

## **29 Counties Added to July Disaster Declaration Families and Businesses Now Eligible for Federal Aid**

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver has received word that 29 Iowa counties have been added to a July Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

"I am pleased to see the Presidential Disaster Declaration for these counties," Culver said. "We will continue to assess the flood-related damages and get Iowans the assistance they need to recover from the recent severe weather and flooding."

The disaster declaration makes federal assistance available to affected individuals and families in these 29 counties. Disaster 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.

**The counties included in the declaration are:** Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

The State will ask for joint preliminary damage assessments to be conducted with FEMA and local officials in counties most recently impacted by the flooding and to request Individual Assistance be granted for those counties.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties may immediately begin registering for assistance online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://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.

The declaration follows a visit to Iowa today by FEMA Region VII Regional Administrator Beth Freeman. Freeman joined Governor Culver on a tour of damaged areas in Des Moines and Colfax, and also made a stop in Oskaloosa.

"Today, I visited communities throughout central Iowa to get a firsthand look at the damages caused by recent flooding," said Freeman. "Citizens and entire communities have rallied together to fight the floodwaters and they should be commended. I also compliment the state and local officials who have worked quickly to provide residents with important commodities and taken other critical steps to protect life and property."

***Continued: 29 Counties Added to July Disaster Declaration – Aug. 15, 2010***

These 29 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.

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