future flood damage.

During the floods, the community of New Hartford lost its only gas station/convenience store which also served as the center of the community. To help businesses and individuals recover and rebuild, city leaders are teaming up with a local, private developer to build a convenience store and a hardware store, both scheduled to open in August. The community has also embarked on a campaign to improve the beautification of the downtown area and repair sidewalks throughout of the community. Local civic groups such as the American Legion, Women's Club and Lions Club are working with the city to put signage along the main streets and important sites within the city. Trees Forever will donate trees and native plants to be planted around the school, and other suited areas.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money received in New Hartford has been used to rebuild the City Hall and clean debris left by the tornado and floods from the drainage system. This spring, the city will be building storm sewers around the city expanding water sewers to the north side of the railroad track where the convenience store will be located.

Waverly continues to recover from the 2008 floods by initiating grant applications for buyout assistance, seeking qualified low- and middle-income persons to participate in the Single Family New Construction program that will allow for five homes to be constructed, and by assisting INRCOG in providing Jumpstart assistance to qualified businesses.

In Cedar Rapids, the RIO's Cedar Rapids Community Liaison coordinates, facilitates and supports the flood recovery efforts of city and county officials as well as non-governmental organizations including the Chamber of Commerce; Small Business Flood Task Force; Flood Impacted Landlords (FILL); Business Long-Term Recovery Program Managers; Community-wide Legislative Team; and the Recovery, Reinvestment Coordinating Team (RRCT).

A meeting was coordinated in March 2010 in Cedar Rapids with HUD officials, RIO staff, city staff, the Mayor, City Council members and representatives of the Cedar Rapids Small

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.

Business Recovery Task Force to discuss current and future business programs. Discussion focused on the barriers of HUD regulations and how to approach future business program changes.

Meanwhile, the RIO continues to work with the Business Program administrator, the Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Flood Task Force to address local unmet needs of the business community. As a result, the State created four new programs to assist disaster-impacted businesses with loan interest expense, commercial rental income gap, residential landlord business support, and the addition of capitol procurement to the Business Rental Assistance Program (see Goal 2 for details).

Recovery Framework - A partnership between the RIO and FEMA's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 Long-Term Community Recovery Team produced strategies, reports and comprehensive recovery plans for ten Iowa communities. The long-term recovery process is community-driven and based upon public input.

Communities collectively:

- Articulate a vision for their post-disaster future.
- Identify disaster-related projects and programs to achieve their vision.
- Identify opportunities that become possible through recovery.
- Facilitate partnerships to coordinate and maximize resources that can be applied to the communities long-term recovery needs.

To provide a framework to organize recovery activities, the *ESF #14 Community Recovery Toolbox* was developed to assist communities' in their recovery process. Tools in the Toolbox include:

- 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 assisting development of community recovery projects and programs

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- Resource Guide - A directory for community recovery technical assistance resources and funding opportunities

The RIO promotes the utilization of the tools at every opportunity including community workshops, conference presentations, on-line availability, distribution of CDs and through articles in publications that facilitate outreach to impacted communities.

RIO Planning Specialists have also developed the following 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, including information on Smart Planning legislation passed by the 2010 Iowa General Assembly).
- *Smart Growth Partnership* - The RIO is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FEMA and IDED to bring smart growth technical assistance to five Iowa communities devastated by the natural disasters of 2008 (more details on this initiative are found in Goal 6).
- *Leadership Training* - In discussions with 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.

Strategy: The RIO and its partners continue to help provide communities with the support they need in order to achieve their economic recovery goals. The RIO's role will continue to be that of liaison to federal entities such as HUD, EPA and other similar agencies for assistance with available community development betterment programs that may be of interest to disaster-affected communities.

2) Create new revenue and contingency options for state and local governments in times of disaster

Status: Ongoing

Progress:

Examples of new revenue and financing provisions that were addressed during the 2010 Legislative Session include the following:

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

- HF 2437 will allow counties and entitlement cities affected by the 2008 weather disasters to take advantage of low federal bond interest rates available through the Recovery Zone Bond program. They must apply to and be approved by the Iowa Finance Authority, which plans to administer the program on a first-come, first-served basis until the bonding authority is exhausted.
- HF 2531, the standing appropriations bill, expands the eligible dates to hold an election to change a library tax levy (still capped at 27 cents per thousand in property valuation) for cities with a library damaged by natural disaster during the time frame from May 1, 2008, to Aug. 1, 2008. Typically, such an election may only be held at the time of a regular city election; but this provision allows votes to also occur on the date of a special election held to fill a vacancy in the same county, or on the first Tuesday in March, May or August. The vote may occur no later than Aug. 2, 2011, or it is again limited to the city general election date.
- Several proposals to increase funding flexibility did not pass this year, such as a proposal to raise the cap on hotel/motel taxes from 7 percent to 9 percent, a proposal that would have helped communities with a loss in tax increment financing revenue due to reduced property valuations from disaster impacts, and an effort to allow disaster-impacted areas to have more flexibility in the timing of bond issues for projects besides libraries.
- A proposal to double criminal fines in disaster areas also did not pass in 2010, although it received significant attention and will likely be addressed again in 2011. The primary goal of this proposal was to serve as a deterrent to criminal activity in areas that are temporarily uninhabited due to disaster impacts. A new Public Safety Advisory Board created in HF 2531 will need to review any proposed legislation affecting the criminal code.

2009 Legislative Session - The RIO worked with the Governor's office and General Assembly to pass several bills providing local governments with additional funding options and other contingency measures in times of disaster. The following bills were signed into law:

House File 64 was the first bill signed into law during the 2009 session. This act appropriated \$56 million of state funds 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.

Senate File 44 allowed counties designated as federal disaster areas in 2008 that did not already have a one-cent local option sales tax (LOST) to speed up the process to hold a public vote to impose the tax. Special elections were held in Linn and Johnson Counties. Five communities in Linn County and nine in Johnson County approved the tax.

Senate File 478, the Standing Appropriations Bill, appropriated \$1.15 million to seven Iowa communities damaged by tornadoes in 2008. SF 478 also authorized cities to collect up to five 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. SF 457 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. SF 415 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:

REVOLVING LOAN FUND: ECICOG

The \$1.6 million Revolving Loan Fund, created by the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) in Cedar Rapids, helps businesses recover from the 2008 floods. Flood-affected businesses are a priority, but loans also are made to non-affected businesses.

- SoyaWax International Inc. (Cedar Rapids) - \$50,000 to purchase feedstock for a pilot project to commercialize second-generation soy wax.
- AlphaGen Materials Technology Inc. (Vinton) - \$60,000 to create 4 -5 additional jobs and for equipment, inventory and operating expenses.
- Bochner Chocolates (Iowa City) - \$189,912 to purchase two new pieces of equipment to increase their productivity in conveying, weighing and bagging product.
- Cedar Crest Manufacturing, Inc. (Cedar Rapids) - \$180,000 to fill the funding gap during rebuilding.
- HH Ventures, LLC (Hiawatha) - \$150,000 to assist in launching a new product, allowing the company to create and/or retain 46 positions over five years.
- Ovation Networks, Inc. (Cedar Rapids) - \$150,000 to remodel and expand their current location. They plan to hire approx. 32 new jobs within the next year.
- Mobile Demand, L.C. (Hiawatha) - \$150,000 to help fund company growth and create 22 new jobs over three years.
- Geonetric, Inc. (Cedar Rapids) - \$150,000 for working capital and capital to grow the company to create 35-54 new jobs over three years.

Community Disaster Grant (CDG) Program - Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) administered the Community Disaster Grant (CDG) Program and reports that as of March 19, 2010, all \$22 million in CDG funds have been obligated for projects by the eligible cities and counties.

While a majority of the work has been completed, work continues on projects in areas that experienced the deepest impacts from 2008. Project examples include the purchase of pumps, elevation of electrical services boxes, cleaning of drainage ways, repair of park facilities, and providing funding to keep businesses viable. While this is only a brief list, it is important to note that these projects were identified by the localities as an immediate need in response to 2008 or as a long-term problem that the funding would allow them to address.

The intent of the Iowa legislation enabling the grant was to allow flexibility in how the funds could be spent to meet local needs. In Lyon County, local entities pooled their grant funds to complete a mutually beneficial project. Some entities gifted their funds to other cities with greater need; for example, the City of Clive gifted to Palo. In all instances, the grants supported projects not funded in the past.

Local Option Sales Tax - Previously mentioned legislation, Senate File 44, allowed cities and counties more flexibility in calling for a vote on a local option sales tax (LOST) for disaster relief. Two key impacted cities, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, were successful in passing this tax and it has served as an important source of revenue for recovery.

In March 2010, the Cedar Rapids City Council discussed and approved four resolutions authorizing the use of LOST funds to reimburse up to five years of flood insurance premiums, fund the cost of appraisal appeals through voluntary acquisition process, provide flood-impacted contract sellers with pre-flood value and the acquisition of privately demolished structures within the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) acquisition area at pre-flood assessed value.

- Since April 2009, the City of Cedar Rapids has collected an estimated \$12.8 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

\$5.2 million in Local Option Sales Tax revenue for the purposes of 100 percent remediation, repair and protection 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. The community is most interested in seeing progress toward the elevation of Dubuque Street and the Reconstruction of the Park Road Bridge.

Strategy: The RIO 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. The RIO also plans to include information on best practices for contingency measures following disasters as a part of a state strategy for future disasters.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

1) Monitor revenue projections and plan for future local government needs

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The Rebuild Iowa Office works closely with impacted communities to determine the impacts of the disaster on their tax base and budgets. The RIO has worked to provide 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.

Strategy: The RIO will continue to assess recovery needs and assist with continuing and emerging recovery issues in communities that continue to experience major rebuilding efforts. 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. 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 will continue to identify recovery needs and work with communities on developing workable recovery strategies.

