

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Branstad Issues Disaster Proclamation for Taylor County

DES MOINES – Governor Terry E. Branstad has issued a disaster emergency proclamation for Taylor County as a result of the tornadoes that struck the county yesterday afternoon.

The governor's proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of this storm. Resources will be used to help remove debris in and around the town of Lenox. The Region 4 Saw Strike Team (southwest Iowa) was deployed at the request of Iowa HSEMD to help clear debris. The Iowa Department of transportation will provide trucks, front-end loaders and chippers. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has sent personnel to assist with debris management and removal.

The proclamation by the governor also launches the Iowa individual disaster assistance grant program, which provides grants up to \$5,000 for households with incomes of up to 200 percent of federal poverty levels, or a maximum of \$37,000 annual income for a family of three.

The governor reminds applicants that original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery.

This year, for the first time, the grant program allows local authorities to establish a voucher system to help people who do not have the up-front funds to begin repairs. Iowans can check with county emergency management coordinators to learn the status of local voucher programs.

Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and for the expense of temporary housing. The grant application and instructions will be available later today for residents of Taylor County via the "Storm Help" link on the front page of the Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.iowa.gov. Applications must be received within 45 days.

For more information, please visit www.Governor.Iowa.gov.

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