



BILL SUMMARY

Disaster Assistance HF 64

Status of Bill: On Calendar
Committee: Rebuild Iowa
Floor Manager: Rep. Tyler Olson/Rep. Dave Jacoby
Research Analyst: Paulee Lipsman 515-281-5230
paulee.lipsman@legis.state.ia.us

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Background:

This legislation provides funding from the \$155 million economic emergency fund for disaster recovery relief. (There is \$620 million in the cash reserve and the economic emergency fund.) The funding totals \$56 million. It is divided among three programs. The last amendment will basically become the bill.

I. Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program - \$24 million

- Creates a jumpstart housing program through the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) using certain entitlement cities and Councils of Government to distribute funding for disaster affected homes
- An eligible resident has a family income equal to or less than 150% of the county median family income
- Must be the owner of record and residing in the disaster affected home
- Disaster affected home is a dwelling destroyed or damaged due to a natural disaster occurring after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008.
- Must be eligible to get a bank or SBA loan
- Forgivable loan for not more than 10 years
- Cap of \$24,999
- Preference is to be given in this order:
 - Received no Jumpstart aid yet
 - Received aid but not equal to the \$24,999 cap
 - Received up to \$24,999 but still has unmet needs
- Can be used for down payment assistance, housing repair or rehabilitation, interim mortgage assistance
- May also receive energy efficiency assistance
- No more than 3% can be used for administrative cost.
- Any unused money given to a local government participant (entitlement city or COG) may be reclaimed and reallocated
- Effective retroactively to September 1, 2008

II. Disaster and Individual Assistance Grants - \$ 10 million

- Session law only
- Cap of \$2,500 per household
- Households up to 300% of Federal Poverty Level
- Eligible if county declared a presidential and/or state disaster area in 2008
- Can be used for personal needs and mental health expenses
- Administered by DHS. DHS is not to be reimbursed for administrated costs of administrating these grants
- Effective upon enactment

III. Community Disaster Grants - \$22 million

- Grants to cities and counties based on their pro rata share of the total statewide damage costs associated with the natural disasters occurring after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008, as calculated by FEMA as of January 1, 2009.
- Grants can be used for:
 - Buyout programs other than FEMA buyouts
 - Small Business assistance
 - Nonprofit assistance
 - Incentives for replacing or rehabilitating housing stock lost in disaster
 - Public Infrastructure – repair or replacement
 - Cost of revaluating and reassessing property due to a natural disaster occurring in 2008.
- Written report back to DOM on uses of money by January 1, 2010. DOM to forward report to governor and general assembly
- 0% to be used for administration or overhead by cities or counties
- Effective upon enactment

IV. Rebuild Iowa Office

- Creates Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) for purpose of coordinating the state activities associated with the rebuilding efforts following the natural disasters occurring in Iowa after May 24 and before August 14, 2008
- Homeland security and emergency management division is to provide administrative support
- Executive director appointed by Governor
- Rebuild Office shall do the following:
 - Enter into contracts
 - Receive intradepartmental and interdepartmental transfers of money
 - Perform other lawful actions consistence with purpose of office
 - Establish and pursue short-term priorities for recovery and long-term plans for redevelopment
 - Establish federal and state goal for recovery and rebuilding efforts and coordinate those efforts among governmental entities
 - Identify funding sources and innovative financing alternatives to adequately fund recovery and redevelopment
 - Receive federal moneys and establish guidelines for disbursing money
 - Establish timelines and benchmarks to gauge progress

- Provide means for public input regarding the recovery process
- Provide state and local government with guidance for long-term recovery and redevelopment
- Submit written report by January 31, 2010 and 2011 to governor and general assembly on offices activities
- Established a Coordinating council to facilitate communication between state agencies and RIO office
 - Department of economic development
 - Iowa finance authority
 - Department of human services
 - Department of education
 - Department of cultural affairs
 - College student aid commission
 - Department of public health
 - Department of workforce development
 - Department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division
 - Board of regents
 - Department of transportation
 - Department of natural resources
 - Department of management
 - Department of elderly affairs
- All state agencies shall, to the greatest extent practical, cooperate with and provide support to RIO
- Governor may assign any executive branch employee to serve in the rebuild Iowa office
- Repealed June 30, 2011
- Effective retroactively to June 27, 2008

Amendment Summary

H-1001 – Committee Amendment. THIS AMENDMENT IS TO BE WITHDRAWN.

