

# Disaster Recovery Funding Hits \$3.8 Billion Mark

Since the floods and tornadoes of 2008, more than \$3.8 billion has been allocated in federal and state dollars for disaster recovery. These funds cover assistance to communities, businesses, individuals and the state.

Although \$3 billion of those funds already have been approved for projects in Iowa, only \$1.1 billion has been spent. One reason for the difference is that many federal disaster programs operate on a reimbursement basis. This means that, although the funding has been approved for a project, the homeowner, business, or community will not actually receive the money until the project is complete.

Another reason for the difference is that the buyout process for disaster-impacted homes is just starting. The process first requires planning by a community. Once the plan is approved by FEMA, then the buyouts can begin. The slowness in this process has been noted by Iowa officials and is one of the concerns they have expressed to federal disaster officials.

For those who are interested in more details, the Rebuild Iowa Office released a booklet earlier this year explaining the various funding sources. It can be found at [www.rio.iowa.gov/assets/funding\\_charts/funding\\_sources\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/assets/funding_charts/funding_sources_booklet.pdf).

The Rebuild Iowa office says that almost 40,000 Iowans registered with FEMA for assistance and more than 35,000 Iowans visited FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers around the state. Of the 85 Iowa counties eligible for federal assistance, 77 are eligible for both individual assistance and public assistance.