

Assistance Still Available for 2008 Disaster Victims

Funds are still available to help Iowans affected by the 2008 weather related disasters. However, application deadlines are approaching for some of the Jumpstart funding programs so disaster victims should not wait.

Help is still available through the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program. The program helps disaster-impacted homeowners either make a down payment on a replacement house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgages while waiting for a potential buyout. For down payment assistance and housing rehabilitation assistance, the loan will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the house for five years.

The "Jumpstart Express" Emergency Repair program helps homeowners repair their current home without having to meet all of the requirements of the regular program. This award is also forgiven if the homeowner stays in the house for five years.

To find out more about Jumpstart programs, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at

www.rio.iowa.gov for local contact information, or call the Iowa Concern Hotline at (800) 447-1985.

Jumpstart Housing Update (as of July 23, 2009) including both state and federal funds:

- Total number of applicants: 4,121
- Total amount requested in those applications: \$70.7 million
- Total number of applicants approved to-date: 2,887
- Total amount obligated: \$49.8 million
- Total amount disbursed: \$38.4 million
- Average award: \$17,243
- Applications ineligible for the program: 528

Unmet Needs Assistance

Funding also is still available through the state-funded Iowa Unmet Disaster Grant Program. Impacted Iowans in the 78 counties declared eligible for Individual Assistance last summer are eligible.

The program provides up to \$2,500 per household to help pay for losses or expenses

which have not yet been covered by other forms of assistance. The grants can be used for replacing personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, childcare, transportation and temporary housing incurred because of last year's disasters.

The grants are available to families with household incomes up to three times the federal poverty level. For example, a household of two must make no more than \$43,710 a year.

Applications will be taken through June 30, 2010, or until all funds have been expended. Iowans should call the Long-Term Recovery Committee in their area. If you have moved, apply with the Long-Term Recovery Committee in the area where you lived at the time of the disaster.

To find the office in your area, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office web site at www.rio.iowa.gov for a map and contact information or call the Iowa Concern Hotline at (800) 447-1985.