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For More Information:
Roger Munns (515) 281-4848
Tina Potthoff (515) 975-9211

Deadline to Apply for Iowa ‘Unmet Needs’ Disaster Grant Program is Oct. 16

More than 7,000 Iowans Helped by Program So Far

DES MOINES, Iowa— A program providing grants up to \$2,500 to help low- and moderate-income Iowans recover from the storms and floods of 2008 will end later this month as the majority of the funds have been claimed. Approximately \$1.5 million of the \$7.85 million allocated to the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program remains. More than 7,000 Iowans in approximately 3,000 households have been assisted by the program so far.

The deadline for people to apply for the remaining funds is Oct. 16. This is the last day impacted Iowans can submit an application to their local Long-Term Recovery Committee. Applications that qualify will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until the grants are no longer available.

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program was launched in March and is part of the \$56 million Rebuild Iowa Bill (House File 64) that was signed into law by Governor Chet Culver in February. It is just one of the many programs put in place under the Culver/Judge Administration to rebuild after the state’s largest disaster ever.

The program provides grants up to \$2,500 per household to help pay for losses or expenses that were not covered by insurance, charities or government programs. The grants are to be used for personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, transportation and temporary housing. The grants are designed to cover immediate unmet needs for impacted individuals living in counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance between May 24 and Aug. 14, 2008. Eligible households are those with incomes at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

The program reimburses eligible expenses or, in cases where the applicant does not have up-front funds, can provide a voucher which will be paid to a vendor for an item or service. Due to the application deadline, those applying now are asked to have receipts or vendor estimates in hand when submitting paperwork to their local Long-Term Recovery Committee.

To find out more about the program or to make a last-minute application, call the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985 or go to the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov and click on “Disaster Recovery Case Management” tab to make an

appointment with your local Long-Term Recovery Committee. Applications must first be screened by local Long-Term Recovery Committees before being sent to the Iowa Dept. of Human Services (DHS) for payment.

The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program is separate from the low-income Individual Disaster Assistance grant program, which is also administered by the DHS. The state's Individual Assistance program provides grants up to \$5,000 for households with incomes at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines during disasters that are strictly Governor-declared. For more information on this program, click on "Storm Help" on the DHS Web site at <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/>