



FEMA

September 3, 2020
DR-4557-IA/Severe weather DFS007
HSEMD: HSEMDpio@iowa.gov
FEMA News Desk: (816) 283-7095

Daily Fact Sheet

FEMA has approved more than **\$1.7 million** in grants through its Individual Assistance program for **536** households. Updates and information are posted on the DR-4557-IA disaster webpage: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4557>.

To be eligible, survivors must have damage that occurred on **August 10, 2020**. That is the date of the Iowa derecho and the only day in the incident period.

Storm Survivors May Be Eligible for Lodging Reimbursement

Iowans who have registered with FEMA may be eligible for reimbursement if they paid out-of-pocket expenses for temporary lodging because their primary residences had sustained damage from the August 10 storm.

Temporary lodging includes hotels, motels, or other short-term lodging while an applicant is displaced from his or her primary residence.

Lodging expenses may be eligible for reimbursement if an applicant:

- Registers with FEMA.
- Passes identity verification.
- Verifies occupancy in a primary residence within a designated county.
- Verifies that the primary residence is uninhabitable or inaccessible.
- Incurs disaster-related temporary lodging expenses.
- Does not have insurance that would cover lodging.
- Did not receive lodging assistance during the same timeframe.

Reimbursement funds are available for eligible applicants under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program. Survivors who are approved for lodging reimbursement must submit hotel/motel receipts that show a zero balance to FEMA to receive payment. Reimbursement will not cover incidental costs such as phone calls, laundry, internet, food, movies or pet care.

Applicants may register in the following ways:

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Download the [FEMA Mobile App](#) for smartphones.
- Call **800-621-3362** (TTY: **800-462-7585**) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central Time, seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available.

Survivors in 10 Additional Counties May Now Apply for FEMA Individual Assistance

Homeowners and renters in Benton, Boone, Cedar, Jasper, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story and Tama Counties may now apply for FEMA Individual Assistance for losses resulting from the severe storms on Aug. 10, 2020. Linn county was previously approved for Individual Assistance.

Assistance provided by FEMA for homeowners can include grants for repairs to make their primary home habitable. Rental assistance is available to pay for temporary housing for homeowners and renters. Lodging expense reimbursement may be available to eligible households who may have stayed in a hotel for a short period of time.

FEMA assistance can also help with other disaster-related needs like replacing essential household items, and medical and dental expenses.

Businesses, homeowners and renters may be eligible for disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

First, if you haven't already done so, contact your insurance company and file a claim for the disaster-caused damage you've suffered. You don't have to wait for FEMA to start cleaning up but be sure to take photographs or video of the damage and keep all receipts for repair work.

Applicants will need the following to apply. You can upload all required documents at DisasterAssistance.gov:

- Address of the damaged property
- Description of disaster-caused damage and losses
- Current mailing address
- Current telephone number
- Social Security number of one member of the household
- Insurance information
- Total household annual income
- Bank account routing and account number for direct deposit
- Save your FEMA registration number, also known as FEMA ID number.
- Check your DisasterAssistance.gov account for updates.

FEMA Opens a Disaster Recovery Center

A Disaster Recovery Center will open in Linn County on **Wednesday, September 2**, to give survivors from the August 10 severe storm options to submit documents for their disaster assistance application. FEMA has adapted to the realities of responding during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve Iowans while protecting their safety and that of FEMA employees.

The DRC will not operate in a traditional fashion. The center will offer drive-through service. Survivors are asked to stay in their vehicles when visiting.

Applicants **do not** have to visit a center to submit documents to FEMA—they can mail, fax or submit them online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) as well. Information on these options can be found in their FEMA letter.

Survivors who have already registered with FEMA and have been asked to provide additional documentation should read their FEMA letter carefully and make sure they have everything they need when they arrive at the DRC.

If you do not understand the letter you received from FEMA, call **800-621-3362** (TTY: **800-462-7585**) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central Time, and ask for assistance.

The FEMA DRC is located at:

The parking lot between Cedar Rapids Kernels Stadium and Kingston Stadium

950 Rockford Rd. SW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

(Enter the parking lot from the corner of Veterans Memorial Drive and Kurt Warner Way.)

DRC hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time

Closed Sundays

The DRC will be closed Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day

The DRC will be open for a limited time and is staffed with FEMA personnel who can scan documents and quickly answer questions about disaster assistance programs.

