

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

July 8, 2019



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD WORKFORCE AND HOUSING WORKING GROUP

**Meeting.** The Workforce and Housing Working Group of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met on July 2, 2019, in Glenwood, Iowa. The Workforce and Housing Working Group is one of six working groups within the Advisory Board and is being supported by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD).

**Members.** The members of the Working Group are:

- Beth Townsend, Director of IWD
- Cathy Crain, Mayor of Hamburg
- Shawn Kelly, Mayor of Missouri Valley
- Andy Young, Mayor of Pacific Junction
- Larry Oliver, Harrison County Emergency Management
- Sandi Winton, Volunteer for Mills County Housing
- Beth Freeman, former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staffer and affected resident
- Tammy Bramley, Monona County Supervisor

**Federal Emergency Management Agency Extensions.** The Presidential Disaster Declaration incident period defines the period during which damage occurred and the affected location is eligible for federal recovery assistance. The previous incident period of March 12 through May 16 has been extended to June 15. The former July 1 deadline to apply for federal recovery assistance has been extended to July 16.

**Temporary Housing.** Members of the Working Group discussed the ongoing issues residents are having in receiving assistance for temporary housing. The problems with FEMA housing assistance include:

- Residents being denied assistance based on their responses to a series of questions when applying for assistance.
- Limited availability of lots to be used for placement of FEMA temporary housing, and residents turning down assistance because of the travel distance where lots would be available.
- Lack of housing options in the area for residents, including housing options that would qualify for rental assistance.

**Disaster Case Management.** Several areas of support for residents were identified that need assistance from disaster case management. Disaster case managers work with residents to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance and referrals to obtain services or resources. Case management for Mills County is being provided by [West Central Community Action](#). Additional staff has recently been hired to support outreach and help determine unmet needs for flood-affected individuals.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Workforce and Housing Working Group has not been scheduled.

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) [lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov)  
Ron Robinson (515.281.6256) [ron.robinson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:ron.robinson@legis.iowa.gov)  
Robin Madison (515.281.5270) [robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov)

1057757