

Counties Added to Presidential Disaster Declaration

Governor Culver announced that 32 counties have been granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration, making Iowans living in these counties eligible for federal individual assistance. Individual Assistance can be used for temporary housing or home repairs, loans to cover the replacement of uninsured property, and other programs to help individuals and businesses.

The 32 counties are Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

Residents and businesses in these counties can register for assistance online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY). The toll-free numbers are available from 7 am to 10 pm daily.

Disaster Unemployment Insurance Benefits

If you live or work in one of these 32 counties, and have lost your job due to the recent bad weather, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. Claims need to be filed by September 17, 2010, at an Iowa Workforce Development Center.

The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including Iowa farmers. People applying for DUA need to provide proof of past earnings, such as business records or bank statements, and their most recent income tax form, at the time they file their claim.

Any Iowa Workforce Development Center can accept DUA claims, including the following offices located in the affected counties:

Algona: (515) 295-7219	Maquoketa: (563) 652-5000
Ames: (515) 232-6572	Mason City: (641) 422-1524
Cherokee: (712) 225-2274	Newton: (641) 792-5131
Creston: (641) 782-2119	Oelwein: (319) 283-2751
Dakota City/Humboldt: (515) 332-2145	Orange City: (712) 707-9870
Decorah: (563) 382-0457	Oskaloosa: (641) 673-9494
Des Moines: (515) 281-9619	Osceola: (641) 342-4955
Dubuque: (563) 556-5800	Pella: (641) 628-4511
Fort Dodge: (515) 576-3131	Red Oak: (712) 623-2569
Fort Madison: (319) 372-4412	Spencer: (712) 262-1971
Keokuk: (319) 524-1862	Waterloo: (319) 235-2123
Manchester: (563) 927-4447	Webster City: (515) 832-5261

State Assistance

There are 21 counties that are still eligible for state individual assistance. These counties have not yet been designated with a presidential declaration. The activation of the federal program supersedes the state program, essentially "turning off" the state program and replacing it with the federal program.

Residents in these 21 counties may register for state individual assistance: Appanoose, Boone, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Clay, Davis, Dickinson, Emmet, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Monona, Monroe, Palo Alto, Shelby, Van Buren, Wapello, and Washington.

Individuals in these counties should call the State Individual Assistance Program at 1-866-434-4692 or visit www.dhs.iowa.gov and click on the Storm Help link.

Farmer Assistance

Agricultural producers who have persistent losses from recent weather may be eligible to apply for assistance through their local Farm Service Agency office. Visit this website, www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA, and select the State Offices link at the top of the page for more information. Or you can stop by your local FSA county office.

Certain Replacement Fees Waived

Governor Culver also issued a disaster proclamation waiving fees for replacement copies of vital records and vehicle registration documents. An affected person must submit a written statement that the original record was destroyed in any of the declared disaster counties because of the disaster.

Replacement records can be obtained for certified copies or short forms of a certificate or record; registrations and titles for snowmobiles, boats, and all terrain vehicles; and hunting and fishing licenses and hunter safety certificates.

The counties where duplicate records can be obtained are: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Webster, and Wright.