

## **Approval of Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan Ensures Continued Eligibility for Increased Federal Funding**

DES MOINES – The recent approval of the state’s enhanced hazard mitigation plan will ensure Iowa’s continued eligibility for increased federal hazard mitigation funding.

On Sept. 23, 2010, the State of Iowa received approval of its updated 2010 Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation plan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The enhanced plan allows the state to continue to receive higher funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) following Presidentially-declared disasters (20 percent of federal disaster expenditures vs. 15 percent without an enhanced plan). Because Iowa has had an enhanced plan for several years, an additional estimated \$123 million has been granted to the state for hazard mitigation projects since the severe winter storms in March 2007. Iowa is one of only ten states or territories that has an enhanced plan status.

Enhanced funding is a two-part process. States must update a standard hazard mitigation plan every three years to receive the 15 percent base level of hazard mitigation funding (and to receive funding for all Public Assistance program permanent work). Iowa received approval of its standard plan on Sept. 18, 2010. Without an approved standard hazard mitigation plan, Iowa would have lost access to an estimated \$1.85 billion in funding for hazard mitigation and Public Assistance programs over the past three years. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is an inter-agency plan that integrates local and state planning efforts through the State Hazard Mitigation Team and includes a statewide hazard analysis and a risk assessment of all natural and human-made hazards that may affect the state. This information is used to develop statewide hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and measures implemented through state and local jurisdictions to address priority hazards. The planning process and plan development are led by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD).

Approval of the enhanced plan demonstrates a state’s overall capability to develop and sustain integrated mitigation planning at the local and state levels. The enhanced plan criteria requires integration of the plan with other types of state planning requirements, increased capacity and demonstrated capability for effectively managing federal grant funding and the ability to track and measure performance outcomes of completed mitigation projects.

“We want to thank all involved in putting this together and working towards its approval,” said HSEMD Administrator David L. Miller. “While the approval of this enhanced plan is important because of the increased dollars that may be made available to the State, it is also a testament to the status, level of effort and importance we give to mitigation throughout the State of Iowa.”

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“I am thrilled the state of Iowa continues to take extra steps to ensure that mitigation efforts are integrated into the state’s planning requirements,” said Beth Freeman, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VII. “Mitigation projects help disaster-impacted communities become more disaster-resistant and Iowa’s updated Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan will provide the state with more opportunities to create strong, resilient communities.”

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