- Rewrites Division I to provide \$24 million to Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) to continue current Jumpstart Housing program with the following modifications:
 - An eligible resident has a family income equal to or less than 150% of the area median income (current program is 100% of area median income)
 - Caps jumpstart housing forgivable loan at \$24,999
 - Preference for the \$24 million is to be given in this order:
 - Received no Jumpstart aid yet
 - Received aid but not equal to the \$24,999 cap
 - Received up to \$24,999 but still has unmet needs
- Clarifies individual disaster grants are only for expenses incurred due to the natural disaster that occurred between May 24 and August 14, 2008
- Makes the effective date for the new individual disaster grants retroactive to May 24, 2008
- Adds the department of agriculture and land stewardship to the RIO Council

H-1002 by Thomas

Provides oversight of the Rebuild Iowa office through the Government Oversight committee and requires weekly report to the senate rebuild Iowa committee and the house rebuild Iowa/disaster relief committee.

H- xxx – By T. Olson

DIVISION I. JUMPSTART HOUSING

- Establishes another version of the Jumpstart Housing Program. Appropriates \$24 million from the economic emergency fund to the Iowa Finance Authority.
- Uses most of the criteria for the current Jumpstart program with the following changes.
 - An eligible resident has a family income equal to or less than 150% of the county median family income
 - Cap of \$24,999
 - Preference is to be given in this order:
 - Received no Jumpstart aid yet
 - Received aid but not equal to the \$24,999 cap
 - Received up to \$24,999 but still has unmet needs. Cannot get more than another \$24,999.
- Can be used for down payment assistance, housing repair or rehabilitation, interim mortgage assistance
- May also receive energy efficiency assistance
- No more than 3% can be used for administrative cost.
- Any unused money given to a local government participant (entitlement city or COG) may be reclaimed and reallocated
- Effective retroactively to September 1, 2008

DIVISION II. IOWA UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

- Appropriates \$10 million from the economic emergency fund to department of human services.
 - Of the \$10 million, \$250,000 is transferred to the department of human rights for deposit in the individual development account state match to account holders affected by a presidential declared natural disaster in 2008. Must have household income of no more than 300% of the federal poverty level (for a family of four in 2009 that is \$66,150).
- The unmet needs disaster grant program will reimburse expenses for unmet needs for persons located in presidentially declared disaster areas for a disaster occurring after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008.
- A grant recipient shall not receive more than \$2500 per household. A grant recipient shall have an annual income that is no more than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.
- Eligibility for the grants will be determined by area long-term disaster committees and the disaster recovery case management program
- Reimbursement for unmet expenses can be receive in one of two ways
 - After presenting a receipt for an eligible unmet need
 - By receiving a voucher based on a voucher system created by DHS in cooperation with the long-term disaster committees.
- Unmet needs eligible for reimbursement include personal property loss, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, childcare and temporary housing. These grants shall not supplant any other financial assistance or grants.
- The area long-term committees are to be repaid for administrative cost not to exceed 3% of the grant moneys awarded for an area

- Moneys not used this fiscal year will not revert but will remain available for this purpose in the next fiscal year.
- DHS may adopt emergency rules.
- Effective upon enactment and retroactive to May 24, 2008.