Goal 6: Smart Planning



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's (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: The Iowa Smart Planning Principles listed below were developed by considering principles other states and local governments have adopted, as well as models that have been developed by various research and advocacy groups. The proposed principles were also included in the RIO's Green Paper (see short-term objective no. 2) and were refined based on feedback from various interested organizations and persons. The first paragraph under each of the principles below include the language that was developed through the Green Paper process. The italicized paragraphs show the language that was adopted by the 2010 Legislature in Senate File 2389, which included the Iowa Smart Planning bill language (see long-term objective no. 2 below).

Iowa Smart Planning Principles

1. *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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Collaboration. Governmental, community and individual stakeholders, including those outside the jurisdiction of the entity, are encouraged to be involved and provide comment during deliberation of planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions and during implementation of such decisions. The state agency, local government, or other public entity is encouraged to develop and implement a strategy to facilitate such participation.

2. *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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Efficiency, transparency, and consistency. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to provide efficient, transparent, and consistent outcomes. Individuals, communities, regions, and governmental entities should share in the responsibility to promote the equitable distribution of development benefits and costs.

3. *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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Clean, renewable, and efficient energy. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to promote clean and renewable energy use and increased energy efficiency.

4. *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.

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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Occupational diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote increased diversity of employment and business opportunities, promote access to education and training, expand entrepreneurial opportunities, and promote the establishment of businesses in locations near existing housing, infrastructure, and transportation.

5. 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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Revitalization. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should facilitate the revitalization of established town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that conserves land, protects historic resources, promotes pedestrian accessibility, and integrates different uses of property. Remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure is preferred over new construction in undeveloped areas.

6. 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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Housing diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should encourage diversity in the types of available housing, support the rehabilitation of existing housing, and promote the location of housing near public transportation and employment centers.

7. *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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Community character. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote activities and development that are consistent with the character and architectural style of the community and should respond to local values regarding the physical character of the community.

8. *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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Natural resources and agricultural protection. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should emphasize protection, preservation, and restoration of environmentally sensitive land, natural resources, agricultural land, and cultural and historic landscapes, and should increase the availability of open spaces and recreational facilities.

9. *Incorporate Green Building Design and Infrastructure Utilization*

Incorporate green 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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Sustainable design. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should

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.

promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that utilize sustainable design and construction standards and conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, air, and materials.

10. 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.

Legislation adopted in 2010 specifically states this principle as follows:

Transportation diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote expanded transportation options for residents of the community. Consideration should be given to transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel, and improve air quality.

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

Status: Ongoing, Major step taken with passage of Smart Planning Legislation in 2010 by the Iowa General Assembly

Progress: Iowa Smart Planning Principles were developed as part of an overarching Smart Planning proposal (see long-term objective no. 2) that was filed with the Iowa General Assembly for the 2010 legislative session. The principles were included in "Smart Planning" legislation passed by the legislature in Senate File 2389 and expected to be signed by Governor Culver in spring 2010.

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.

The task force established in the smart planning legislation will develop statewide goals based on the principles and recommend a process by which progress will be measured and reported. 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, and other investment and decision-making processes.

Strategy: The Rebuild Iowa Office filed legislation that became known as the “Smart Planning” bill during the Iowa General Assembly’s 2010 legislative session. The RIO worked with the Governor’s Office, legislators, various state agencies, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils of Governments (COGs), the Iowa State Association of Counties, and other interested stakeholders to pass the bill. The Iowa Department of Management or their designee will coordinate the task force’s activities and deliver recommendations by Nov. 15, 2010 to the Governor and General Assembly. The RIO will participate on the task force and will work with partners to plan for implementation of these recommendations, including promoting any needed future legislation.

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 (OEI), Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 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 IDED. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development has also joined the partnership in the community of Waverly.

The Smart Growth Partnership 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

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.

benefits the communities’ economy, environment, and public health. FEMA and EPA are providing funds to support this assistance.

Six communities were selected through a competitive application process among the ten communities that were assisted by the RIO and FEMA ESF#14 last fall. A summary of the smart growth assistance provided to each are included below. For more details and to review reports developed through this program, visit the RIO’s Web site.

- **New Hartford** - A workshop on green infrastructure solutions for stormwater management was held 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 for stormwater management, 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’s Web site. The workshop was particularly timely as the community partnered with Iowa Living Roadways to conduct community visioning around beautification efforts during the same time as the Smart Growth workshop. The green infrastructure strategies discussed at the workshop compliment community beautification efforts.
- **Cedar Rapids** - A 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, meeting with various stakeholder groups to learn about the various planning initiatives underway, and obtaining 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. The final report is expected during the first half of 2010.

- **Cedar Falls** - A site visit and public workshops were held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes conducting a forum for elected representatives and Planning and Zoning Commission members to discuss in general terms what smart growth development looks like and the benefits of incorporating smart growth concepts in Cedar Falls' 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 to foster revitalization of the North Cedar neighborhood, which was particularly hard hit by floods in 2008. Two memos were produced; the first memo reviewed Cedar Falls' 2002-2022 Comprehensive plan, including considerations for how the plan could better align with each of the 10 Smart Growth Principles, as well as recommendations for improving Cedar Falls' subdivision ordinance, supplemental specifications to the Statewide Urban Designs and Specifications, zoning ordinance, and floodplain ordinance. The second memo provides background on the North Cedar Falls public workshop and outcomes, and outlines possible prioritization of necessary activities to implement recommendations from the Policy Review Findings Memo and the North Cedar workshop. Renderings and maps were also produced, including existing and proposed land use maps, Center Street concept plan, and potential Center Street cross section designs.
- **Coralville** - A site visit and associated public workshops were held Nov. 4-5, 2009. The scope of the visit and assistance includes an evaluation of redevelopment options for Old Town and the surrounding area, which was flooded during the summer of 2008. Coralville is planning new structural improvements, including 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 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, incorporating green infrastructure concepts to manage stormwater and improve water quality. A final report is expected in 2010.
- **Iowa City** - A site visit and public workshops were 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

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.

Downtown. A workshop was conducted with elected officials, the public and other stakeholders to set a vision and objectives for the District and create preliminary redevelopment concepts.

Participants also made 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. A final report is expected during the first half of 2010.

- **Waverly** - The project got underway in early 2010 and is benefited by the USDA - Rural Development's participation. A scope of work for the project is being finalized, but will likely include an audit of the City's development codes, recommendations for green infrastructure solutions to stormwater management, and ideas for infill and affordable housing development. Each of these recommendations will inform the City's comprehensive plan update that is scheduled for 2010. The first workshop, intended to introduce Smart Growth concepts and explain the proposed scope of work through this partnership was held March 16, 2010.

Rebuilding a Greener Iowa - Thanks to substantial support from IDED, the Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) has developed and coordinated a green building-related training program, 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. The workshops build capacity for Iowa to rebuild in a more energy-efficient manner and 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 innovative and experienced organizations to hold these 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: Iowa Community Colleges of Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Utility Association, Preservation Iowa, 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.

Measures: The RIO will measure the success of these programs by the implementation of recommendations included in the technical assistance reports from the Smart Growth Partnership to the six participating communities:

- Reports are being finalized during the first half of 2010 for Cedar Rapids, Coralville, and Iowa City. The Waverly project has just begun.
- In New Hartford, a committee has been formed to determine how to move forward with installation of a rain garden at the local school.
- Cedar Falls has already moved forward on many recommendations provided through the Smart Growth assistance (see “Cedar Falls Smart Growth” sidebar on page 98).
- As a result of the Smart Growth Partnership, Iowa City was selected along with four other cities across the country (Boston, MA; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; and National City, CA) to receive technical assistance under the EPA/HUD/DOT Sustainable Communities partnership. The brownfields pilot program will assist the community’s efforts at developing a strategy to identify, clean up, and redevelop brownfields and other sites within the Riverfront Crossings District. Federal assistance will also help the community to plan for sustainable, mixed-use redevelopment to revitalize an area within Iowa City affected by flooding in 2008. Iowa City plans to redevelop brownfields in the District to create a walkable, urban neighborhood close to a proposed light rail stop. This will provide residents with a mix of uses including affordable housing, ground floor retail, and office space; pedestrian-oriented streetscapes; entertainment and recreational facilities; and public open space and trails along the Iowa River.

Through early March 2010, 106 “Rebuilding a Sustainable Iowa” workshops have been held by the COSC in 16 cities and have hosted more than 1,600 attendees.

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. RIO staff will analyze the various reports for lessons learned and create a means of sharing this information with other communities across the state. The RIO will continue to collaborate with the COSC to ensure that trainings are timely, relevant and well attended.

CEDAR FALLS SMART GROWTH

Cedar Falls adopted a revised floodplain ordinance in December 2009. The main features include:

- “500-year” flood elevation requirements (new buildings or substantial improvements must be located one foot above the 500-year flood level)
- prohibition of new subdivisions in any portion of the floodplain
- limitation of fill in the floodplain
- and prohibition the use of FEMA-approved Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) to “remove” a property from the floodplain.

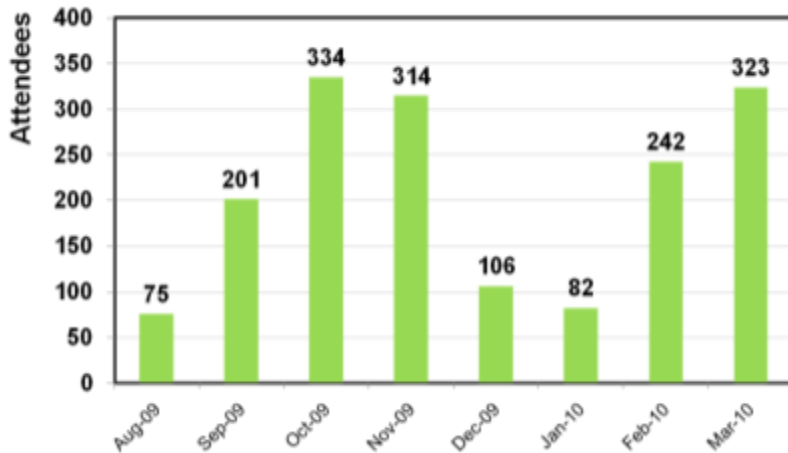
A floodplain ordinance oversight committee has been formed to examine the practical effectiveness of the new ordinance and recommend changes, if deemed necessary.

