

# Disaster Assistance for Farms and Non-Profits

The Department of Workforce Development and the Rebuild Iowa Office have announced a new program, the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant, to help small businesses, farmers and non-profit organizations affected by the floods and tornadoes of 2008. The program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to help pay for damages.

In order to qualify for the program, a business, non-profit agency or farm must have existed prior to the disaster; have 25 or fewer employees; be located in a county that was declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and experienced a dislocation of at least one worker as a result of the disaster. Businesses do not need to have a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan or have received FEMA assistance in order to qualify for this program.

The grant can be used to reimburse or pay for repairing or replacing property and damaged items. It can also be used to pay for disaster-related insurance co-payments and deductibles, as long as the costs are associated with the business and not the individual.

The grant cannot be used for costs that have been covered by other sources including FEMA, SBA, or Jumpstart funds and insurance claims. Salary payments and capital improvements expenses are not eligible under the program.

About \$1.7 million is available for the program statewide on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Rebuild Iowa Office and Iowa Workforce Development encourage business owners who may be eligible to apply as soon as possible due to the limited amount of grants available. For more information, go to the Rebuild Iowa Website at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).