

CHAPTER 58
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

DIVISION I
IOWA DISASTER AID INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

PREAMBLE

This division implements a state program of financial assistance to meet disaster-related expenses, food-related costs, or serious needs of individuals or families who are adversely affected by a state-declared disaster emergency. The program is intended to meet needs that cannot be met by other means of financial assistance.

441—58.1(29C) Definitions.

“Emergency management coordinator” means the person appointed by the local emergency management commission pursuant to Iowa Code sections 29C.9 and 29C.10 to be responsible for development of the countywide emergency operations plan and for coordination and assistance to government officials when an emergency or disaster occurs.

“Household” means all adults and children who lived in the pre-disaster residence who request assistance, as well as any persons, such as infants, spouses, or part-time residents, who were not present at the time of the disaster but who are expected to return during the assistance period.

“Necessary expense” means the cost associated with acquiring an item or items, obtaining a service, or paying for any other activity that meets a serious need.

“Safe, sanitary, and secure” means free from disaster-related health hazards.

“Serious need” means the item or service is essential to the household to prevent, mitigate, or overcome a disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse condition.

441—58.2(29C) Program implementation. The Iowa individual assistance grant program (IIAGP) shall be implemented when the governor issues a declaration of a state of disaster emergency and shall be in effect only in those counties named in the declaration. Assistance shall be provided for a period not to exceed 120 days from the date of declaration.

441—58.3(29C) Application for assistance. To request reimbursement for disaster-related expenses, the household shall complete Form 470-4448, Individual Disaster Assistance Application, and submit it within 45 days of the disaster declaration to the county emergency management coordinator along with receipts for the claimed expenses.

58.3(1) Application forms are available from county emergency management coordinators and local offices of the department of human services, as well as the Internet Web site of the department at www.dhs.iowa.gov.

58.3(2) The application shall include:

- a. A declaration of the household’s annual income, accompanied by:
 - (1) A current pay stub, W-2 form, or income tax return, or
 - (2) Documentation of current enrollment in an assistance program administered by the department of human services, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), or other subsidy program.
- b. A release of confidential information to personnel involved in administering the program.
- c. A certification of the accuracy of the information provided.
- d. An assurance that the household had no insurance coverage for claimed items.
- e. A commitment to refund any part of a grant awarded that is duplicated by insurance or by any other assistance program, such as but not limited to local community development groups and charities, the Small Business Administration, or the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- f. A short, handwritten narrative of the disaster event and how the disaster caused the loss being claimed.

- g. A copy of a picture identification document for each adult applicant.
- h. When vehicle damage is claimed, current copies of the vehicle registration and liability insurance card.

441—58.4(29C) Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for assistance, an applicant household must meet all of the following conditions:

58.4(1) The household's residence was located in the area identified in the disaster declaration during the designated incident period and the household verifies occupancy at that residence.

58.4(2) Household members are citizens of the United States or are legally residing in the United States.

58.4(3) The household's self-declared annual income is at or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level for a household of that size.

a. Poverty guidelines are updated annually.

b. All income available to the household is counted, including wages, child support, interest from investments or bank accounts, social security benefits, and retirement income.

58.4(4) The household has disaster-related expenses or serious needs that are not covered by insurance or the claim is less than the deductible amount. This program will not reimburse the amount of the insurance deductible when the claim exceeds the deductible amount.

58.4(5) The household has not previously received assistance from this program or another program for the same loss.

441—58.5(29C) Eligible categories of assistance. The maximum assistance available to a household in a single disaster is \$5,000. Reimbursement is available under the program for the following disaster-related expenses:

58.5(1) Reimbursement may be issued for personal property, including repair or replacement of the following items, based on the item's condition:

a. Kitchen items, up to a maximum of \$560, including:

(1) Equipment and furnishings, up to a maximum of \$560.

(2) Food, up to a maximum of \$50 for one person plus \$25 for each additional person in the household.

b. Personal hygiene items, up to a maximum of \$30 per person and \$150 per household.

c. Clothing and bedroom furnishings, up to a maximum of \$875, including:

(1) Mattress, box spring, frame, and storage containers, up to a maximum of \$250 per person.

(2) Clothing, up to a maximum of \$145 per person.

d. Other items, including:

(1) Infant car seat, up to a maximum of \$40.

(2) Dehumidifier, up to a maximum of \$150.

(3) Sump pump (in a flood event only), up to a maximum of \$200 installed.

(4) Electrical or mechanical repairs, up to a maximum of \$1,000.

(5) Water heater, up to a maximum of \$425 installed.

(6) Vehicle repair, up to a maximum of \$500.

(7) Heating and air-conditioning systems, up to a maximum of \$2,100 installed. Air conditioning is covered only with proof of medical necessity.

58.5(2) Reimbursement may be issued for home repair as needed to make the home safe, sanitary, and secure, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

a. Assistance will be denied if preexisting conditions are the cause of the damage.

b. Reimbursement may be authorized for:

(1) The repair of structural components, such as the foundation and roof.

