

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2010

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Governor Culver Urges Iowans to Apply for Disaster Assistance

Homeowners, businesses and individuals urged to seek assistance

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver today urged Iowa homeowners, businesses and individuals affected by severe weather and flooding to register for state and federal flood assistance.

“If you are an Iowan who has been affected by recent flooding around the state, it is very important that you immediately contact one of the agencies handling assistance,” said Culver. “Being signed up is the trigger for getting assistance, and we do not want Iowans to lose out on help just because they miss a deadline – please call in right away if you have been affected.”

Federal Assistance

A Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance has been issued for 32 counties: Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

Individual Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties may immediately begin registering for assistance online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time). Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves, details on insurance coverage, and any other information to help substantiate losses.

These 32 counties that have been declared for Individual Assistance will be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration that authorized Public Assistance funding for 32 counties on July 29 and 18 counties on August 13. Public Assistance funds are available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. For a list of counties authorized for Public Assistance, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. State and FEMA officials will be conducting outreach to affected public and eligible non-profit entities to encourage attendance at one of a number of applicant briefings that will be conducted throughout the affected areas.

State Assistance

As of today, residents in 21 counties are covered by disaster proclamations and may register for state Individual Assistance from storms in June, July and August: Keokuk County was added today to the previous list that includes Appanoose, Boone, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Clay, Davis, Dickinson, Emmet, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Monona, Monroe, Palo Alto, Shelby, Van Buren, Wapello, and Washington.

Individuals in these counties should call the State Individual Assistance Program at 1-866-434-4692 or visit www.dhs.iowa.gov and click on the Storm Help link.

Residents of the other 31 counties were previously eligible for the state Individual Assistance program and are now eligible for federal Individual Assistance - and therefore are no longer able to apply for the state Individual Assistance Program. The activation of the federal program supersedes the state program, essentially "turning off" the state program and replacing it with the federal program. The federal program is less restrictive than the state program.

In addition, agricultural producers who sustained losses from recent flooding and severe weather may be eligible to apply for assistance through their local Farm Service Agency office. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA and select the State Offices link at the top of the page for more information.

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