



# Iowa Recovery Update – Aug. 13, 2024

State and FEMA disaster assistance is available for homeowners and renters affected by tornadoes, severe storms and flooding in **28 Iowa counties**.

The counties are Adair, Adams, Buena Vista, Cedar, Cherokee, Clarke, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Harrison, Humboldt, Jasper, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O’Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Union and Woodbury.

## Key Messages

- FEMA has provided more than \$58 million in Individual Assistance directly to survivors to help with home repairs, paying for a temporary place to live and other serious needs not covered by insurance.
- More than 6,000 Iowa households have been approved for Individual Assistance.
- In addition, FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program has paid more than \$6 million in claims for about 200 Iowa policyholders.
- Ask FEMA for Rental Assistance by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 or visiting a Disaster Recovery Center.
- The State of Iowa has a temporary housing program. The state’s [Disaster Recovery Temporary Housing Program \(DRTHP\)](#) is available in eligible counties. Residents can apply [online](#) or by calling 1-833-307-6030. The Call Center is open daily from 7 a.m.– 8 p.m.
- Agriculture Recovery Center events are Aug. 22 in Woodbury County and Aug. 27 in O’Brien County.

## FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Iowa

All 13 DRCs are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

**Buena Vista County**  
Sioux Rapids  
Municipal Pool  
201 Eighth St.,  
Sioux Rapids, IA 50585

**Woodbury County**  
Siouxland Regional  
Transit System  
6401 Gordon Dr.  
Sioux City, IA 51106

**Palo Alto County**  
Iowa Lakes  
Community College  
3200 College Dr.  
Emmetsburg, IA 51334

**Dickinson County**  
Dickinson County Expo  
Bldg. meeting room.  
1602 15th St.,  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360



**Cherokee County**  
Cherokee County  
Emergency Management  
(Formerly the Cherokee  
County Work Services  
Bldg.)  
322 Lake St., Suite B  
Cherokee, IA 51012

**Clay County**  
Clay County Regional  
Events Center  
Tower Gate Pavilion  
800 W. 18th St.  
Spencer, IA 51301

**Emmet County**  
St. Patrick's Church - Gym  
903 Central Ave.  
Estherville, IA 51334

**Humboldt County**  
Humboldt County Engineer  
Secondary Roads Bldg.  
2221 220th St.  
Humboldt, IA 50548

**Lyon County**  
Forster Community Center  
404 First Ave.  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

**Sioux County**  
City Park Shelter House  
1013 13th Ave.  
Rock Valley, IA 51247

**O'Brien County**  
City of Sheldon  
Community Services Center  
416 Ninth St.,  
Sheldon, IA 51201

**Greenfield – Adair County**  
Greenfield City Hall  
202 S. First St.  
Greenfield, IA 50849

**Pottawattamie County**  
Veterans Affairs Building  
623 Sixth Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

## State Disaster Recovery Housing Programs

### For Homeowners:

#### Disaster Recovery Temporary Housing Program (DRTHP)

Governor Reynolds has announced a [Disaster Recovery Temporary Housing Program \(DRTHP\)](#) that will provide temporary sheltering options .

The [Disaster Recovery Temporary Housing Program \(DRTHP\)](#) is available through the state of Iowa to provide temporary sheltering options for eligible disaster survivors as they pursue long-term housing solutions. For this program, housing options may include recreational vehicles and travel trailers, for up to six months at no cost for Iowans whose homes were majorly damaged, destroyed, or deemed not habitable.

The household must have a primary residence located in one of the eligible counties. Please review this page for list of [eligible counties](#).

Residents can apply [online](#) or by calling 1-833-307-6030. The Call Center is open daily from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

### For Homeowners:

The [Disaster Recovery Housing Assistance Program](#) application is open now for disaster-impacted homeowners in counties approved for FEMA Individual Assistance. A map of approved counties is available [here](#).



This state of Iowa-run program addresses unmet housing recovery needs outside the scope of insurance coverage or FEMA Individual Assistance. Eligible homeowners can receive up to \$50,000 for the repair or rehabilitation of their disaster-impacted homes. The program ID is 28.

Interested homeowners must first file an insurance claim if insurance is present, then apply for FEMA Individual Assistance, and received a Housing Assistance award and then; if there are unmet home repair needs can apply for the Disaster Recovery Housing Assistance Program.

#### **For Developers:**

The [State Disaster Recovery New Housing Grant Program](#) application is open now for developers. The program ID is 571222 It will provide financial assistance for the development of for sale and rental housing in cities impacted by the disasters in approved counties.

*A map of counties, including those approved for FEMA Individual Assistance, as required for this program, is available [here](#).*

All Iowa Housing Program Information can be found at [Disasterrecovery.iowa.gov Housing Information](https://disasterrecovery.iowa.gov/Housing-Information)

Applications for state grant programs are available on [iowaGrants.gov](https://iowagrants.gov). First-time users must create an account. A short instructional video can help applicants with the login process. A call center is also available for those who need additional assistance with their application.

## **Iowa Department of Education Emergency Grants**

The Iowa Department of Education announced that five Iowa school districts located in disaster-impacted communities will receive a total of nearly \$300,000 in emergency grant funds to support students experiencing homelessness as a result of this summer's weather-related disasters.

As they prepare to start the new school year, the following school districts will receive an Emergency Grants to Serve Students Experiencing Homelessness award to remove barriers faced by students in fully participating in their education programs:

- Nodaway Valley Community School District, serving Greenfield, Iowa
- River Valley Community School District, serving Correctionville, Iowa
- Rock Valley Community School District, serving Rock Valley, Iowa
- Spencer Community School District, serving Spencer, Iowa
- Tri-Center Community School District, serving Minden, Iowa

The full press release and more information about the grant program can be found at <https://educate.iowa.gov/> under the Headlines section.