(2) The repair of floors, walls, ceilings, doors, windows, and carpeting of essential interior living space that was occupied at the time of the disaster.

(3) Debris removal, including trees, up to a maximum of \$1,000.

c. Repairs to rental property are excluded under this program.

58.5(3) Reimbursement may be issued for temporary housing assistance, up to a limit of \$50 per day, for lodging at a licensed establishment, such as a hotel or motel, if the household's home is destroyed, uninhabitable, inaccessible, or unavailable to the household.

441—58.6(29C) Eligibility determination and payment.

58.6(1) The county emergency management coordinator or designee shall:

a. Confirm that:

(1) The address provided on the application is a valid address and is reasonably believed to be in the disaster-affected area, and

(2) Disaster-related expenses were possible as a result of the current disaster.

b. Submit the household's application form to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Camp Dodge, Building W-4, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131. The envelope shall be marked "IIAGP application."

58.6(2) The homeland security and emergency management division of the department of public defense shall:

a. Review the application.

b. Submit the household's application form to the DHS Division of Results-Based Accountability, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. The envelope shall be marked "IIAGP application."

58.6(3) Designated disaster staff in the department of human services shall:

a. Determine eligibility and the amount of payment.

b. Notify the applicant household of the eligibility decision.

c. Authorize payment to an eligible household.

d. Process appeals.

441—58.7(29C) Contested cases.

58.7(1) *Reconsideration.* The household may request reconsideration of the department's decisions regarding eligibility and the amount of reimbursement awarded.

a. To request reconsideration, the household shall submit a written request to the DHS Division of Results-Based Accountability, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, within 15 days of the date of the department's letter notifying the household of its decision.

b. The department shall review any additional evidence or documentation submitted and issue a reconsideration decision within 15 days of receipt of the request.

58.7(2) *Appeal.* The household may appeal the department's reconsideration decision according to procedures in 441—Chapter 7.

a. Appeals must be submitted in writing, either on Form 470-0487 or 470-0487(S), Appeal and Request for Hearing, or in any form that provides comparable information, to the DHS Appeals Section, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, within 15 days of the date of the reconsideration decision.

b. A written appeal is filed on the date the envelope sent to the department is postmarked or, when the postmarked envelope is not available, on the date the appeal is stamped received by the agency.

441—58.8(29C) Discontinuance of program.

58.8(1) *Deferral to federal assistance.* Upon declaration of a disaster by the President of the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5121 to 5206, the Iowa individual assistance grant program administered under this chapter shall be discontinued in the geographic area included in the presidential declaration. Upon issuance of the presidential declaration:

a. No more applications shall be accepted.

b. Any applications that are in process but are not yet approved shall be denied.

c. Persons seeking assistance under this program shall be advised to apply for federal disaster assistance.

58.8(2) Exhaustion of funds. The program shall be discontinued when funds available for the program have been exhausted. To ensure equitable treatment, applications for assistance shall be approved on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds have been depleted. “First-come, first-served” is determined by the date the application is approved for payment.

a. Partial payment. Because funds are limited, applications may be approved for less than the amount requested. Payment cannot be approved beyond the amount of funds available.

b. Reserved funds. A portion of allocated funds shall be reserved for final appeal decisions reversing the department’s denial that are received after funds for the program have been awarded.

c. Untimely applications. Applications received after the program is discontinued shall be denied.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 29C as amended by 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 896.

441—58.9 to 58.20 Reserved.

DIVISION II
FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM—EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
[Prior to 10/13/93, 441—58.1 to 58.11]

PREAMBLE

This division implements the emergency assistance program, which is designed to assist families who face homelessness or other types of emergencies. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance on behalf of a needy child or children and any other members of the household to meet needs that have been caused by an emergency and that the household is unable to fulfill. The program provides a means to deal with financial situations that threaten the health and well-being of an eligible family. It is intended to meet an immediate need that would not otherwise be met. Assistance shall not be denied even if the assistance payment will provide only a temporary resolution to an ongoing problem.

441—58.21(234) Definitions.

“*Child*” means a person under age 18 who has not reached majority through marriage. Emergency assistance shall continue through the month in which the child turns 18. “*Child*” also means a person aged 18 who is a full-time student in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training, who is expected to complete the program before reaching 19 and who has not reached majority through marriage. Emergency assistance shall continue through the month in which school or training is completed. In those cases in which the child reaches 19 in the same month as the child completes school or training, emergency assistance shall continue through the month of the child’s nineteenth birthday.

“*Destitution*” means lack of shelter because of an emergency situation.

“*Emergency*” means, for the purposes of this program, a situation that threatens the family’s living arrangements or will result in destitution unless immediate financial assistance is provided.

“*Homelessness*” means the lack of a fixed and regular nighttime residence or a residence which is:

1. A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations (such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter).
2. A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for persons intended to be institutionalized.
3. A temporary accommodation in the residence of another person.
4. A place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby or similar places).

