



FEMA

November 9, 2020
DR-4557-IA/Severe weather RU008
HSEMD: HSEMDpio@iowa.gov
FEMA News Desk: (816) 283-7095

Recovery Update

Nearly \$33 million approved for derecho survivors in Iowa

So far, nearly **\$33 million** in federal assistance has been approved for Iowans in Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clinton, Jasper, Linn, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story and Tama counties.

FEMA has approved more than **\$10 million** in Individual Assistance grants for more than **2,752** households. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved more than **\$22.9 million** in disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and small businesses.

While the registration period has ended that does not mean FEMA is leaving. The Agency will continue working with the **State of Iowa** to help survivors and communities in their long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts.

Once you've registered, it's important to stay in touch with FEMA to track your application or to notify the agency of changes to your mailing or email addresses or phone numbers, and to report insurance settlements, ongoing unmet needs or additional damage you may have discovered.

FEMA staff may contact you for various reasons, including to discuss your case or request additional information. Answer those phone calls to make sure your application process continues. For more information go to: <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/simple-tips-getting-help-disasterassistancegov>

If you are in any doubt when receiving a call from someone stating they work for FEMA, do not give out any information, but call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. CST to verify the call is legitimate. For more information go to: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20200901/avoid-another-disaster-beware-fraud>

When Iowans registered with FEMA, they may have been referred to the SBA. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters. This assistance helps with uncompensated repairs or rebuilding efforts and the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.

To reach an SBA Customer Service Representative directly call **800-659-2955**. Email questions to FOCWAssistance@sba.gov. For more information, visit sba.gov/disaster.

How to Appeal a FEMA Decision

Iowa residents who sustained damage from the August 10 derecho may receive a letter from FEMA saying they are ineligible for disaster assistance and can appeal the decision if they disagree.

[For more information on the appeal process click here.](#)

Basic FEMA Information for Iowa Homeowners and Renters

General Information for Everyone

- Please continue removing debris, making repairs, and doing needed work.
- Document your damage with photos and video.
- Save all receipts and contractor estimates.
- Insurance is your first line of defense. Be sure to file your insurance claims. Stay in touch with your insurance company. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments.

Assistance for Homeowners

- For losses not covered by insurance, FEMA can provide grants to homeowners for:
 - Basic home repairs to help make a primary residence habitable
 - Temporary rental assistance for people who need to relocate
 - Other needs, such as replacing essential personal property that was damaged
 - Lodging expense reimbursement for eligible households who may have stayed in a hotel for a short period of time

Assistance for Renters

- For losses not covered by insurance, FEMA can provide grants to renters for:
 - Temporary rental assistance for people who need to relocate
 - Other needs, such as replacing essential personal property that was damaged
 - Lodging expense reimbursement for eligible households who may have stayed in a hotel for a short period of time. [For more information on lodging reimbursement please click here.](#)

Iowa Disaster Recovery Resources

The State of Iowa has established a recovery website to help survivors from the August severe storms. Go to disasterrecovery.iowa.gov/ for a list of available resources and helpful information.

FEMA Public Assistance Program

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations.

The following counties are eligible for Categories A-G at a federal cost share of not less than 75 percent: Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clinton, Dallas, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story and Tama counties.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures throughout the state.

Disaster Legal Services

FEMA, in cooperation with the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, establishes a toll-free number for disaster survivors to request legal assistance when help is needed with their cases. The Disaster Legal Services Helpline number is 877-469-2259 and the hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additional Information:

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management: www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov
- Iowa Disaster Recovery Resources: <https://disasterrecovery.iowa.gov/>
- Iowa Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IowaHSEMD>
- Iowa Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IowaHSEMD>
- Iowa YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/iowahomelandsecurity>
- FEMA Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov
- USDA Assistance: farmers.gov/recover

###