The committee will also draft changes to the City’s subdivision ordinance, including declaring floodplain and environmentally sensitive areas off-limits to future development, and prohibiting the use of LOMRs to align with the new floodplain ordinance. City Council action is expected by the end of April 2010.

City staff and elected leaders have held initial discussions about updating the City’s comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. The comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance update is anticipated to take approximately two years to complete.

The City completed its Hazard Mitigation Plan in October 2009.

COSC Workshop Attendance by Month
Total Attendees: 1,677



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

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The 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-recognized expert on water resources management, that outlines common sense approaches to land use planning and describes a history of inaction, policy implementation and land use decisions 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.

Until passage of Smart Planning legislation in 2010, Iowa Code included no mandates, incentives, or guidance for local or regional

planning. In fact, Iowa was one of only three states that did not explicitly list in code the elements that must or should be included in a local comprehensive plan. If the governor signs the legislation, Iowa will finally have guidance for local or regional planning.

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 proposed the following planning framework:

- **Smart Planning Principles** that 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.
- **Plan of Action** that 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:
 - reduce damage from natural disasters and enhance public safety,
 - protect and enhance Iowa's natural resources, and
 - identify, plan, and manage future growth.
- **Statewide Planning Structure** 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, RIO staff 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 2009 and at the County Zoning Official's Conference (part of the Iowa Association of Counties Fall School) in November 2009. The feedback was overwhelming positive and supportive of

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



Governor Culver discusses planning and proclaims March “Flood Awareness Month.”



RIO staff talk about the importance of planning during RIO Day at the Capitol



A RIO staff member responds to a Smart Planning question from a constituent.

planning reform in Iowa.

RIO staff analyzed the feedback, noting many common themes, and used that feedback to develop the Iowa Smart Planning proposal, filed as legislation during the 2010 legislative session. All three primary components of the smart planning proposal were contained in the final version of the bill. Those components are the following:

1. Establishment of smart planning principles,
2. Guidance for comprehensive planning by local governments, and
3. Creation of a task force to identify further planning improvements and incentives.

Iowa Smart Planning Proposal

- 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.

The Iowa Smart Planning bill language was incorporated into the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) bill (SF2389) and passed by both chambers of the General Assembly on March 29, 2010. The bill now awaits the Governor’s signature. The Department of Management or its designee will coordinate task force activities, with a report due to

the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010. Legislators also included a \$30 million "Disaster Prevention" grant program for which only cities and counties that follow the Smart Planning Principles and comprehensive planning guidance outlined in the bill are eligible to apply.

Strategy: The Rebuild Iowa Office successfully advocated for passage of the Smart Planning bill during the General Assembly's 2010 legislative session and worked with the Governor's Office, the Iowa Legislature and other stakeholders to pass the bill. Should the Governor sign the bill, the RIO will participate in the task force, assist with facilitation of the task force if requested by the Iowa Department of Management, and help in any way possible to develop an effective system of local and regional comprehensive planning in Iowa, with provisions 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) Make future disaster mitigation a priority in rebuilding efforts

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 programs 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. 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 Iowa Smart Planning legislation. One element of a comprehensive plan, as described in the legislation, 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: Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) reports that 309 Iowa communities and counties have FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, and 661 have new or updated planning initiatives in progress. 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 complete 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.

The flood impacted communities of Palo and Cedar Falls have adopted their own local ordinances that are designed to protect public safety and property from future flooding. These ordinances limit construction of new buildings to locally determined acceptable elevations based on the evaluation of past flooding events.

Strategies: The RIO and its recovery 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 floodplain management. More information about the Flood Risk Management Team and their activities can be found in Goal 8: Floodplain & Watershed Management.

The use of Iowa Smart Planning Principles to guide decision making and to encourage local communities to engage in comprehensive land use planning will ultimately help 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 the Floodplain Managers Association to increase the number of knowledgeable and trained personnel at the local level about flood risks, floodplain 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), HMGP and HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding enables rebuilding that includes mitigation measures.

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.

To date, there have been 74 safe room applications.

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) funds projects designed to reduce damages from future hazards by taking steps to protect lives and property. 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. Iowa's mitigation program is eligible to receive more than \$316 million due to the magnitude of the disasters.

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 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 to be distributed to disaster-affected states in 2010. Distribution will be based on a state's 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 it rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter and protects infrastructure from future disaster damage. As of October 2009, 23 percent of the state's Public Assistance projects included mitigation measures. When compared with an average of nine percent in other impacted states, it is clear 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:

RIO Quarterly Report: April 2010

- *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.
 - Five safe room projects, valued at \$5.4 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. The community of Hudson will receive funding for a safe room to be incorporate in the construction of a new multi-purpose building.
 - 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 is the 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 rise. Therefore, taking measures to reduce the likelihood of future loss is critical to Iowa's long-term recovery efforts. The RIO is committed to ensuring that Iowa recovers from the 2008 disasters and rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before. This means that local, state and federal policy should encourage long-term recovery to be done in a way that minimizes future loss from disasters.

Understanding the causes of flooding in Iowa and identifying strategies to reduce the adverse

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

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 in Goal 8: Floodplain & Watershed Management.

In addition to making recommendations at the state level, the RIO has provided its 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, "Obtain & Expedite Disaster Recovery Funding."

Improvements to State and local policies to mitigate future flooding were identified in a Value Stream Mapping process - 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 WRCC, 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 the state continues 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 floodplain mapping, floodplain 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 included:

- Implementation of WRCC recommendations for strengthening floodplain regulations.
- Expand WRCC recommendations to include the benefit of infiltrating 1.25 inches of precipitation per 24 hours in urban settings and 3 inches of precipitation per 24 hours in rural settings.
- Support and emphasize need to adopt proposed *Iowa Smart Planning Principles* (page 88) 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 floodplain projects.
- Standardize floodplain data and store in central location.

The team drafted 19 recommendations and 31 action steps leading to improved data sharing and communications, improved planning efforts, and tightened enforcement and compliance of floodplain management regulations. Each action step was then assigned a team lead for implementation and a target completion date. The VSM event concluded with a presentation

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

of recommendations to the WRCC for consideration by the 2010 Iowa Legislature in its deliberations on further improvements to flood management. The team continues to 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 also 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 additional recommendations in order to make a positive impact on disaster mitigation for this and future disaster events in Iowa and around the nation.

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 (IID), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), HSEMD and the RIO continue to work together on public education and awareness campaigns regarding disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts across Iowa.

Most recently in March 2010, the state agencies kicked off a month-long public information campaign designating March as Flood Awareness Month. Special presentations were organized in various communities about the benefits of flood insurance and preparing for future disasters. The group also shared flood-related information and safety tips with the media and the public through a statewide educational campaign. Interviews were done with more than 40 media outlets (radio, TV and newspaper) across the state. The campaign proved to be very effective and built on the success of the previous year's campaign (Flood Awareness Month was first declared in Iowa by Governor Culver in 2009). Plans are already in the works to continue the educational effort every March into the future.

In addition to the March campaign, the IID is leading a multi-year outreach effort 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 a considerable decrease in flood mitigation efforts by Iowans in subsequent years following flooding which can lead to dangerous levels of apathy. To prevent this, the effort will focus on three key areas: statewide efforts (broad systematic outreach) through radio and TV advertisements, door-to-door outreach with door hangers notifying households that they are in a floodplain (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 be funded with CDBG funds through 2013.

Measures: The DNR will provide regular updates on the number of communities enrolled in the NFIP, as well as the number of individual households that purchase flood insurance. Currently, there are 518 communities participating in the NFIP. More than 100 eligible communities in Iowa do not participate in the NFIP. Participation in the program allows citizens to tap into the federal insurance program and significantly reduce their risk of financial loss resulting from the effects of a flood.

In Iowa, about 53,000 homes, businesses and other structures are located in high risk floodplains (those that have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any year). Iowa currently has approximately 15,360 flood insurance policies (up 40 percent from the number prior to the 2008 floods), however the number is still one of the lowest in the nation. According to the DNR, 8,870 policies (slightly more than half) cover structures in the high risk areas.

Strategy: In November, the IID submitted recommendations (under SF 759) to the 2010 Iowa Legislature to incentivize the purchase of flood insurance in Iowa. Some of the recommendations for consideration included:

- *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 consumer chose that minimum arrangement.

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**
- Construction of multi-purpose building in the City of Hudson: **\$359,985**

- *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 all or some portion of the additional 25 percent of the advertising cost.
- *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.

None of these recommendations were adopted during the 2010 legislative session. The RIO will continue to work with the IID and policymakers to address these issues in the future.

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 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 DNR 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. The Building Code Advisory Council approved the administrative rules on March 30, 2010. The approved standard is 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 F5 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 30 project applications for review of which 10 have been submitted to FEMA for approval. Five applications are still in the approval process by FEMA and five have received final approval.

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. The state is also working on a plan going forward to continue promoting the benefits of including safe rooms in public construction, particularly schools.

Goal 8: Floodplain & Watershed Management

The State will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management. (RIAC Recommendation #9)



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.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

1) Repair and replace damaged and destroyed flood management infrastructure

Status: Ongoing

Progress:

Louisa County - 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 repair costs for levees and structures built with federal funds, and 75 percent of repair costs for private levees built with non-federal funds, but participating in the program.

Closure of levee breaks in Levee District 16 southwest of Oakville (Louisa County) has been completed with finishing work to be completed this 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 also 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.

Polk County - Contracts are being let this spring and summer to rebuild Birdland Park and Central Place levees in Des Moines (Polk County) that were damaged in 2008 flooding as well as 1993 flooding. Both levees will be rebuilt and certified to current standards.

Cedar Rapids - The City of Cedar Rapids (Linn County) 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 its preferred option for flood protection, and the Corps of Engineers is now finalizing a feasibility study for that option and other alternatives.