“*Household*” means, for the purposes of determining income, resources and household size, the following persons living in the household. The:

1. Applicant.
2. Applicant’s legal or common-law spouse.
3. Applicant’s child(ren).
4. Legal or biological parent of the child(ren).
5. Applicant’s child(ren)’s sibling(s) of whole or half blood or adoptive.

6. Applicant and any child under the care of the applicant when the applicant meets the definition of “relative” as defined at 441—paragraph 41.22(3) “a.”

Persons temporarily not living with the household at the time of the interview shall not be considered members of the household.

441—58.22(234) General provisions. Emergency assistance is available to families with children (including migrant families), who are faced with a crisis situation causing a threat to the families’ living arrangements. Emergency assistance is also available to children who are living on their own but who have been living, within the six months prior to applying for the program, with a relative as defined at 441—paragraph 41.22(3) “a,” provided an emergency exists. The program is operated statewide and is funded on a fiscal-year basis (from July through June). When funds are expended prior to the end of the fiscal year, the program will be discontinued until funding is received for the next fiscal year in accordance with rule 441—58.30(234). Emergency assistance is not intended as a substitute for regular assistance grants from an ongoing program but is intended to be the program of last resort when no other sources of assistance are available. Emergency assistance shall also be provided for that portion of an emergency need not covered by benefits from other programs due to those programs’ limitations.

441—58.23(234) Application procedures.

58.23(1) Date of application. The date of application shall be determined by the date a signed Form 470-2762, Emergency Assistance Application, is received in any local office or department-designated site. When an application is delivered to a closed office, it will be considered received on the first day that is not a weekend or state holiday following the day that the office was last open. To be considered valid, the application must contain a legible name and address and must be signed.

a. The emergency assistance case record must contain a completed application for each 30-day eligibility period. Whenever an initial application is denied, withdrawn, or more than 30 days old, the household shall be required to complete a new application form.

b. At least one face-to-face interview shall be conducted before approval of the application. The face-to-face interview may be held in the county office, at a department-designated site, or in the applicant’s home.

(1) The applicant may appoint an authorized representative to attend the interview if the applicant is unable to attend. The authorized representative must be a person knowledgeable of the household’s circumstances.

(2) If the applicant or authorized representative fails to attend the required interview, the application shall be denied.

(3) When it is impossible to hold a face-to-face interview within the ten-day time frame for processing applications as described at 58.23(2), the county office or department designee may waive the face-to-face interview and hold a telephone conference instead.

c. The household’s declaration shall be accepted except when verification is required by these rules or information appears questionable. The decision with respect to eligibility shall be based largely on information provided by the household.

58.23(2) Time limits. Applications shall be processed within ten calendar days from the date of receipt to resolve the household’s emergency. The ten-day time standard for approval shall apply except in unusual circumstances, such as when the department and the household have made every reasonable effort to secure necessary information which has not been supplied by the date the time limit expires; or because of emergency situations, such as fire, flood or other conditions beyond the administrative control of the department.

58.23(3) Additional information required. When additional information or verification is required, the household shall be requested in writing to provide that information within five calendar days. The written request shall also inform the household that failure to provide the required information within five calendar days or failure to authorize the local office to secure the information from other sources will result in denial of the application. The five-day period begins the day after the date the local office issues the written request.

The five-day time limit to provide additional information shall be extended if the household is unable to obtain the information by the requested date due to circumstances beyond the household's control, such as illness, or the source who is to provide the verification causes a delay, or due to emergencies like fire, flood, etc.

58.23(4) *Basis for decision on application.* The decision with respect to eligibility for emergency assistance shall be made based on the household's circumstances as they exist on the date of the interview.

58.23(5) *Subsequent requests for assistance.* Except for verifying that an emergency exists and applying for benefits from LIHEAP, general relief, or veterans affairs, the household is not required to reverify eligibility factors for approval of additional emergency assistance payment requests made within the 30-day authorization period. The time limits for processing additional requests for assistance remain the same as initial requests.

441—58.24(234) Eligibility requirements. A household, including a migrant household, shall be eligible for emergency assistance when the following conditions are met:

58.24(1) *Existence of an emergency.* An emergency shall exist, limited to eviction, foreclosure, utility shutoff, fuel shortage, loss of heating energy supply or equipment, or homelessness. An emergency does not exist for gas or electricity shutoff when a household is approved for LIHEAP and is protected by the moratorium on disconnection between November 1 and March 31.

a. An emergency also exists when there is a potential for eviction, foreclosure, utility shutoff, fuel shortage, loss of heating energy supply or equipment, or homelessness. For a household to qualify for emergency assistance, the potential emergency shall be expected to happen within the month of application or the following month.

b. The household shall be required to provide proof that an emergency exists. Acceptable verification includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) An eviction notice.
- (2) A foreclosure notice.
- (3) A utility shutoff notice.
- (4) A written statement to verify homelessness from the party or shelter where the household is staying.
- (5) Other written documentation, as needed.

c. If the amount necessary to resolve the emergency exceeds the \$500 maximum payment of the emergency assistance program, the applicant must be able to verify the ability to pay the difference from other resources, or the emergency assistance application shall be denied.