## **How to Apply with FEMA**



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- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).
- Call FEMA directly at 800-621-FEMA (3362) Open Sunday - Saturday 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. ET.
- Download and use the [FEMA app](#).

FEMA works with each household on a case-by-case basis. Anyone using a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, can give FEMA the number for that service. For an accessible video on three ways to apply for FEMA assistance, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7wzRjByhI>

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448.

## How to Appeal a FEMA Decision

You can appeal any FEMA decision or award amount by sending documents that show you qualify and need more help, like estimates for repairs, receipts, bills, etc.

Each FEMA decision letter you receive explains types of documents that may help you appeal your decision or award amount for that type of assistance.

More information: [How to Appeal a FEMA Decision](#)

## FEMA Individual Assistance Call Center

Applicants with insurance may receive a call from FEMA Individual Assistance Call Center to assist them with completing their applications. Survivors may receive a phone call, text and email requesting additional insurance information.

Insurance information is the most common missing document. If homeowners cannot find the insurance policy or the insurance declaration, or the information was lost during the disaster, it can usually be located on the insurance company's website or by contacting the insurance agent.

FEMA may be able to help with damages not covered by insurance. Once an insurance settlement is reached FEMA may be able to help with the difference between the settlement and actual cost of repairs. Applicants should keep receipts. You may receive an automated phone call, text message or email offering additional resources available to you.

## U.S. Small Business Administration provides personal help, loans

The Small Business Administration offers low-interest loans after a disaster to help businesses of all sizes, non-profit organizations and individual households. Representatives of businesses of all sizes, non-profit organizations and individual households are welcome to visit SBA Business Recovery Centers here:



**Pottawattamie County**  
Minden Fire Station  
Meeting Rm.  
205-207 Main St.  
Minden, IA 51553  
9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturdays

**Polk County**  
Hyatt Place West Des Moines –  
Jordan Creek Boardroom  
295 S. 64<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.–1 p.m. Saturdays

**Sioux County**  
Centre Mall  
251 N. Main Ave, #212  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday- Friday:  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays

For more SBA Disaster info, visit: [Disaster assistance | U.S. Small Business Administration \(sba.gov\)](#)

## Agriculture Recovery Center to Open in O’Brien, Woodbury counties

State, federal and local agencies, in conjunction with farming industry groups, will host two Agriculture Recovery Center events to help Iowans recover from spring tornado, flood and storm damage.

**August 22**  
Woodbury County  
Correctionville Community Center  
312 Driftwood St.  
Correctionville, IA  
noon – 8 p.m.

**August 27**  
O’Brien County)  
Sheldon Community Service Center  
416 19<sup>th</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Sheldon, IA 51201  
noon – 8 p.m.

The walk-through events, designed as a resource fair, will provide information on addressing agricultural or rural needs that are not covered by standard programs offered by FEMA or the state of Iowa. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Iowa Insurance Division and other government agencies are working with industry organizations such as Iowa Pork Producers, Iowa Soybean and Iowa Cattlemen to ensure unmet needs are identified and resources are shared.

## Helpful Information

- For information on numerous Iowa Disaster Recovery Assistance Programs, click here [State of Iowa Assistance](#)
- [How to Document Flood Damage Insurance Claims \(floodsmart.gov\)](#)
- Mold Problems and Solutions: If your home was flooded, mold may be present and can pose a health risk. You may see or smell mold on clothing, drywall or furniture, and it may be hidden under or behind items like flooring, appliances or walls. Drying your home and removing water-damaged items is the most important step to repair mold damage. [Post-Flood Clean-Up Resources | iowa.gov](#) [Homeowners and Renters Guide to Mold Cleanup after Disasters](#)
- Disaster Recovery Farm Interest Program (DRFIP): <https://www.iowafinance.com/disaster-recovery-farm-interest-program-drifp/>
- The Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Department coordinates the Iowa Hazard Mitigation



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Program which works to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. For more information on the grant program visit [Hazard Mitigation | Homeland Security and Emergency Management \(iowa.gov\)](#)

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s [disaster assistance fact sheet](#) for Iowa is a one-stop-shop of Rural Development (RD) programs and contact information that can be used to help people and businesses in rural Iowa rebuild and recover from severe weather and natural disasters. Additional resources are listed: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/rural-development-disaster-assistance>.
- Free Legal Assistance [Legal Aid of Iowa’s Disaster Relief Project](#) provides information and legal assistance for disaster survivors regarding insurance, housing contractor fraud and document replacement. The Hotline 1-866-761-4692 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Survivors can also email: [disaster@iowalaw.org](mailto:disaster@iowalaw.org).

## Disaster recovery websites and social media channels

Please visit these websites and follow us on social media for timely and accurate information. Websites:

- [DisasterRecovery.iowa.gov](#)
- FEMA’s Iowa Recovery Page: [fema.gov/disaster.4796](https://fema.gov/disaster.4796), [fema.gov/disaster/4779](https://fema.gov/disaster/4779) and [fema.gov/disaster/4784](https://fema.gov/disaster/4784)
- Download and use the [FEMA app](#)

Social Media:

- Facebook: Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management [facebook.com/iowaHSEMD](https://facebook.com/iowaHSEMD)
- X (Formerly Twitter), Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: [x.com/iowaHSEMD](https://x.com/iowaHSEMD)
- FEMA Region 7: [x.com/femaregion7](https://x.com/femaregion7)

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448. Press 2 for Spanish.

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*FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.*