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 floodplain wetland easements to avoid duplication. Opportunities are also being sought to re-establish natural floodplains 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 floodplain management infrastructure and work to reduce flood risk and mitigate future flood damage

Status: Ongoing

Progress: The 2009 Session of the Iowa General Assembly provided \$2 million and authorized seven new positions in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Floodplain Management Program. The same funding was re-authorized in the 2010 session

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.

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

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 (HSEMD): 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

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 floodplain management needs to include continued annual funding for the staff positions re-established in DNR's Floodplain Management Program, implementation of more stringent and effective floodplain management policies, and continued coordination of state permitting and regulatory programs regarding floodplain development. DNR will also be able to increase inspection frequencies for bridges, dams, and floodplain 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 floodplains that mitigates disaster impact**

Status: Ongoing

Progress: Since 1990, Iowa has had 24 presidential disaster declarations; 13 of those have been for flooding. Recognizing that it will happen again, the Rebuild Iowa Office has taken the lead among state agencies in advocating for legislation to help the state be more prepared for future weather disasters, including floodplain management improvements.

The Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) was established by legislation prior to the 2008 floods to address water quality issues, but water quantity issues have become an additional responsibility for the group since the 2009 legislative session. Of 16 policy recommendations made by the WRCC for floodplain management improvements, those that were specifically addressed in legislation passed in the 2010 legislative session include promoting a watershed management approach to reduce impacts of future flooding, supporting public education about flooding and flood risks, supporting establishment of an Iowa chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, and seeking funding for pilot watershed projects in upland areas to hold precipitation where it falls for longer periods of time. Although the recommendations started in one bill, they were eventually incorporated into two: HF 2459 and HF 2531.

Strategy: In the 2009 legislative session, the Rebuild Iowa Office advocated for a well-informed approach to developing policy to make Iowa's floodplains safer. Legislators responded by passing House File 756, asking the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) to submit policy and funding recommendations prior to the 2010 session to promote a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding. The WRCC formed a committee to develop the floodplain management recommendations. Members looked at everything from floodplain regulations, lowlands and uplands issues, and stormwater management.

The group consulted with hydrological and land use experts, representatives of cities, counties, drainage and levee districts, agricultural interests, soil and water conservation districts, and other urban and regional planning experts. Public input was obtained at various meetings and by comments accepted in person, by mail and by fax or e-mail.

The WRCC approved 16 policy recommendations and 9 funding recommendations and submitted them to legislators and the Governor in November 2009. Because of budget constraints, only the policy provisions were incorporated into bills that were filed in the House and Senate. The recommendations were gradually reduced during the legislative session to the following twelve provisions. These were incorporated into Senate File 2316, which passed the Senate by one vote but ultimately failed in the House, with provisions marked with one asterisk (*) incorporated into House File 2459 and those with two asterisks (**) eventually incorporated into House File 2531 both of which have been sent to Governor Culver for his consideration. Other sections were not passed in legislation this year. The twelve recommendations addressed the 2010 session were as follows:

- Section 1 (*not passed this year*): **Storm water best management practices.** Requires DNR to develop these by Dec. 31, 2010. Cities will consider the best management practices or other comparable management practices in the development and implementation of storm water management ordinances adopted on or after July 1, 2011.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



Attendees discuss floodplain management at the WRCC Public Input Session in West Branch.



Attendees discuss floodplain management at the WRCC Public Input Session in Ankeny.



Attendees discuss stormwater management at the WRCC Public Input Session in Mount Pleasant.

- Section 2 (*not passed this year*): **Model ordinance for .2 percent floodplain.** DNR, in consultation with the RIO, HSEMD, Iowa League of Cities, Conservation Districts of Iowa and ISAC, shall develop a model ordinance for regulation of the .2 percent (500-year) floodplain (identified by a flood insurance rate map certified by FEMA or, if a certified FIRM is not available, on a map developed or approved by the DNR). The following shall be considered in development of the model ordinance:
 - requirements, if any, for purchase of flood insurance;
 - requirements, if any, for new development or modification or improvement of existing development to mitigate effects of future flooding;
 - effect of flood control levees;
 - use of fill and offsets required for use of fill;
 - categories of development that should be prohibited
 - interaction with FEMA regulations;
 - any other issues the DNR finds should be addressed.
- Section 3 (*not passed this year*): **Critical facilities in floodplains.** Facilities “critical for the health and safety of the public and the environment” include hospitals and health care facilities as defined in Section 135C.1, jails, and emergency operations centers including fire, police and rescue facilities. New or substantially modified or improved critical facilities shall be designed to maintain the operation and function of the facilities, or its safe cessation, during the occurrence of a .2 percent flood as determined by the DNR or political subdivision. A waiver may be provided if the facility is built in accordance with the requirements of an agreement with FEMA. The DNR shall amend its standards under Section 455B.173, subsection 8, to provide for safe operation and function or their safe cessation during a .2 percent flood. This section doesn’t apply if a .2 percent floodplain is not identified on a FIRM or map developed or approved by the DNR, and doesn’t apply to a facility if an application is pending for an amendment or revision to a FIRM certified by FEMA on the basis that the facility is not within the .2 percent floodplain.

- Section 4 (*not passed this year*): **Hydrological tiling study.** IDALS shall conduct a hydrological tiling study with experts from the Iowa Flood Center and ISU to determine the impact of tile drained fields on infiltration, surface runoff, and flooding and to evaluate the feasibility of seasonal retention of water as a drainage management strategy. The impact of potholes wetlands, and water retention structures shall be considered.
- * Section 5: **Watershed management recommendations.** The WRCC shall develop recommendations for policies and funding promoting a watershed management approach to reduce impact of future flooding. The WRCC shall consult with 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 in developing these recommendations.
- Section 6 (*not passed this year*): **Watershed governance recommendations.** The WRCC shall develop recommendations for watershed governance to be submitted to the governor and general assembly by Nov. 15, 2010.
- **Section 7: **Marketing.** Adds water quantity to existing requirements of the WRCC to develop a marketing campaign to educate Iowans about personal responsibility for water quality in local watersheds.
- Section 8 (*not passed this year*): **Multipurpose wetlands.** IDALS in cooperation with the WRCC may initiate programs to integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds with drainage districts or larger drainage systems, and prioritize funding for programs incorporating a holistic approach.
- * Section 9. **Watershed demonstration pilot projects.** The DNR and IDALS in collaboration with the NRCS and the WRCC shall seek funding to plan, implement and monitor one or more watershed demonstration pilot projects for urban and rural areas involving a HUC-12 watershed.
- ** Section 10. **Association for floodplain managers.** The WRCC shall encourage and support forming a chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers to provide professional education to local floodplain managers and planners.
- ** Section 11. **Flood education.** ISU Extension, the WRCC and agency members of the WRCC shall work with floodplain and hydrology experts to education the general public about floodplains, flood risks, and basic floodplain management principles. The effort will include developing a statewide soil moisture monitoring network to assess flood risk through ISU and the Leopold Center; developing educational materials and programs; and expanding use of existing integrated farm and land resource management tools to assist in creating infiltration systems to accommodate rainfalls of at least 1.25 inch and support conservation and business planning.

**IOWA SILVER JACKETS
FLOOD RISK
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The twelve signers of the Iowa Flood Risk Management Team Charter – also known as the “Iowa Silver Jackets” are as follows:

- Col Shawn McGinley (USACE - Rock Island District)
- Col David C Press (USACE – Omaha District)
- Col Robert Wilson, Jr. (USACE – Kansas City District)
- Col Jon L. Christensen (USACE – St. Paul District)
- Robert Bissell (FEMA Region 7 – Kansas City)
- Richard Sims (NRCS - USDA)
- David L. Miller (Iowa HSEMD)
- Richard Leopold (Iowa DNR)
- Bill Northey (Iowa Secretary of Agriculture)
- Nancy J. Richardson (Iowa DOT)
- Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis (RIO)
- Bret Mills (IDED)

Other federal, state, and local agencies may choose to add their names to the charter at a later date. Meetings of the group’s representatives are informal and open to all who share an interest in flood risk management.

- Section 12 (*not passed this year*): **Conservation practice criteria.** IDALS with the WRCC shall work with the NRCS to assess criteria for soil and water conservation practices due to changing precipitation patterns and extreme weather events.

House File 2531 is an appropriations bill, for which the governor has line item veto authority. The items identified above as being incorporated into this bill (***) are expected to be retained in the bill signed by the governor. HF2459 (*) is a policy bill which the governor must accept in whole or veto entirely. The governor is expected to sign this bill, which in addition to implementing Section 9 above (watershed projects) establishes a Watershed Planning Advisory Council to provide recommendations to the WRCC and the legislature, and outlines the process for local governments in a watershed to establish a Watershed Management Authority (this partially implements Section 5 above, watershed management recommendations). The RIO will continue to focus on preparedness issues that do not require legislation, and will work to address any remaining legislative issues when the next General Assembly convenes on January 10, 2011.

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

Status: Ongoing

Progress: State and federal agencies are continuing joint efforts on a regional watershed plan 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 need to be implemented immediately, but also should be reviewed 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 floodplain 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 were addressed in the WRCC recommendations above. Legislation that was drafted in response to those recommendations would have initially required the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt minimum statewide stormwater standards to be implemented as of July 1, 2011; this was later reduced to a requirement that best management practices or other comparable management practices be developed and storm water management ordinances adopted on or after July 1, 2011. Neither of these ideas survived the 2010 session. Standards developed would have limited water runoff, reduced future flood damage, assessed the effects of stream channelization, and improved 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.

Flood Education - A measure included in HF 2531 during the 2010 session would require Iowa State University Extension and the WRCC and its member agencies to work with floodplain and hydrology experts to educate the general public about floodplains, flood risks and basic floodplain management principles. Their efforts must include developing educational materials and programs in consultation with floodplain 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 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

WATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Legislation considered in 2010 as a result of the WRCC's legislative recommendation for 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.

Recommendations call for the pilot project to:

- 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.