58.24(2) *Income and resources.* The household's available income and resources shall be within the limits as defined at rules 441—58.26(234) and 441—58.27(234).

58.24(3) *Receipt of assistance.* The household shall not have received assistance in Iowa from the program within one year prior to the date the first payment is authorized. The 12-month period begins on the date the first payment is approved. If any household member received emergency assistance within the past 12 months, the entire household is ineligible.

58.24(4) *Child in household.* The household shall contain at least one child who is living with the household.

58.24(5) *Child in need.* To be considered in need, the child shall be destitute or be without living arrangements unless assistance is provided.

a. The child is not in destitution or need if in the 30 days before application or subsequent request for emergency assistance a member of the household (including the child aged 16 or older who is not attending elementary, secondary or the equivalent level of vocational or technical school full-time) who does not have acceptable reasons for nonparticipation as described at 441—subrule 93.14(4) or barriers to participation as described at 441—subrule 93.4(5):

- (1) Refused a job offer or training for employment.
- (2) Was dismissed from a job due to the member's own actions which meet the definition of "misconduct" in 441—subparagraph 93.13(2) "i"(1).
- (3) Quit employment.

- (4) Reduced earnings.
- (5) Began participation in a strike.
- (6) Chose a limited benefit plan.

b. The 30-day period of ineligibility shall begin the day after the household member reduced earnings or was dismissed from a job.

(1) When a member quits a job, participates in a strike, or refuses employment, each day the job or offer for employment remains available or the household member participates in a strike is considered a day of job refusal. In these situations, the 30-day period of ineligibility shall begin the day the person returns to the job or accepts the job offer or the day after the job or offer for employment is no longer available.

(2) When a person chooses a first limited benefit plan, each day the person fails to reconsider by contacting IM or PROMISE JOBS counts as a day of refusal. The day the person reconsiders begins the 30-day period of ineligibility. When a person chooses a subsequent limited benefit plan, the 30-day ineligibility period shall begin the day after the date on the notice of decision establishing the person's limited benefit plan.

c. Whenever the household is determined to have good cause for refusing employment, quitting employment, or reducing earnings for the family investment program, no further determination is required for the emergency assistance program. Verification of the circumstances resulting in refusal, loss, or reduction of employment is not required unless information provided appears questionable.

58.24(6) *Application for other benefits.* The household shall apply for and accept benefits for which the household may be qualified from the energy assistance, county general relief and veteran's affairs programs before approval for emergency assistance.

a. Verification that the household has met the requirements of first seeking assistance from these programs shall be documented on Form 470-2804, Disposition of Application for Other Benefits. A separate form shall be completed for each program to which the applicant is referred.

b. Emergency assistance benefits shall not be approved while an application for other benefits is pending.

c. If a household is denied general relief within 30 days before emergency assistance application, and the denial was due to failure to work off past general relief assistance, emergency assistance shall also be denied.

58.24(7) *Citizenship and alienage.* The household shall contain at least one child who meets citizenship and alienage requirements as defined at 441—subrule 41.23(5). The household shall verify the alien status of at least one child to determine if the household contains an eligible child. There is no need to reverify the alien status unless it is subject to change.

58.24(8) *Utility service connection.* Applicants shall provide verification from the utility company that all requirements to provide service have been met before payment to the utility company for utility deposits for new or reconnected service will be approved. When a household applies for emergency assistance due to a disconnect notice, the household must provide verification from the utility company that the applicant either has signed a payment plan or is not eligible for a payment plan. Failure to provide this verification shall result in denial of the emergency assistance application.

441—58.25(234) *Determination of need.* Needs covered are limited to rent payments, house payments (including property taxes and homeowner's insurance if included in the house payment), rent and utility deposits, utilities, and purchase, repair, or rental of heating equipment. Utilities shall include heat (electric, gas, fuel oil, wood, etc.), lights, water, sewer, and garbage, but shall not include telephone. Heating equipment shall include, but is not limited to, furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, wood stove, etc. Air conditioners shall not be funded.

441—58.26(234) *Income.* The household's nonexempt gross income, with the exception of the deductions specified at subrule 58.26(2), shall not exceed 100 percent of the poverty level of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Changes in OMB's poverty guidelines shall go into effect the second month after the changes are published. When determining income and household size,

the household shall be determined as defined in rule 441—58.21(234). All income reported by the household shall be verified.

