

State Continues Distributing Disaster Relief

Since last summer, over \$2 billion has been authorized for flood relief efforts in Iowa. Much of the money is coming from the federal government. As a result, the state must jump through many hoops before actually distributing the money. State funding has been distributed more quickly, but claims for state funding must also be verified before checks are written to disaster victims.

Jumpstart Housing

The difference between federal and state programs is

most stark in the assistance to homeowners. Almost 1,600 applications have been approved, \$28 million has been obligated and \$20 million has been distributed under the state Jumpstart Program. The average grant is \$17,300.

Under the federally funded Jumpstart Program, however, only 782 applications have been approved, obligating about \$13 million, and distributing around \$3 million. One of the time consuming tasks involved in the federal program is verifying that there is no duplication of benefits.

Jumpstart Business

There have been 1,058 applicants for the Jumpstart Business program. As of March 26, 871 have been approved, obligating \$30 million and disbursing \$20 million.

The Jumpstart Iowa Initiative was created to allow homeowners and businesses to apply for forgivable loans to assist in rebuilding, home repair and purchase, and interim-mortgage assistance. More information can be found on the Rebuild Iowa Website at www.rio.iowa.gov/funds.html.