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 floodplain management. Efforts will also involve further study of governance models for carrying out more effective stormwater and floodplain 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 Floodplain 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 Floodplain 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 floodplain 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: Floodplain Mapping

LiDAR MAPS vs. FEMA MAP MODERNIZATION

There has been confusion over the difference between the state's mapping efforts and the recent release of maps by FEMA as the federal government digitizes existing maps.

The DNR is collaborating with FEMA and sharing resources to create and maintain accurate, up-to-date flood hazard data for the state. The DNR is using \$15 million in disaster-related CDBG funds appropriated to Iowa to map the 85 Iowa counties presidentially-declared as disaster areas in 2008. It is also the DNR's goal to provide floodplain maps for the remaining 14 counties utilizing existing staff and available FEMA funding.

High resolution digital elevation data resulting from the state's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) collection project will be used as a basis for the new maps. This project uses laser-based technology to derive elevation data accurate to within inches. Existing FEMA maps have been developed using outdated elevation data accurate to within several feet. Once complete, DNR-created flood maps will go through a process to be recognized as official FEMA "Flood Insurance Rate Maps" (FIRMs).

For information about floodplain mapping, contact DNR Engineer Scott Ralston at (515) 281-8121.

The State will complete floodplain 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 floodplain mapping

Status: Complete

Progress: \$15 million in CDBG funds was identified and committed to floodplain mapping in Iowa's Action Plan. Efforts are now underway to complete new floodplain 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. Due to severe winter conditions and spring flooding, the time estimate for completing the LiDAR collection has been extended to Sept. 1, 2010.

At the end of March, 2010, the University of Iowa Flood Center completed contracted work with DNR to perform a pilot floodplain mapping project, developing floodplain maps for Poweshiek County where all LiDAR data has been collected. The Flood Center team refined hydrologic, hydraulic, and GIS analysis methodologies to take

advantage of improved resolution and accuracy from the statewide LiDAR dataset and quantified the time required to perform individual project tasks. This information will aid DNR in identifying appropriate distribution of external and internal resources to maximize the impact of federal funding provided to the State. Using the results of the pilot project, the DNR will be able to effectively define the scope of work needed to map the remainder of the 85 counties and eventually the entire state.

The DNR is close to finalizing a contract with the Iowa Department of Economic Development for disbursement of the \$15 million in CDBG grant funds to DNR for eligible purposes, including developing new Floodplain Maps and updating and improving existing Floodplain Maps in the 85 Presidentially-Declared Disaster counties in Iowa.

During the 2010 legislative session the Iowa General Assembly passed SF2389. Division 15 of this legislation requires the DNR to utilize the floodplain mapping services offered by the Iowa Flood Center, located at the University of Iowa, for \$10 million of the total \$15 million allocated to the DNR. The DNR is currently working closely with the Iowa Flood Center to determine the most efficient and effective methods of producing flood map products that satisfy both DNR and FEMA expectations. Consequently, the DNR will temporarily, and possibly indefinitely, postpone issuance of a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for floodplain mapping related services that was being prepared for issuance in early April, 2010. At such time the DNR and Iowa Flood Center determine the full mapping scope, methodology, and Flood Center production capacity, the prospect of an RFQ will be revisited.

As part of additional staffing provided to the DNR in the 2009 Legislative Session for expanded floodplain management efforts, the agency has hired an Environmental Engineer Senior to provide technical and project management oversight for the Floodplain Mapping Program and a GIS Analyst to support the data management needs of the statewide mapping effort. DNR and participating team members are developing an implementation plan for the Floodplain 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 be 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 floodplain regulation and allow more property owners to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP.

IOWA TO GET 10 NEW STREAM GAGES

Ten new stream gages will be installed in Iowa this year through a partnership between the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

“Streamgages” are used to measure or gage the amount of water flowing in streams and rivers. The ten new gages will bring Iowa’s total to 166 streamgages and will fill some gaps in information needed for forecasting river levels and floods. Each stream gage that is part of the USGS system nationwide is an active, continuously functioning measuring device that measures daily stream flow and river levels.

Locations for the ten stream gages are as follows:

1. Buffalo Creek west of Anamosa (Jones County)
2. Cedar River at Osage (Mitchell County)
3. Little Sioux River at Spencer (Clay County)
4. Skunk River near Brighton (Washington County)
5. Shell Rock River north of Greene (Floyd County)
6. Turkey River at Spillville (Winneshiek County)
7. Volga River at Fayette (Fayette County)
8. Wapsipinicon River near Oxford Mills (Jones County)
9. East Nishnabotna River at Riverton (Fremont County)
10. West Nishnabotna River at Riverton (Fremont County)

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
- 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 showing 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 stream gages were added on the Cedar River above Cedar Rapids following the 2008 Flood, one at Palo, and one at Vinton. Using state infrastructure funding, 10 additional stream gages

to be located based on critical flood and weather related criteria will be installed. River gages are utilized by federal agencies in managing water resources and in forecasting river and flood conditions. Some 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 develop 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 floodplain maps for the entire state

Status: Ongoing

Progress: As detailed above, the first steps in this process have been completed. Funding for new flood hazard data has been identified and is ready to be disbursed, and the high resolution LiDAR 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.

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 approval and publication to allow the new Iowa maps to be used as DFIRM's or Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The management and updating of floodplain 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), Preservation Iowa, 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 the months following the 2008 disasters 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 disaster-affected artists and arts organizations.

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



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

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 jobs. A portion of the bond funds was allocated for disaster recovery projects. The following museums, cultural attractions, and historic properties were awarded grants through the I-JOBS program for disaster recovery and mitigation:

- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: African American Museum of Iowa: \$268,510
- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: Cedar Rapids Public Library: \$5 million
- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: Legion Arts - Restoration of CSPA Hall: \$4.8 million
- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: National Czech and Slovak Museum: \$10 million
- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: Paramount Theater: \$5 million
- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: Theatre Cedar Rapids: \$1 million
- Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County: Cedar Falls Historical Society - Ice House Museum Restoration: \$545,700
- Indianola, Warren County: National Balloon Museum: \$188,300
- Fort Madison, Lee County: Santa Fe Depot Redevelopment: \$1,131,344

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

In September 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 disasters strike.

Since 2008, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has continued to provide disaster recovery technical assistance to preservation professionals and organizations throughout Iowa. Assistance includes one-to-one contact, site visits and presentations. SHPO staff has attended public meetings throughout Iowa as part of the Section 106 consultation process.

The RIO has worked with representatives of several cultural institutions important to the economic development of affected communities, including the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids. The NCSML is vital to Cedar Rapids' economic recovery and initially estimated needing a total of \$25 million in order to recover, including \$10 million from state sources, which it received via I-JOBS, and \$10 million from federal sources. So far, the NCSML has experienced significant delays and frustrations in receiving assistance through SBA and FEMA. State staff continues to work to assist them in

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.

navigating this system and successfully obtaining needed resources.

The African-American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids re-opened on Dec. 26, 2009, 18 months after it was flooded. The Museum raised \$700,000 to rebuild, including funds from the I-JOBS initiative.

Another hard-hit cultural organization, the Theatre Cedar Rapids reopened on Feb. 26, 2010, completing a \$7.8 million restoration. Project funding included FEMA Public Assistance, State Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credits, and I-JOBS bond funding.

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 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 <http://www.artsready.org/>.

Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) released its Studio Protector, a compact resource for artists that provides practical information about advance readiness planning, emergency response actions and short-term recovery actions. The IAC will continue to promote this tool for artists. It can be purchased directly from CERF or from some retail outlets, such as the Art Store in the Des Moines area. More info about the tool can be found at <http://studioprotector.org/>.

Non-Profit Organizations - Non-profit organizations are vital to Iowa's 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 I-JOBS bonding infrastructure funds were awarded to nine cultural and/or historic projects related to disaster recovery or mitigation, for a total of nearly \$28 million.

In current program rules, obtaining an SBA loan is often the first step for a 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 required an SBA loan to be obtained first.

Strategy: The DCA and its divisions, Preservation Iowa, 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 annually; this legislation was amended during the 2010 session by lowering the cap to \$45 million (the legislature has passed this provision, but as of this report it had not been signed by the Governor). The legislation reserves 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 have a positive impact on Iowa’s flood recovery considering the large number of historic districts and individual historic properties that were damaged 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 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 under the US Department of the Interior, the community in which the property is located, FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), and SHPO will come to agreement on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process. SHPO and HSEMD have developed a packet to aid communities in the MOA process and have created a system in which communities are able to get their project costs refunded more rapidly than through the typical process.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ROAD MAP



Col. Shawn McGinley, USACE, examines flood damage in the Veteran's Memorial building in Cedar Rapids.



Local officials describe historical significance of the Veteran's Memorial building in Cedar Rapids.



State and Federal officials tour the flood-damaged Veteran's Memorial building in Cedar Rapids.

Most disaster-impacted communities had not completed historical surveys in 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, SHPO works with local, state and federal partners to reach consensus on actions to mitigate the loss. 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 a Waverly School will result in documentation of the important building. And loss of housing across the state will result in new historic property surveys, nominations, and public outreach efforts regarding historic preservation. These losses will result in an ultimate gain for preservation through new awareness about the historic properties lost and saved. Planned Mitigation for the Loss of Historic Properties are:

- Cedar Rapids, Linn County: survey and nomination of Czech Village as an expansion of existing Bohemian Commercial Historic District.
- Vinton, Benton County: nomination of the Iowa Canning Company Warehouse.
- Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County: exterior repairs and repainting of the Little Red School House Museum.
- Iowa City, Johnson County: documentation of the house at 103 Taft Speedway.
- La Porte City, Black Hawk County: repairs to the La Porte City Fire Station and Jail.
- Waverly, Bremer County: survey and nomination of Waverly's Northwest residential neighborhood, Southeast residential neighborhood, and downtown business district.
- Olin, Jones County: survey and nomination of Olin's downtown historic district.

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- Parkersburg, Butler County: boiler replacement at C.C. Wolf Mansion.
- Waverly, Bremer County: documentation of Washington Irving Elementary School.
- Coralville, Johnson County: signage for existing historic marker program.
- Shell Rock, Butler County: nomination of 127 East Adair Street (Shell Rock Community Historical Museum).
- Palo, Linn County: Digital booklet on historic and architectural railroad era in Palo.