58.26(1) *Income considered.* Income considered shall include, but is not limited to, all gross income received or reasonably anticipated to be received by the household in the month of application, such as the family investment program (FIP) grant, veteran's pension, social security benefits, supplemental security income (SSI), job insurance benefits, child support income, alimony, workers' compensation benefits, cash payments from any of the DHS diversion programs, adoption subsidies, foster care payments, retroactive payments from any source, lump-sum income, earnings from on-the-job training, work-study income, income tax refunds (if received in the month of application), loans and grants available for living expenses (including unprorated gross educational moneys received in the month of application that are not earmarked), interest income (if received in the month of application), maintenance payments, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) payments, gifts, refunds from rental and utility deposits, earned income credit, self-employment income (net profit expected to be received in the month of application, not annualized), earnings from employment, and earnings of a child aged 16 or over who is not attending elementary, secondary or the equivalent of vocational or technical school full-time. The following deductions shall be allowed from earned income:

a. The actual, verified amount of employment-related, nonreimbursed child care expenses incurred or reasonably expected to be incurred in the month of application. A child care deduction shall also be allowed for VISTA volunteers.

b. Allowable business expenses in a self-employment enterprise, as defined at 441—subrule 41.27(2).

58.26(2) *Exempt income.* Exempt income shall include reimbursements; earned as well as unearned income in-kind; vendor payments; earnings of a child under age 16, or age 16 or older, if the child is attending elementary, secondary or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training school full-time; training allowances designated for a specific purpose (such as those issued by the Workforce Investment Act, PROMISE JOBS, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Food Stamp Employment and Training program, etc.); that amount of the lump sum expended for legal, medical or burial expenses; and legally obligated moneys. Legally obligated money means money that is otherwise payable to the household, but which is diverted by the provider of the payment to a third party for a household expense without the household's consent. Examples of legally obligated moneys are the amount withheld from job insurance benefits to recover an overpayment or for child support for a child not living with the household; or the amount of child support withheld from earnings for a child not living with the household.

58.26(3) *Exempt as income and resources.* Deposits into an individual development account (IDA) are exempt. The amount of the deposit is exempt as income and shall not be used in the 100 percent of poverty level eligibility test. The deposit must be deducted from nonexempt earned and unearned income that the client receives in the month of application, provided the deposit is made in the month of application. To allow a deduction, verification of the deposit must be provided within five calendar days as described in subrule 58.23(3). The client shall be allowed a deduction only when the deposit is made from the client's money. The earned income deductions described in 58.26(1) "a" and "b" shall be applied to earnings from employment or net profit from self-employment that remains after deducting the amount deposited into the account. If the client has both earned and unearned income, the amount deposited into the IDA shall first be deducted from the client's nonexempt unearned income. Deposits shall not be deducted from earned or unearned income that is exempt.

441—58.27(234) Resources. The household's liquid resources shall not exceed \$1000. Liquid resources are limited to cash on hand, money in checking, savings or credit union accounts, and savings certificates, with the following exceptions: The balance in an individual development account (IDA), including interest earned on the IDA, is exempt as a resource. Income in any given month is not counted as a resource in the same month. When liquid resources are owned by more than one person, unless otherwise established, it is assumed that all persons hold equal shares in the resources. When determining countable resources, the household shall be determined as defined in rule 441—58.21(234). All other resources

are exempt. The household's declaration of the amount of liquid resources shall be accepted unless the declaration appears questionable or the amount declared is close to the resource limitation. The household is not required to apply its available resources toward the emergency as long as the resources are within the prescribed limits.

441—58.28(234) Payment.

58.28(1) Maximum payment. The maximum payment shall not exceed \$500 per authorization period. This amount can be applied to a single need or to several needs, not to exceed the maximum amount. Payment shall be issued in the amount of the need, not to exceed \$500. When the emergency need is greater than \$500 (or more than the maximum amount still available to the applicant, if a subsequent request is being made), emergency assistance shall be approved only when the applicant provides verification that either:

a. The vendor will accept payment of up to \$500 (or the maximum amount available) to resolve the emergency, or

b. Another source will supply the amount needed over and above the emergency assistance payment amount.

58.28(2) Vendor payment. Payment shall be issued directly to the vendor in form of a state warrant unless the vendor is a state employee.

a. Vendors shall be required to complete Form 470-2781, Approval for Vendor Payment, before payment shall be issued. The vendor shall provide a copy of IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, if necessary, to resolve vendor name or vendor number discrepancies.

b. Form 470-2781 shall also be used to notify the vendor of the amount approved for payment. Payment is owed to the vendor in the amount approved on Form 470-2781 even if emergency assistance funds are exhausted or emergency assistance eligibility is found not to exist when system entries are made. If the household provides verification of an emergency item and the cost of the item on another document, there is no need to send Form 470-2781 to the vendor to reverify the information.

c. Payment to state employees shall be made as follows:

(1) If the emergency assistance payment is for a service, such as furnace repair, the payment is included in the vendor's regular state paycheck as extra pay.

(2) If the emergency assistance payment is for goods, such as rent, rent deposit, or purchase of heating equipment, payment to the vendor is processed in the form of a travel voucher.

58.28(3) Authorization period. The authorization period is limited to a period of 30 consecutive days in a 12-month period, and payment shall be approved if the request is received within that period. The 30-day authorization period begins on the date the first emergency assistance payment is approved for an eligible household. The household may be eligible for more than one payment as long as the total amount of all payments does not exceed the maximum amount and all requests for additional payments are received within the period of 30 consecutive days. Any portion of the maximum payment amount not used in the 30-day authorization period cannot be carried forward to a future authorization period.