All applicants and FEMA personnel will follow current state and local COVID-19 safety requirements. Applicants must wear face masks and will remain in their cars as they hand their documents to FEMA personnel, who will be wearing face masks (or other appropriate face covering) and protective equipment. FEMA staff will take the documents, scan them and return them to the applicants.

Applicants may register in the following ways:

- Go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).
- Download the [FEMA Mobile App](#) for smartphones.
- Call **800-621-3362** (TTY: **800-462-7585**) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. CT, seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available.

If an individual cannot register online or by phone, registration at the DRC will be available.

Documents also may be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Mail to: FEMA's Individuals and Households Program, National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville MD 20782-7055.
- Or fax to 800-827-8112.
- Or submit them via a FEMA online account. To set up an online account, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster-assistance), click on "Check Status" and follow the directions.

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.

Simple Tips for Getting Help at DisasterAssistance.gov

FEMA's DisasterAssistance.gov website is more than a site for registering with FEMA for federal assistance after a disaster. Besides registration, the website provides survivors with information, support, and ways to access services virtually to help with recovery. The site provides data from federal, tribal, state, local, and private sector partners. For more information go to:

<https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/simple-tips-getting-help-disasterassistancegov>

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

Registering for Assistance – (Online 24/7; by phone 7 days a week 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT)

- In Linn County, if you have losses not covered by insurance, register:
 - Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)
 - By phone at 800-621-3362,
 - For 711 or Video Relay Service, call 800-621-3362
 - For TTY, call 800-462-7585

What to Expect After You Register with FEMA

Some Survivors May Be Contacted for Remote Home Inspections

If you were affected by the August 10 severe storms and live in Benton, Boone, Cedar, Jasper, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story and Tama Counties, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

Assistance provided by FEMA for homeowners can include grants for repairs to make their primary home habitable. Rental assistance is available to pay for temporary housing for homeowners and renters. FEMA assistance can also help with other disaster-related needs like replacing essential household items, medical and dental expenses.

For more information go to: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20200901/what-expect-after-you-register>

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, SBA has established a virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each business owner complete their electronic loan application.

Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Mondays – Fridays
9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
FOCWAssistance@sba.gov
(916) 735-1500

These services are only available for the Iowa disaster declaration as a result of the severe storms that occurred Aug. 10, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.

USDA Announces Approval of D-SNAP for Iowa Disaster Areas

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that low-income Iowa residents recovering from the effects of the derecho storm that hit the Midwest earlier this month could be eligible for a helping hand from the USDA’s Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

To be eligible for D-SNAP, a household must live in Linn County, have been affected by the disaster, and meet certain D-SNAP eligibility criteria. Eligible households will receive one month of benefits – equal to the maximum amount for a SNAP household of their size – to help meet their temporary food needs as they settle back home following the disaster.

Iowans seeking more information about this and other available aid in the aftermath of the derecho should dial 2-1-1 or text their zip code to 899211. For more information about Iowa SNAP, visit the [Iowa Department of Human Services website](#).

USDA Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

USDA Service Centers in impacted counties are in the preliminary stages of assessing crop, livestock and physical damage and loss. Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a full suite of disaster assistance recovery programs that are not dependent on a disaster designation but do require producers to timely report losses to our offices.

FSA disaster assistance programs available to help offset eligible losses include:

- [Livestock Indemnity Program](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#)
- [Emergency Conservation Program](#)
- [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#)
- [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)
- [Tree Assistance Program](#)

For a quick reference guide to available disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov/recover and download the recently posted [Disaster-At-A-Glance brochure](#).

Avoid Another Disaster: Beware of Fraud

Scams seem to follow disasters. Don't let your guard down and suffer another disaster such as identity theft or paying fees for services that are never provided. Remember, FEMA never charges for services nor does it endorse any commercial business, product or service. All federal employees have an official badge/ID. Ask to see it. For more information go to: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20200901/avoid-another-disaster-beware-fraud>

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. Public Assistance (PA) can help communities quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

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 Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

The following are now 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.

Information Links:

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management: www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov
- Iowa Department of Human Services: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/disaster-assistance-programs>
- Iowa Disaster Recovery Resources: <https://disasterrecovery.iowa.gov/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IowaHSEMD>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IowaHSEMD>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/iowahomelandsecurity>
- FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4557>
- Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: sba.gov/disaster