



Legislative Services Agency

State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, 515.281.3566

Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Topic

Flood Recovery Fund

August 24, 2026

Purpose and History

The Flood Recovery Fund was established in 2019 Iowa Acts, chapter [89](#) (FY 2020 Standing Appropriations Act), and is codified as Iowa Code section [418.16](#). The Fund is under the control of the [Iowa Flood Mitigation Board \(FMB\)](#) and administered by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD). Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to eligible political subdivisions for projects supporting flood response, flood recovery, and flood mitigation following significant flood events.

The Fund was enacted following widespread flooding experienced throughout Iowa during 2019. On March 23, 2019, the President issued major disaster declaration [FEMA-4421-DR-IA](#), authorizing federal assistance under the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#) for eligible counties. The incident period was subsequently established as March 12 through June 15, 2019. The declaration made the [Public Assistance Grant](#) available in 80 counties, the [Individual Assistance](#) program available in 10 counties, and the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) funding available statewide.

Eligible Use of the Fund

The FMB may award grants from the Fund to eligible political subdivisions located within counties that:

- Were included in Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4421-IA, and
- Qualified for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance program.

Projects funded must support flood response, flood recovery, or flood mitigation efforts.

Applicants submit project applications to HSEMD for review by the FMB. The Board evaluates applications based upon statutory criteria established in Iowa Code section 418.16. The eligible counties include Fremont, Harrison, Louisa, Mills, Monona, Muscatine, Pottawattamie, Scott, Shelby, and Woodbury.

Funding

The Fund consists of appropriations made by the General Assembly and any other moneys available to, obtained by, or accepted by the FMB for deposit into the Fund. The General Assembly has appropriated a total of approximately \$36.0 million to the Flood Recovery Fund since its creation in 2019. 2019 Iowa Acts, chapter 89, provided an initial appropriation of \$15.0 million, and 2020 Iowa Acts, chapter [1001](#) (Miscellaneous Supplemental Appropriations Act), appropriated an additional \$21.0 million for remaining flood recovery and mitigation projects. There have been no General Fund appropriations made to the Fund since FY 2020. Moneys remaining in the Fund at the close of a fiscal year do not

revert to the General Fund. Any unencumbered or unobligated balance remains available for future expenditure for purposes authorized under Iowa Code section 418.16.

Iowa Code section 418.16(5) was amended by 2022 Iowa Acts, chapter [1059](#) (Flood Recovery Fund Moneys — Use of Interest Act), to allow interest earned on the Fund balance to be used for the authorized purposes of reimbursement of voting board member expenses under Iowa Code section [418.6](#), and costs incurred by the HSEMD to administer the flood mitigation program under Iowa Code section [418.7](#).

Funding Summary

The Iowa FMB [FY 2025 Annual Report](#) states that 32 projects have been approved by the Board, with approximately \$31.9 million expended from the Fund. The Fund ending balance in FY 2025 was approximately \$6.5 million. As of July 31, 2026, the current balance of the Fund is approximately \$6.1 million.

Additional Information

For additional information, visit the Flood Mitigation Board's website at homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/resources/flood-mitigation-board

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Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [418](#)
Iowa Code section [418.16](#)

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