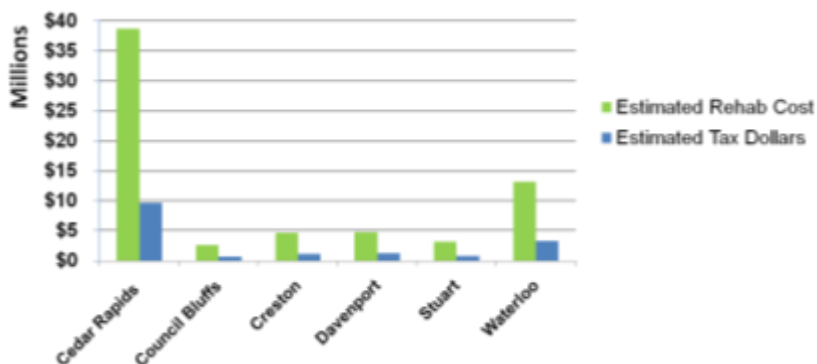
Historic Site Preservation Grant Program Changes - During the 2009 legislative session, the RIO supported a bill allowing greater flexibility for the Historic Site Preservation Grant program, administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa, to respond to emergency situations. Specifically, the Program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

Measures: 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.

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.

Strategy: SHPO continues to prioritize identification of historically significant properties to streamline the review process and facilitate access to preservation grants and tax incentives.

*State Historic Tax Credit Program Disaster Projects
Current March 2010*



RIVER ENHANCEMENT COMMUNITY ATTRACTION AND TOURISM PROGRAM

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 made its first award to the City of Waterloo in late 2009, 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.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

1) Increase the retention, management, preservation, and proper storage of public records

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, storage and preservation. 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 out as an on-line survey on Nov. 30, 2009, 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 meeting in 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 by the end of 2010.

The Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board printed a disaster

response checklist poster for its annual “Archive Month” activity in October 2009. 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.

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 has not been addressed in the 2010 session. The RIO will continue to advocate for resources for this important challenge in the future.

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. This topic was not addressed in the 2009 or 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 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 US 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 way 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. Another way this view is encouraged is through the River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program (see sidebar).

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

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)



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.

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 2009 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. 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 was signed into law on March 22, 2010.

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 SF 441 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 county-wide commission form of government, consisting of the mayors of the cities, a member of the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff (or any designated representatives). The Commission establishes an agency to carry out daily operations and hires a Coordinator to lead the agency.

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.

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. RIO staff members will be meeting with the Iowa Emergency Management Association Executive Council in April to discuss the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission recommendations regarding supporting Local Emergency Management.

Strategy: The State 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 until the Office sunsets in June, 2011. While the disasters occurred almost two years ago, the RIO firmly believes Iowa is still in the initial phase of long-term recovery. While many accomplishments are noted in the April Quarterly Report, there is still much work to be done. Until all impacted Iowans can return to 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 the local, state and federal level, to ensure Iowa has a successful recovery.

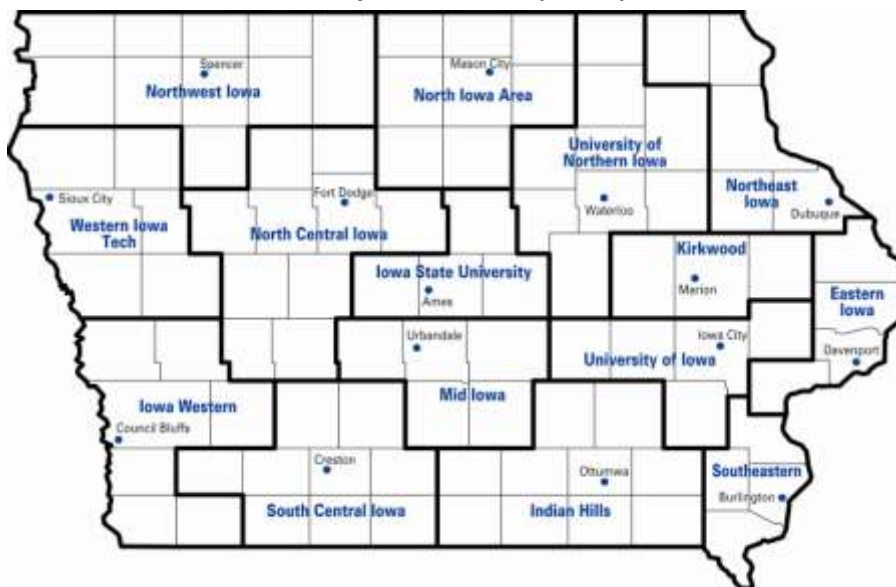
The RIO remains dedicated to the recovery goals outlined in this report. And, while some methods and objectives may evolve, the RIO will continue to report each quarter on the accomplishments and challenges, as well as measures and key projects. The RIO plans to gather additional input through public workshops, forums and meetings scheduled this spring and summer. The RIO will also continue to voice its support for disaster reform at the national level by holding discussions and meetings with officials from Washington, D.C. It is crucial that federal officials learn from this disaster by implementing Iowa's best practices, and addressing the current challenges that exist with utilizing federal funding and instituting an effective, national long-term recovery system.

As the RIO's sunset date approaches, future reports will include specific information about how the Office's responsibilities, as well as Iowa's remaining disaster recovery needs, will transition to and be addressed by other state and local entities. It is imperative this transition strategy and recovery plan be carried on well beyond the lifetime of the RIO and throughout the rest of the recovery process. The RIO is also working on Iowa's first-ever "recovery" exercise so that a viable recovery plan for future disasters can eventually be adopted by the state. It is necessary that these reports be used by Iowa officials and leaders at all levels of government (local, state and federal) to better prepare the state and build a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa.

APPENDIX

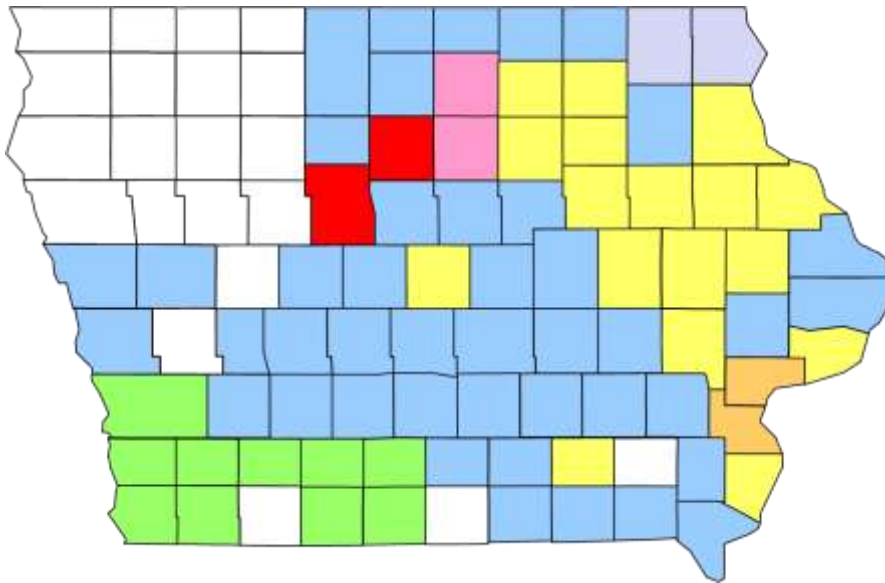
Maps, Charts & Graphs

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Locations in Iowa



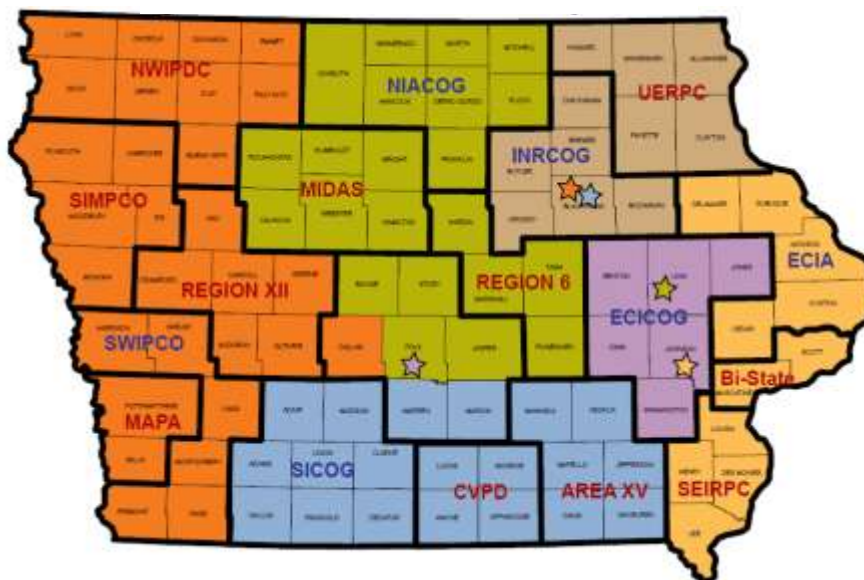
<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Phone</i>
ISU SBDC	Ames	515-296-7828
Southeastern SBDC	Burlington	319-208-5381
Iowa Western SBDC	Council Bluffs	712-256-6552
South Central Iowa SBDC	Creston	641-782-1483
Eastern Iowa SBDC	Davenport	563-336-3401
Northeast Iowa SBDC	Dubuque	563-588-3350
North Central Iowa SBDC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



County	Committee	Phone
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 (NWIPOC)	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
- Matching funds: \$100,000
- Loans to Date: \$1,079,912 to eight businesses in Linn, Johnson and Benton Counties (of which five were flood-impacted)

East Central Intergovernmental Association

- Received from EDA: \$500,000
- Loans to Date: None

Iowa Northland Regional COG

- Received from EDA: \$750,000
- Loans to Date: None

MIDAS COG

- Received from EDA: \$250,000
- 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: \$450,000
- Loans to Date: \$300,000 to two companies