58.28(4) Returned warrants and donations to emergency assistance. Any refunds of emergency assistance money shall be returned to the DHS county office. Returned funds shall be deposited back into the emergency assistance account.

a. When an emergency assistance client or vendor returns the emergency assistance warrant or returns an emergency assistance payment in the form of a money order, personal check, or cash, the county office shall accept the repayment and complete Form 470-0009, Official Receipt.

b. The department may receive refunds of rent deposits that were paid on behalf of emergency assistance clients by a combination of assistance from the emergency assistance program and other persons or organizations.

c. Donations shall be handled in the same manner as refunds and shall be deposited into the emergency assistance account.

58.28(5) Misdirected warrants. Replacement of an emergency assistance warrant does not apply when the warrant is inadvertently delivered to the emergency assistance client rather than the vendor,

and the client endorses it with the client's own name and cashes it. This is not an overpayment, because the warrant is issued on behalf of the same client who cashed it. It is up to the vendor to pursue the matter with the post office, the place of business that cashed the warrant, or the client and to work out possible repayment arrangements.

441—58.29(234) Notification and appeals. All emergency assistance households shall be given notice with respect to the decision on their application for assistance in accordance with 441—subrule 7.7(1). Households have the right to appeal the department's decision in accordance with rule 441—7.5(17A).

441—58.30(234) Discontinuance of the emergency assistance program. The program shall be discontinued when funds have been exhausted. To ensure equitable treatment, applications for emergency assistance shall be approved on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds have been depleted. First-come, first-served is determined by the date the application is approved for payment and entered into the emergency assistance computer system.

58.30(1) Partial payment. Because funds are limited, applications may be approved for less than the amount requested. Payment cannot be approved beyond the amount of funds available.

58.30(2) Reserved funds. A portion of yearly emergency assistance funds shall be reserved for final appeal decisions reversing the department's denial that are received after funds for the program have run out.

58.30(3) Untimely applications. Emergency assistance applications received after the program is discontinued for the year and more than five working days before the program begins again the next year shall be denied.

441—58.31(234) Special information received from emergency assistance clients. Rescinded IAB 10/2/02, effective 10/1/02.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

441—58.32 to 58.40 Reserved.

DIVISION III
TEMPORARY MEASURES RELATED TO DISASTERS

441—58.41(217) Purpose. The rules in this division are intended to allow the department to deliver services more effectively during or following a disaster emergency declared by state or federal officials. These rules temporarily supersede departmental rules that would otherwise apply, with the primary purpose of reducing barriers to accessing and receiving services that may result from the emergency. The rules shall be tailored to meet special circumstances that arise from a specific disaster emergency and shall be time-limited.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 217.6.
[ARC 7577B, IAB 2/25/09, effective 4/1/09]

441—58.42(234,237A,239B,249,249A,249J,514I) Extension of scheduled reporting and review requirements. Normal scheduled reporting, review, recertification, redetermination, or similar requirements related to continued eligibility are amended as follows:

58.42(1) Scheduled actions due in June 2008. For the month of June 2008, no quarterly report, six-month or 12-month review, or similar recertification or redetermination normally required under the following chapters shall be required of households residing in the most affected counties during the month. For all programs except food assistance, the designated counties are Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Johnson, and Linn.

1. 441—Chapter 40 (family investment program);
2. 441—Chapter 50 (state supplementary assistance);
3. 441—Chapter 65 (food assistance);
4. 441—Chapter 75, 76, or 83 (medical assistance and family planning waiver);

5. 441—Chapter 86 (HAWK-I);
6. 441—Chapter 92 (IowaCare); or
7. 441—Chapter 170 (child care assistance).

58.42(2) *Scheduled actions due in July and August 2008.* For the months of July and August 2008, no quarterly report, six-month or 12-month review, or similar recertification or redetermination normally required under the following chapters shall be required of households residing in any county of the state:

1. 441—Chapter 40 (family investment program);
2. 441—Chapter 50 (state supplementary assistance);
3. 441—Chapter 65 (food assistance);
4. 441—Chapter 75, 76, or 83 (medical assistance and family planning waiver);
5. 441—Chapter 86 (HAWK-I);
6. 441—Chapter 92 (IowaCare); or
7. 441—Chapter 170 (child care assistance).

58.42(3) *Next scheduled action due.* For those households affected under subrules 58.42(1) and 58.42(2), the next report, review, recertification, or redetermination shall be scheduled as if the action due in June, July, or August 2008 had occurred. For example, if a six-month review was to have occurred in June 2008, the next review will be due in December 2008. Likewise, if a 12-month recertification was due in July 2008, the next recertification will be due in July 2009.

