

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Culver Announces More Counties Added to Disaster Declaration Jasper, Mahaska and Polk County Residents Now Eligible for Federal Aid

DES MOINES – Today, Governor Chet Culver received word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that three additional Iowa counties – Jasper, Polk and Mahaska – have been added to a July Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

These three counties are in addition to 29 counties that were declared eligible for Individual Assistance on Aug. 15. Those 29 counties 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.

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 24/7 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.

Citizens in non-declared counties who may have experienced damage from severe weather and flooding since June 1 may also report their information to FEMA by calling the telephone registration number. This information will be used to help the state and FEMA determine if additional damage assessments should be conducted and whether or not their county should be added to the current disaster declaration. Residents in all counties that are now eligible for federal Individual Assistance 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. The federal program is less restrictive than the state program.

The 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 Aug. 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. Click here for a map of counties authorized for both Public and Individual Assistance.

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