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Council

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

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** of \$72 million

January 2009

- 6 Iowa awarded \$11 million in **Social Services Block Grant** from USHHS

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

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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** of \$125 million

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**

January 2010

- 30 Iowa legislative session ends having appropriated more than **\$60 million in additional disaster recovery assistance**

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/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/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: April 2010

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

March 2009

- 2 FEMA/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/RIO/IDED **Smart Growth** partnership members visit the state's five participating communities to meet with leaders and develop scopes of work

April 2009

- 7 **Iowa 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 **Iowa Unmet Needs Grant** program applications
- 23 **FEMA Mobile Home** assistance extended until June 2010
Iowa 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

- 4 Iowans remaining in **FEMA Mobile Homes** are charged rent or receive FEMA revocation letters

March 2010

- 8 **Business program** modifications are announced

June 2010

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

Glossary

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

Disaster Recovery Funding Sources

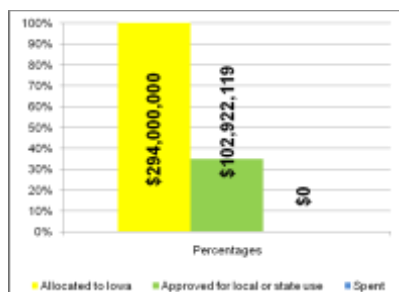
In any disaster, funding sources for recovery and rebuilding are numerous and complex. One goal of the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is to track and report on the flow of recovery funds and work to ensure that those funds reach Iowans in need as quickly as possible.



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

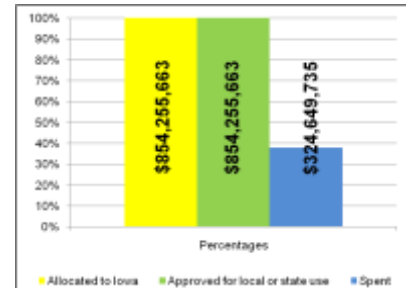
The total amount of FEMA HMGP funds available to Iowa is \$294 million, which is an amount equal to 20 percent of the total estimated assistance provided under the Stafford Act. While this amount is available as a maximum, projects must be approved individually before funds can be spent. NOTE: The remaining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

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FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Funds

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

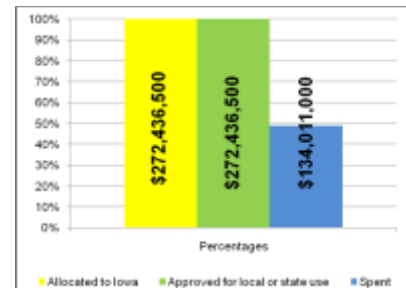
- This funding provides assistance to applicants to conduct emergency work as well as permanent work projects and includes the repair and/or replacement of public infrastructure, buildings, roads, bridges, drainage facilities and parks damaged in the disaster.
- More than \$1.4 billion is expected to 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.

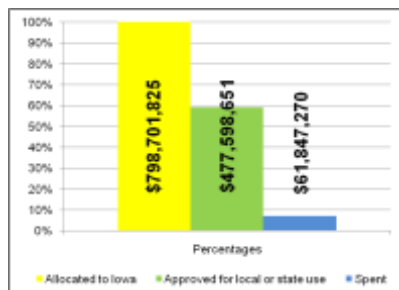


U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Funds

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

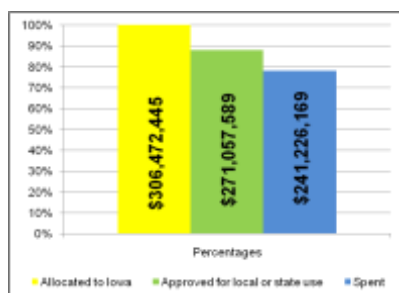




Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

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
 - Jumpstart Small Business
 - Business Rental Assistance Program
 - 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 states 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, 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:

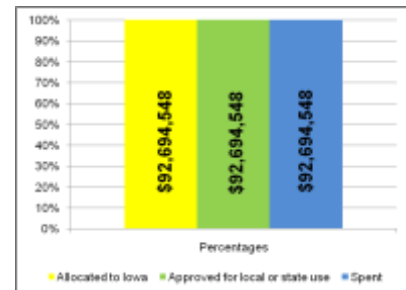
- These programs are administered directly through federal offices including Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Programs include the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) and Rural Development grants and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

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US Army Corps of Engineers

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

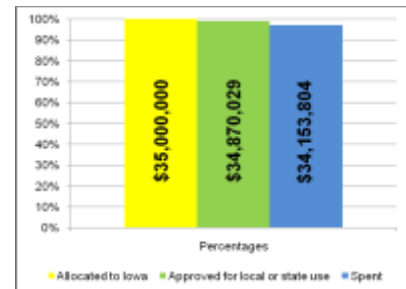
- This program is administered directly through federal offices.
- No state agencies are involved in administering these funds
- These funds are used to repair levees and other floodworks in Iowa.



Initial State Jumpstart Funds

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

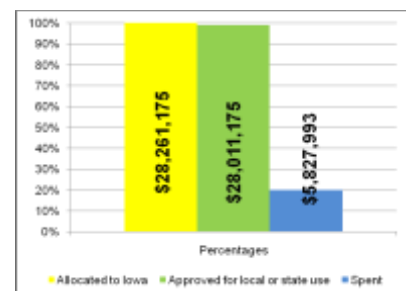
- These funds were made available to disaster-affected Iowans in September 2008.
- Immediately following the disaster, Gov. Culver and the Executive Council transferred funds from other state programs for use in disaster recovery.
- These funds were meant to serve as interim funding and offer immediate 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

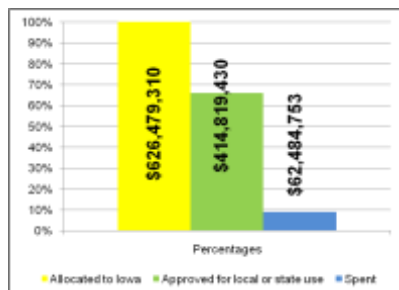


State Executive Council Funds

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

- These funds are 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.

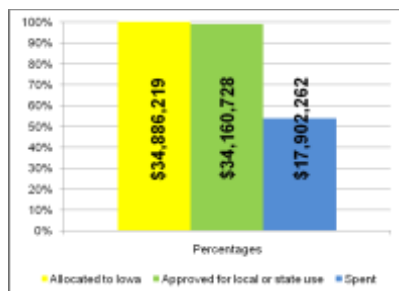




Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits

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:

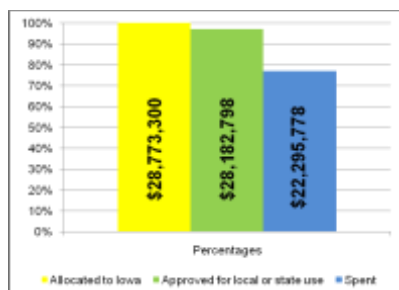
- These Low-Income Housing Tax Credits assist in spurring the development of affordable housing projects around the state.
- These tax credits are targeted for use in communities affected by the 2008 disasters.
- These are not direct funding and do not provide a check to recipients. Because of this,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



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:

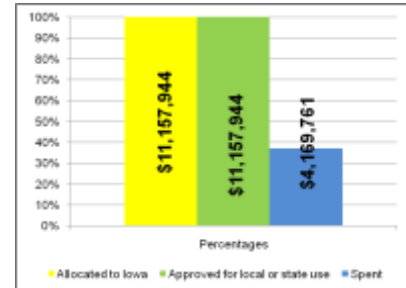
- These funds are currently being used for the Emergency Public Jobs (EPJ) program.
 - This program provides work for disaster-affected and long-term unemployed Iowans on disaster-related projects in affected areas.
 - Individuals can work for approximately 6 months in the program and can earn up to \$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.

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Social Services Block Grant Funds

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

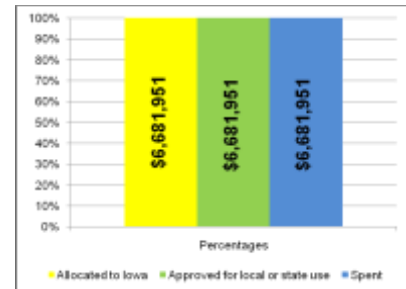
- These funds are primarily being used for disaster-related mental health programs (such as "Ticket to Hope"), public health needs and services for the elderly.



Disaster Unemployment Assistance Funds

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

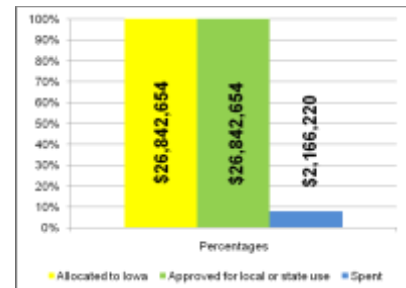
- These funds provided temporary financial assistance to individuals unemployed due to Iowa's summer disasters of 2008.
- This program has ended and is no longer available.



Economic Development Administration (EDA) Funds

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

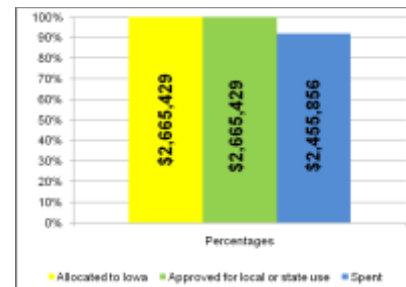
- A small portion of these funds support the development of a strategy for planning the economic recovery from Iowa's summer disasters of 2008 both at the statewide and regional level.
- These funds also support disaster-related infrastructure projects approved on a case-by-case basis and revolving loan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

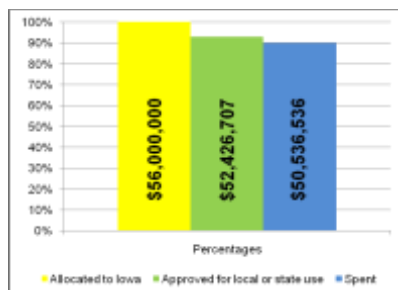




State Scholarship and Grant Reserve Funds

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 for this purpose and funds were all awarded prior to the 2008-2009 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, but all allocated
Applicants: Individuals and communities
Administration: IFA, DHS, HSEMD
Description: These funds allocated by HF64 in February 2009 for the following purposes:

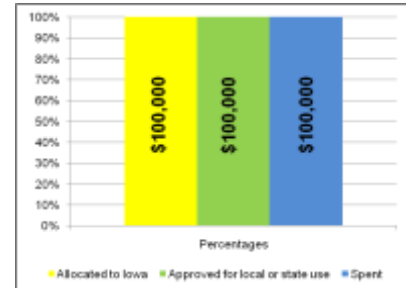
- Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance
 - Includes repair and down payment assistance
 - Administered at the state-level by IFA
 - Administered locally by COGs and Entitlement Cities
 - The application was Sept. 1, 2009.
- Individual Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program
 - Administered at the state-level 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.

