

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gov. Branstad Appeals FEMA Denial of Benefits for Iowans Affected by Missouri River Flooding

DES MOINES – Governor Terry E. Branstad has submitted an appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asking it to reconsider its denial of his request to make individual disaster assistance available to Iowans impacted by Missouri River flooding.

On Aug. 4, 2011, FEMA denied the Governor's request to activate the Individual Assistance program, which would provide aid to homeowners, renters and businesses in the affected counties. Following the denial, the Governor directed the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) to work closely with the local emergency management agencies to determine additional damages and impacts caused by the ongoing flooding. In addition, HSEMD worked with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership to gather information from businesses to help show the true economic impact of the Missouri River flooding.

Due to the receding of the Missouri River over the past few weeks, teams of local, state and federal officials recently were able to document additional damages to homes and businesses since the first assessment was done in July. This damage information, along with information on the economic impact to the region, has been used to support the Governor's appeal for activation of the Individual Assistance program.

"This second assessment of damages has shown a significant increase in the number of homes and businesses impacted by the flooding of the Missouri River," said Branstad. "Now we have a much clearer picture of the true extent of the damage to support our appeal to FEMA for assistance."

The FEMA Individual Assistance program, for homeowners, renters and businesses, can include grants and low-interest loans to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other aid programs.

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