



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chet Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge
Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

HF 64 DISASTER RELIEF - SUMMARY

HF 64, a bill that appropriates \$56 million for three programs (Jumpstart Housing, Community Disaster Grants, and Individual Unmet Needs Grants) and authorizes the Rebuild Iowa Office, was signed by the Governor on 2/2/09. The bill received unanimous support in both the House and Senate.

Division I appropriates \$24 million from the Iowa economic emergency fund to the Iowa Finance Authority for Jumpstart Housing assistance to eligible residents with a family income equal to or less than 150% of area median income. Applications must be submitted by 9/1/09. Forgivable loans of up to \$24,999 are authorized, with first priority given to eligible residents who have not previously received Jumpstart Housing funding; second priority to eligible residents who have received less than \$24,999 in Jumpstart Housing funding in the past; and third priority to eligible residents who have previously received \$24,999 but continue to have unmet needs for down payment assistance, emergency housing repair or rehabilitation, interim mortgage assistance, or energy efficiency assistance. Unobligated funds do not revert until the close of the following fiscal year. Division I takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to 9/1/2008.

Division II appropriates \$10 million from the Iowa economic emergency fund to the Department of Human Services to provide individual disaster grants for unmet needs. The DHS will establish and administer an Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program to reimburse eligible participants with an income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. Assistance is capped at \$2,500 for unreimbursed expenses limited to personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, and temporary housing that were incurred due to disaster occurring after 5/24/08 and before 8/14/08. The case management program established by the Rebuild Iowa Office will assist long-term recovery committees in determining eligibility and certification of unmet needs, and help to ensure that the grants are nonduplicative. A voucher system is authorized that ensures sufficient data collection to discourage and prevent fraud. Assistance is capped at \$2,500. \$250,000 of the \$10 million is transferred to the Department of Human Rights to be used as state match for Individual Development Accounts. Unobligated funds do not revert until the close of the following fiscal year. Division II takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to 5/24/2008. *(NOTE: A separate bill, SF478, appropriates \$1 million*

from this program to the Rebuild Iowa Office for grants to long-term recovery committees, and \$1.15 million for grants to seven tornado-damaged communities. SF478 also authorizes long-term recovery committees to seek reimbursement for direct grants made to fill unmet needs.)

Division III appropriates \$22 million from the Iowa economic emergency fund to the Department of Public Defense, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), for grants to cities and counties based on their pro rata share of damage costs associated with the 2008 presidential disaster declaration DR-1763-IA. Eligible counties (85) and all cities in those counties must submit a written application to HSEMD by 4/1/09 with information on their proposed use of the moneys. Eligible uses include 1) nonprofit organization assistance; 2) public purchase of land and accompanying structures; 3) repair, replacement or upgrade of public infrastructure damaged by disaster; 4) increased costs associated with revaluing property due to natural disaster; 5) small business assistance) and 6) assistance for replacing or rehabilitating housing. Grant recipients must report the allocation of moneys to HSEMD by 1/1/2010, and HSEMD must forward copies to the governor and general assembly by 1/8/2010. Unobligated funds do not revert until the close of the following fiscal year. Division III takes effect upon enactment.

Division IV creates a Rebuild Iowa Office with a sunset of 6/30/2011. HSEMD is directed to provide administrative support. The governor shall appoint an executive director, subject to Senate confirmation. Division IV establishes the duties and reporting requirements of the office and creates a coordinating council with members from various state agencies, local governments, and legislators. Coordinating council members will not receive per diem payments nor mileage reimbursement. The executive director may request representation from other state agencies. Division IV takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to 6/27/2008. *(Note: A separate bill, HF809, appropriates state funding for FY10 and provides 12 FTEs for the Rebuild Iowa Office.)*