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National Endowment for the Arts Emergency Support Funds

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

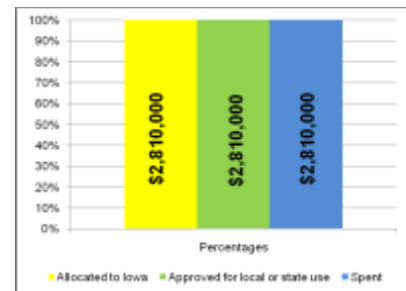
- The Iowa Arts Council (Department of Cultural Affairs) received a \$100,000 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant in 2008 to assist artists and arts organizations in their disaster recovery.
- These funds have been expended and are no longer available.



Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA)

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

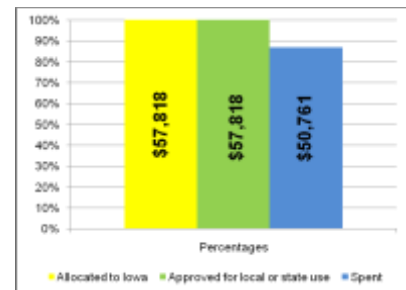
- This program, normally used for loans and forgivable loans to assist small businesses during normal times, was also made available with fewer restrictions to disaster-affected businesses.
- The application period for this program has ended.



Administration on Aging Funds

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

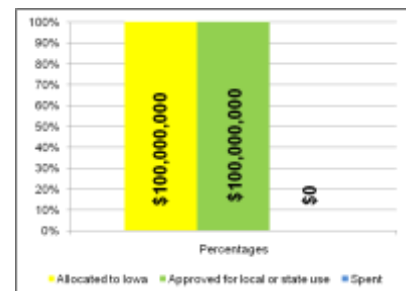
- This was disaster-related funding administered through the IDA.
- This program was a one-time allocation and is complete.

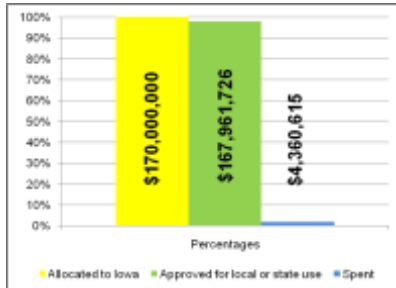


Regents Bonding Funds

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

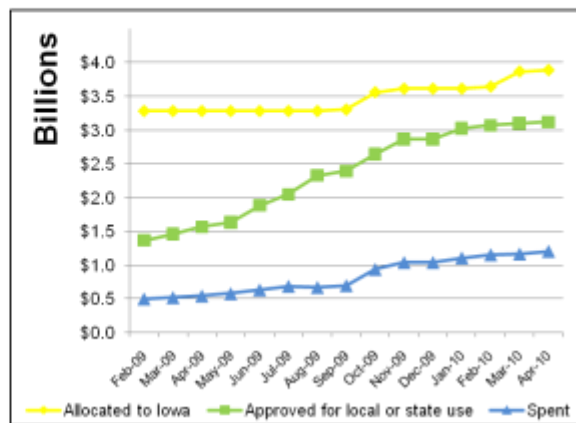
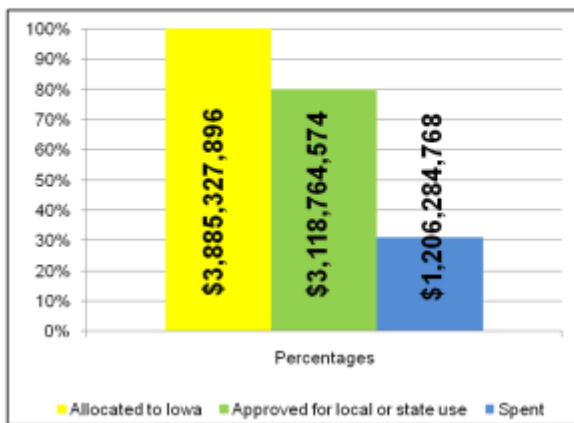
Type: State
Status: Active
Applicants: Local governments, homeowners
Administration: IFA, COGs and cities
Description:

- 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 April 5, 2010)**

Allocated to Iowa: \$3,885,327,896

Approved for Local or State Use: \$3,118,764,574 | Spent: \$1,206,284,768



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Funding Source	Allocation to Iowa	Approved for Local or State Use	Spent
FEMA Housing & Other Needs Assistance	\$136,551,115	\$136,551,115	\$135,359,756
FEMA Infrastructure Funds (Hazard Mitigation & Property Acquisition)	\$294,000,000	\$102,922,119	—
FEMA Public Assistance	\$854,255,663	\$854,255,663	\$324,649,735
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan	\$272,436,500	\$272,436,500	\$134,011,000
Community Development Block Grant	\$798,701,825	\$477,598,651	\$61,847,270
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$306,472,445	\$271,057,589	\$241,226,169
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$92,694,548	\$92,694,548	\$92,694,548
Initial State Funding for Jumpstart Housing & Business Programs	\$35,000,000	\$34,870,029	\$34,153,804
State Executive Council Action	\$28,261,175	\$28,011,175	\$5,827,993
Iowa Finance Authority Tax Credits	\$626,479,310	\$414,819,430	\$62,484,753
U.S. Department of Transportation	\$34,886,219	\$34,160,728	\$17,902,262
National Emergency Grant for Labor/Jobs Assistance	\$28,773,300	\$28,182,798	\$22,295,778
Social Services Block Grant	\$11,157,944	\$11,157,944	\$4,169,761
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951	\$6,681,951
Economic Development Administration	\$26,842,654	\$26,842,654	\$2,166,220
Crisis Counseling Grant	\$2,665,429	\$2,665,429	\$2,455,856
State College Scholarship & Grant Reserve	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64)	\$56,000,000	\$52,426,707	\$50,536,536
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	\$167,961,726	\$4,360,615
Total	\$3,885,327,896	\$3,118,764,574	\$1,206,284,768

Funding as of April 5, 2010.

For monthly updates on disaster recovery funding, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at 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.

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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.

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.

Noninsured 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 floodplain 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.

RIO Quarterly Report: April 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. Recipients are also allowed to receive reimbursement of 75 percent (or up to \$75,000) of the actual replacement costs for damaged equipment.

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 your local Council of Government or Entitlement City.

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.

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.

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.

RIO Quarterly Report: April 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 local Council of Government or Entitlement City.

Preservation Iowa

Preservation Iowa 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 Preservation Iowa at info@preservationiowa.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.

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 not 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

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the RIO requested \$647,014 in state appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 2011.

RIO All Funds	FY 2010 Budget	Total FY 2010 Expenditures (as of March 31, 2010)
Personnel	\$1,434,766	\$983,175
Travel	\$81,163	\$16,122
Supplies	\$22,400	\$2,713
Contractual	\$194,160	\$103,015
Case Management Services	\$1,330,300	\$472,258
Equipment	\$26,575	\$23,061
Other	\$192,546	\$118,675
Total	\$3,281,910	\$1,719,019

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
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
Volunteer/Case Management Specialist	Merit Resources	Jenna Anderson	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

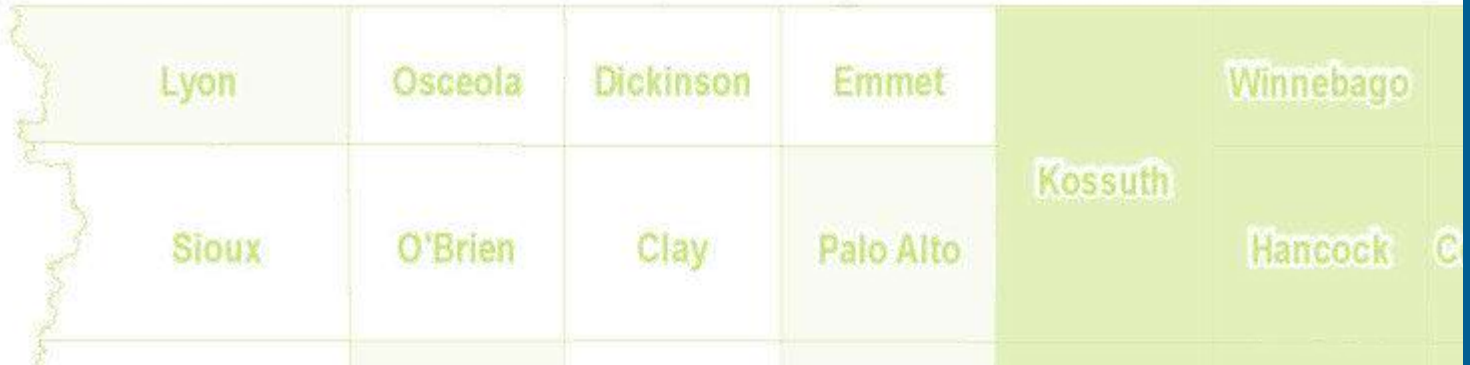
State Public Policy Group

- 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 3/31/2010) — \$205,855



502 E. Ninth Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-242-5004
www.rio.iowa.gov

Rebuild Iowa Office
April 2010

