



Iowa Department of Human Services

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DHS Helps When Disaster Strikes

Disaster Assistance Programs Available for Iowa Families

(Des Moines, Iowa) - The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) helps Iowans when disaster strikes through both the Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program and the Iowa Disaster Case Management Program.

The Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP) offers grants to families whose household's annual income is at 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Each qualifying household **may** receive up to \$5,000.

The IIAGP is activated when the governor issues a disaster proclamation turning on IIAGP for the affected counties. In State Fiscal Year 2017, the program provided nearly \$805,000 in assistance to 425 families in 41 counties.

More information on this program can be found at the DHS Disaster Assistance webpage including the [Iowa Disaster Assistance Application](#).

"The grants help low-income Iowans access more resources to get their household back on track following a weather disaster," said Jerry R. Foxhoven, director of DHS. "It can make a big difference for families who may not otherwise be able to afford repairs or replace items destroyed by a storm."

DHS also provides the Iowa Disaster Case Management Program (IDCMP). The IDCMP offers services to eligible households to develop and carry out a Disaster Recovery Plan.

These written plans contain time frames, up to 180 days, for constituents to achieve mutually-agreed upon disaster recovery goals. With the case managers' assistance, the plans will also define available services and supports necessary to meet the goals, and to prevent, mitigate, or overcome a disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse condition.

Since its inception in November 2016, the program has assisted more than 200 Iowa families. The program is managed by the Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA). ICAA is the umbrella agency for 17 Community Action Agencies spread across the state and also processes the applications for the IIAGP.

"Following a disaster, some families can really use a hand in making plans to prevent future impacts, and this program provides a structured way to outline and meet their goals," said Vern Armstrong, administrator of field operations for DHS. "We offer this resource for Iowans who are committed to recovery from a disaster."

To be eligible, household members must be US citizens and reside in a governor-proclaimed disaster area.

See how these two programs benefited one Iowan in a Community Action of Eastern Iowa publication [here](#).

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