58.42(4) *Continuing to report and act on changes.* Other than as provided by this rule, households shall continue to comply with program requirements for reporting changes in circumstances. Good cause provisions for not reporting changes timely shall apply as provided by existing rules. The department shall continue to act on all changes reported or otherwise known to the department that may affect eligibility or benefits during the extended reporting, review, recertification and redetermination periods provided under this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 234, 237A, 239B, 249, 249A, 249J, and 514I. [ARC 7577B, IAB 2/25/09, effective 4/1/09]

441—58.43(237A) *Need for child care services.* State child care assistance eligibility requirements concerning need for service in rule 441—170.2(237A,239B) shall be held in abeyance for households residing in governor-declared disaster counties during the months of June, July, and August 2008. Households in those counties that previously met the requirement shall be considered to continue to meet the requirement for those three months if the disaster and ensuing recovery temporarily prevent the household from otherwise meeting this requirement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 237A.13. [ARC 7577B, IAB 2/25/09, effective 4/1/09]

441—58.44(249A,249J,514I) *Premium payments.* Individuals residing in any Iowa county declared by the governor to be a disaster area who would otherwise have their assistance under 441—Chapter 75 (medical assistance), 441—Chapter 86 (HAWK-I), or 441—Chapter 92 (IowaCare) canceled for failure to make a premium payment in the months of June or July 2008 shall not have their assistance canceled for this reason.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 249A, 249J, and 514I. [ARC 7577B, IAB 2/25/09, effective 4/1/09]

441—58.45(249A) *Citizenship and identity.* Citizenship and identity requirements under 441—Chapter 75 for medical assistance applicants shall be held in abeyance for the months of June, July, and August 2008, for individuals residing in counties declared disaster areas by the governor as provided in this rule.

58.45(1) An affidavit may be used to establish both citizenship and identity when other forms of verification are not available and the department is unable to obtain verification through a match with vital records maintained by the department of public health.

58.45(2) An individual approved for medical assistance under this rule shall be granted a certification period of only three months. At the end of the three-month period, the individual shall be required

to provide documentation of citizenship and identity as otherwise required under 441—Chapter 75 to continue eligibility.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 249A.
[ARC 7577B, IAB 2/25/09, effective 4/1/09]

441—58.46 to 58.50 Reserved.

DIVISION IV
IOWA UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

PREAMBLE

This division implements a new program of state assistance to address unmet disaster-related expenses that cannot be met by other financial assistance, as authorized by 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 64. The rules provide for reimbursement for repair or replacement of personal property, home repair, mental health services, food assistance, child care, and temporary housing to households whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The amount of assistance available to a household is capped at \$2,500.

The program is administered by the department of human services in coordination with the recovery Iowa office and local long-term recovery committees established in affected areas. The long-term recovery committees will receive applications from affected households and will certify the households' residence and unmet disaster-related expenses and determine eligibility for assistance. Department staff will issue payments and process any appeals.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.51(83GA, HF64) Definitions.

“Department” means the Iowa department of human services.

“Household” means all adults and children who lived in the pre-disaster residence who request individual assistance (not including landlords or other businesses), as well as any persons, such as infants, spouses, or part-time residents, who were not present at the time of the disaster but who are expected to return during the assistance period.

“Iowa disaster recovery case management” means the entity that oversees the operation of local long-term recovery committees, including ensuring that each county declared a presidential disaster area on and after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008, has a long-term recovery committee.

“Long-term recovery committee” means a county-based committee that performs direct work with households seeking assistance for unmet needs and certifies the assistance that each household may receive. The committee operates the voucher system for certified goods and submits documented claims to the department for reimbursement of voucher-related expenses.

“Unmet need” means an item or service needed to overcome a disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse condition due to an eligible federally declared disaster resulting in costs or damages related to personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, or temporary housing for which the household has not received adequate assistance from any federal, state, nonprofit, or faith-based agency.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.52(83GA, HF64) Program implementation. The Iowa unmet needs disaster grant program (IUNDGP) shall be in effect upon enactment on February 2, 2009, and shall be retroactively applicable to May 24, 2008. Within the funds appropriated, this program is available for households affected by natural disasters in areas that the President of the United States declared a disaster area after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.53(83GA, HF64) Application for assistance. To request financial assistance for unmet disaster needs expenses, the household shall complete Form 470-4689, Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Application, and submit the application to the local long-term recovery committee.

58.53(1) Application forms are available from the local long-term recovery committee or the rebuild Iowa office. Individuals can find their local long-term recovery committee by calling the rebuild Iowa office toll-free at (866)849-0323.

58.53(2) The application shall include:

- a. A declaration of the household's annual gross income.
- b. A release of confidential information to personnel involved in administering the program.
- c. An assurance that the household had no insurance coverage for claimed items.
- d. A commitment to refund any part of a grant awarded that is duplicated by insurance or by any other assistance program, such as but not limited to other state assistance, local community development groups, charities or faith-based agencies, the Small Business Administration, or the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- e. A short, written narrative of the disaster event and how the disaster caused the loss being claimed.
- f. A copy of a photo identification document for each adult applicant.
- g. When vehicle damage is claimed, current copies of the vehicle registration and liability insurance card.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.54(83GA, HF64) Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for assistance, an applicant household must meet all of the following conditions:

58.54(1) The household's residence was located in the area identified by a presidential disaster declaration occurring on or after May 24, 2008, and before August 14, 2008, and the household verifies occupancy at that residence.

