

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Holds Applicant Briefings ***Public Assistance Funding Now Available for Six Iowa Counties***

DES MOINES – Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, along with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will hold three applicant briefings next week as a result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration made by President Obama earlier this week.

Public Assistance

The declaration by the President will provide federal funding to **Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas,** and **Sac** counties under the Public Assistance Program. Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities and select nonprofit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, and to cover costs of emergency work and debris removal during the storms.

The following Public Assistance Program briefings will take place beginning Monday, May 9, 2011:

For prospective applicants located in Monona County

- Monday, May 9, 2011 (2 p.m.) at the Mapleton Community Center, 513 Main St., Mapleton
- Contact: Randy Ross (712) 420-2218

For prospective applicants located in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Pocahontas and Sac counties

- Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (9 a.m.) at the Buena Vista Law Enforcement Center, Training Room, 411 Expansion Blvd., Storm Lake
- Contact: Aimee Barritt (712) 221-0526

For prospective Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) applicants in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas and Sac counties

- Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (1 p.m.) at the Buena Vista Law Enforcement Center, Training Room, 411 Expansion Blvd., Storm Lake
- Contact: Aimee Barritt (712) 221-0526

Each applicant will be provided with a “Request for Public Assistance” form to complete and submit prior to leaving their briefing. HSEMD program administrators recommend that each prospective applicant have the following people in attendance at the meeting:

- The individual who will be responsible for their disaster recovery project coordination;
- The individual who will be responsible for their program-specific accounting and record-keeping;

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- Any other officials (e.g. mayor, city manager, city clerk, public works director, treasurer, county engineer, county auditor, etc.) whom the applicant believes should attend.

Hazard Mitigation

The Governor also received notification that the Presidential Disaster Declaration includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure. The State will make available Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters.

Potentially eligible applicants include state agencies and local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and certain eligible private nonprofits. Applicants must complete and email the appropriate Notice of Interest (NOI) form using the format provided to hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov. The NOI forms can be found on the HSEMD website: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants/HMA.html.

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