DIVISION III. COMMUNITY DISASTER GRANTS

- \$22 million from the economic emergency fund to the department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division for grants to cities and counties in disaster areas.
- The department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division shall allocate the moneys appropriated under this section and award grants to cities and counties based on their pro rata share of damage costs associated with presidential disaster declaration DR-1763-IA occurring after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008, as calculated by obligated funds from the federal emergency management agency individual assistance program and small business administration disaster loan program as of date of enactment for this division of the Act. Every city and county in the disaster area shall get at least \$2,000.
- Moneys awarded under this section shall be used by the recipient for disaster related costs not otherwise funded by federal or non-federal resources and for any of the following purposes:
 - (1) Nonprofit organization assistance.
 - (2) Assistance for the public purchase of land and accompanying structures if financial assistance for such purchases is not available from the federal emergency management agency or when a non-federal match is required for a grant involved in the public purchase of land and accompanying structures.
 - (3) Assistance for the repair, replacement or upgrade of public infrastructure damaged by the disaster including measures to assist in mitigation future damage due to natural disasters.
 - (4) Assistance for increased costs associated with the revaluation and assessment of property due to a natural disaster occurring in 2008.
 - (5) Small business assistance
 - (6) Assistance for the replacement or rehabilitation of housing.
- Upon enactment of this act, the department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division shall notify each eligible recipient of the availability of funds and the associated application process.
- By April 1, 2009, each eligible grant recipient under this section shall submit a written application in the form as specified by the department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division. This application shall contain information on the recipient's proposed uses of the moneys.
- After April 1, 2009, any funds allocated to an eligible grant recipient that does not complete and submit an application by April 1, 2009, will be re-allocated on a pro rata share as defined in paragraph 2(a) of this division.
- Grant recipients must report by January 1, 2010, to homeland security on the uses of the money. Homeland security will report to the governor and general assembly by January 8, 2010.
- Non reversion language and authority to adopt emergency rules
- Effective upon enactment

DIVISION IV. REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

- Creates Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) for purpose of coordinating the state activities associated with the rebuilding efforts following the natural disasters occurring in Iowa after May 24 and before August 14, 2008
- Homeland security and emergency management division is to provide administrative support

- Executive director appointed by Governor *and confirmed by Senate. The executive director shall annually compile a comprehensive budget which reflects all fiscal matters to the operation of the office in accordance with section 8.23*
- Rebuild Office shall do the following:
 - Enter into contracts
 - Receive intradepartmental and interdepartmental transfers of money
 - Perform other lawful actions consistency with purpose of office
 - Establish and pursue short-term priorities for recovery and long-term plans for redevelopment
 - Establish federal and state goal for recovery and rebuilding efforts and coordinate those efforts among governmental entities
 - Identify funding sources and innovative financing alternatives to adequately fund recovery and redevelopment
 - *Assist in establishing guidelines for the disbursing of federal moneys.*
 - *Establish goals, benchmarks, and objectives by which progress in disaster recovery and long-term reconstruction can be measured. Such goals, benchmarks, and objectives shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:*
 - *Measures on returning displaced residents to permanent homes*
 - *Progress on economic restoration in disaster areas such as opening or reopening of businesses, employment, and sales tax receipts*
 - *Progress on the public purchase of land and accompanying structures both with and without financial assistance from the federal emergency management agency.*
 - *Progress on natural disaster forecasting, watershed management, and floodplain management*
 - *Measures on the expediency of obligation and distribution of federal and state moneys for disaster recovery*
 - Provide means for public input regarding the recovery process
 - Provide state and local government with guidance for long-term recovery and redevelopment
 - Submit written report by *January 10, April 10, July 10 and October 10 each year* to governor and general assembly on offices activities. *The report shall include an updated budgetary and financial analysis including full-time equivalent positions, and progress in obtaining goals, benchmarks, and objectives established above.*
- Established a Coordinating council to facilitate communication between state agencies and RIO office. *No per diem or actual expenses will be reimbursed.*
 - Department of economic development
 - Iowa finance authority
 - Department of human services
 - Department of education
 - Department of cultural affairs
 - College student aid commission
 - Department of public health
 - Department of workforce development
 - Department of public defense, homeland security and emergency management division
 - Board of regents
 - Department of transportation
 - Department of natural resources
 - Department of management
 - Department of elderly affairs
 - *Department of agriculture and land stewardship*
 - *Office of energy independence*

- *Iowa utilities board*
- *One representative of the Iowa league of cities appointed by league*
- *One representative of the Iowa state association of counties appointed by the association*
- *One representative of a council of governments appointed by the governor*
- *Four members of the general assembly serving as ex official, nonvoting members*
- All state agencies shall, to the greatest extent practical, cooperate with and provide support to RIO
- Repealed June 30, 2011. *By January 1, 2011, submit written report identifying any transition issues for disaster recovery assistance due to elimination of office.*
- Effective retroactively to June 27, 2008