58.54(2) Household members are citizens of the United States or are legally residing in the United States.

58.54(3) The household's self-declared annual income is at or less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level for a household of that size.

- a. Poverty guidelines are updated annually.
- b. All income available to the household is counted, including wages, child support, interest from investments or bank accounts, social security benefits, and retirement income.

58.54(4) The household has disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance, or the claim is less than or equal to the deductible amount. This program will not reimburse the amount of the insurance deductible when the claim exceeds the deductible amount.

58.54(5) The household has not previously received assistance from this program or another program, such as but not limited to other state assistance, local community development groups, charities or faith-based agencies, the Small Business Administration, or the Federal Emergency Management Administration, for the same loss.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.55(83GA, HF64) Eligible categories of assistance. The maximum assistance available to a household for a single disaster is \$2,500. Reimbursement is available under the program for the following disaster-related expenses:

1. Personal property.
2. Home repair.
3. Food assistance.
4. Mental health assistance.
5. Child care.
6. Temporary housing.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.56(83GA, HF64) Eligibility determination and payment.

58.56(1) *Committee duties.* The long-term recovery committee shall enter into an agreement with the department. The committee shall perform the following duties, including specifying who is approved to certify eligibility for unmet needs grants on behalf of the long-term recovery committee.

- a.* Accept the household's application.
- b.* Certify that:
 - (1) The address provided on the application is a valid address in the disaster-affected area,
 - (2) Disaster-related expenses were a result of the covered disaster,
 - (3) The household has presented reasonable documentation or receipts for expenses incurred, or has reasonable estimates for eligible costs for issuance of a voucher to secure specific eligible goods or services to be obtained, and
 - (4) Funds remain available.
- c.* Determine the amount of assistance the household is eligible to receive by category of assistance and provide the rationale for that amount.
- d.* Provide the signature of long-term recovery committee staff making the certification and the date of certification.
- e.* Notify the applicant household of the certification decision.
- f.* Submit a copy of the household's Form 470-4689, Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Application, to:
 - (1) The Rebuild Iowa Disaster Recovery Case Management, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, and
 - (2) The Department of Human Services, Division of Results-Based Accountability, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114.

58.56(2) *Committee administrative expenses.* The department shall pay each long-term recovery committee a fee for administrative costs equal to 3 percent of paid grants the committee processes each month.

58.56(3) *Duties of disaster case management office.* Designated disaster staff in the rebuild Iowa disaster case management office shall:

- a.* Ensure that a long-term recovery committee is available in each county affected.
- b.* Coordinate contact between applicants and their long-term recovery committee.
- c.* Support the first-level reconsideration process.

58.56(4) *Duties of the department.* Designated disaster staff in the department of human services shall:

- a.* Process grant payments to the household or vendor and administrative fee payments to the long-term recovery committee.
- b.* Support the second-level reconsideration process.
- c.* Process appeals.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.57(83GA, HF64) Contested cases.

58.57(1) *First-level reconsideration.* The household may request reconsideration of the long-term recovery committee decision regarding certification of eligible unmet needs and the amount of reimbursement awarded.

a. To request reconsideration, the household shall submit a written request to the Rebuild Iowa Disaster Recovery Case Management, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, within 15 days of the date of the long-term recovery committee's notification to the household of its certification decision.

b. The rebuild Iowa disaster recovery case management shall review any additional evidence or documentation submitted, issue a reconsideration decision within 15 days of receipt of the request, and notify the household of the reconsideration decision.

58.57(2) *Second-level reconsideration.* The household may request reconsideration of the rebuild Iowa disaster recovery case management decision regarding certification of eligible unmet needs and the amount of reimbursement awarded.

a. To request reconsideration, the household shall submit a written request to the Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Results-Based Accountability, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, within 15 days of the date of the notification to the household of the first-level reconsideration decision from rebuild Iowa disaster recovery case management.

b. The department shall review any additional evidence or documentation submitted, issue a reconsideration decision within 15 days of receipt of the request, and notify the household of the reconsideration decision.

58.57(3) *Appeal.* The household may appeal the department reconsideration decision according to procedures in 441—Chapter 7.

a. Appeals must be submitted in writing, either on Form 470-0487 or 470-0487(S), Appeal and Request for Hearing, or in any form that provides comparable information, to the DHS Appeals Section, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114, within 15 days of the date of the second-level reconsideration decision.

b. A written appeal is filed on the date the envelope sent to the department is postmarked or, when the postmarked envelope is not available, on the date the appeal is stamped received by the department. [ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

441—58.58(83GA, HF64) Discontinuance of program. The Iowa unmet needs disaster grant program administered under this chapter shall be discontinued upon exhaustion of allocated funds or on June 30, 2010, whichever occurs first.

[ARC 7603B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 2/11/09]

These rules are intended to implement 2009 Iowa Acts, House File 64, division II.

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