

## NEWS RELEASE

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# 2010 Iowans Helping Iowans Disaster Assistance Programs Application Deadline set for June 30

## *Iowans Helping Iowans Program deadline set for June 30*

**(DES MOINES)** – Iowans affected by the 2010 natural disasters have through June 30, 2011, to apply for housing, business and unmet needs financial assistance through the Iowans Helping Iowans programs. The Iowa Finance Authority, Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Rebuild Iowa Office with the support of the Iowa Department of Human Services administer the programs.

The Iowans Helping Iowans program is a three-tier initiative that was created in August 2010 to provide housing, small business and unmet needs assistance to Iowans in the 38 presidentially-declared disaster areas for Individual Assistance after the flooding in 2010. The application deadline for the three programs is June 30, 2011. More information and application information is available at: [www.IowansHelpingIowans.com](http://www.IowansHelpingIowans.com). An additional disaster case management program has an application deadline of June 1, 2011.

The 38 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance are: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Wapello, Warren, Webster and Wright Counties.

### **Housing assistance**

- Assistance: Individuals whose homes were damaged by the 2010 natural disaster and are not proposed for buyouts may receive up to \$25,000 for the cost of eligible repair expenses for a disaster-affected home. Down payment assistance for the purchase of a replacement home outside the 100-year flood plain is also available for individuals whose homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. The assistance may not exceed the lesser of 25 percent of the purchase price of the home being purchased or \$25,000.
- Eligibility: Eligible homeowners may receive only one type of assistance under the program. Homeowners must live in a county declared a presidential disaster area for Individual Assistance and must have registered with FEMA and have been awarded FEMA housing assistance.
- Awards: Nearly 150 applications have been approved, totaling more than \$1.8 million in awards to flood-impacted homeowners. There is up to \$7.5 million allocated to this program.
- Administering agency: Iowa Finance Authority

### **Business assistance**

- Assistance: The financial assistance under this program includes forgivable loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for working capital to assist in the disaster-impacted business' survival. The maximum amount of funds available through this Program for businesses is an amount equal to not more than 25 percent of the loan approved by an eligible lender.
- Eligibility: Businesses must first be approved for a disaster-related loan by an eligible lender in order to qualify for the program and must remain open for at least 12 months following the award. Businesses do

not need to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Small Business Administration (SBA) to be eligible.

- Awards: The program has made 42 awards totaling more than \$1.1 million. There is up to \$7.5 million allocated to this program.
- Administering agency: Iowa Department of Economic Development

#### **Unmet Needs assistance**

- Assistance: The Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance program provides qualified households with up to \$2,500 in reimbursement for disaster-related expenditures or through a voucher to be used toward purchase of eligible disaster-related items and services. Qualified uses may include items or services needed to overcome a disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse condition resulting in costs or damages related to personal property, home repair, food assistance, child care or temporary housing.
- Eligibility: Individuals must have applied for FEMA assistance and SBA assistance if applicable. Applicant households must be citizens of the United States or legally residing in the United States and have an annual income equal to or less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level for a household of that size.
- Awards: The program has made 356 awards totaling \$548,402 in assistance to Iowans with unmet needs. There is up to \$5 million allocated to this program.
- Administering agency: Rebuild Iowa Office with the support of the Iowa Department of Human Services

#### **Disaster Case Management**

- Assistance: The Disaster Case Management program provides one-on-one advocacy to Iowans trying to navigate through the disaster recovery process. Case management advocates work directly with individuals and families to determine their unmet needs and assist with recovery efforts. Advocates will remain in contact with clients as much as necessary to assess how each person is doing in their recovery plan. Case Management assistance is available through June 1, 2011. Additional information is available at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).
- Eligibility: Individuals must reside in one of the 38 presidentially-declared disaster areas for Individual Assistance after the flooding in 2010, and have disaster-caused unmet needs.
- Awards: This program has provided disaster case advocacy services to connect more than 600 households to monetary and in-kind disaster recovery resources. There is up to \$650,000 allocated to this program.
- Administering agency: The Iowa Community Action Association, which was provided a grant from the Rebuild Iowa Office.