



Legislative Services Agency

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

Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Topic

Emergency Response Fund

August 31, 2026

Purpose and History

The Emergency Response Fund (Fund) was established in 1988 Iowa Acts, chapter [1190](#) (Emergency Response and Environmental Protection Funding Act), and is codified in Iowa Code section [29C.8A](#). The Fund is administered by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD). The Fund supports the development and maintenance of emergency response capabilities throughout Iowa. Unlike disaster assistance funds that provide financial assistance following the Governor's disaster proclamation or presidential disaster declaration, the Emergency Response Fund supports preparedness activities before emergencies occur.

Funding

When the Emergency Response Fund was established, the General Assembly created a tiered distribution of environmental civil penalties collected pursuant to Iowa Code sections [455B.146](#), [455B.191](#), [455B.386](#), 455B.417, 455B.454, 455B.466, and [455B.477](#), and criminal fines in Iowa Code chapter [716B](#). Iowa Code sections 455B.417, 455B.454, and 455B.466 were later repealed by 2011 Iowa Acts, chapter [9](#) (Waste Management and Environmental Remediation Act). Under the original statute, the first \$100,000 collected annually was deposited into the General Fund, the second \$100,000 was deposited into the Fund, and all remaining collections were deposited into the Household Hazardous Waste Account.

In 1990 Iowa Acts, chapter [1260](#) (FY 1991 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act), the General Assembly established the Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Fund under Iowa Code chapter [455D](#). This Act changed the tiered distribution and directed the first \$100,000 collected annually to be distributed into the Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Fund instead of the General Fund, the second \$100,000 to be deposited into the Emergency Response Fund, and all remaining collections are deposited into the Household Hazardous Waste Account.

Unexpended balances that remain in the Emergency Response Fund at the close of each fiscal year are available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. Iowa Code section 29C.8A does not specifically dedicate interest earnings to the Fund. Interest is credited to the General Fund in accordance with Iowa Code section [12C.7\(2\)](#).

Eligible Use of the Fund

The Fund supports ongoing preparedness initiatives intended to improve the State's ability to respond effectively to emergencies and may be expended for the purposes authorized in Iowa Code section 29C.8A, including:

- Emergency response planning.

- Training of emergency response teams.
- Activities that improve statewide emergency preparedness and emergency response capabilities.

Additional Information

For additional information, visit the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.

LSA Staff Contact

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Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [455D](#)

Iowa Code section [29C.8A](#)

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