IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
Response to Statewide Disasters of 2008
November 2008

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Introduction

Iowans will long remember the Summer of 2008. Tornadoes and floods devastated much of the state and disrupted the lives of their many friends and neighbors. This report is a summary of the action taken by Governor Chet Culver and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission on behalf of college and university students affected by the disaster.

Response

As part of the response efforts, Governor Chet Culver asked State agencies to identify any sources of funds that might be directed to flood victims. Commission staff identified $500,000 which could be made available from a scholarship and tuition grant reserve fund authorized under Chapter 261.20 of the Code of Iowa. The fund is used in the administration of State need-based programs for Iowa students at Iowa colleges and universities. The fund is a holding account for amounts that are unused because of student withdrawals and other administrative activities necessary for the efficient distribution of awards. The Commission is allowed to retain up to 1% of the total qualifying appropriations in the account, and may use the funds for programs that have the same nature as the programs for which the moneys were originally appropriated."

The Commission approved the Iowa Disaster Relief Grant program in July, 2008. Applications received through September 15, 2008 were considered if the applicant provided complete information including a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) letter showing that the applicant had received assistance from the Federal government. Applicant information was verified with FEMA Verified Loss (FVL) amounts provided to the Commission by FEMA. Nearly 700 applications were received before and after the deadline, and 414 met the qualifications required by the Commission.

Students receiving the awards attended 39 Iowa colleges and universities.

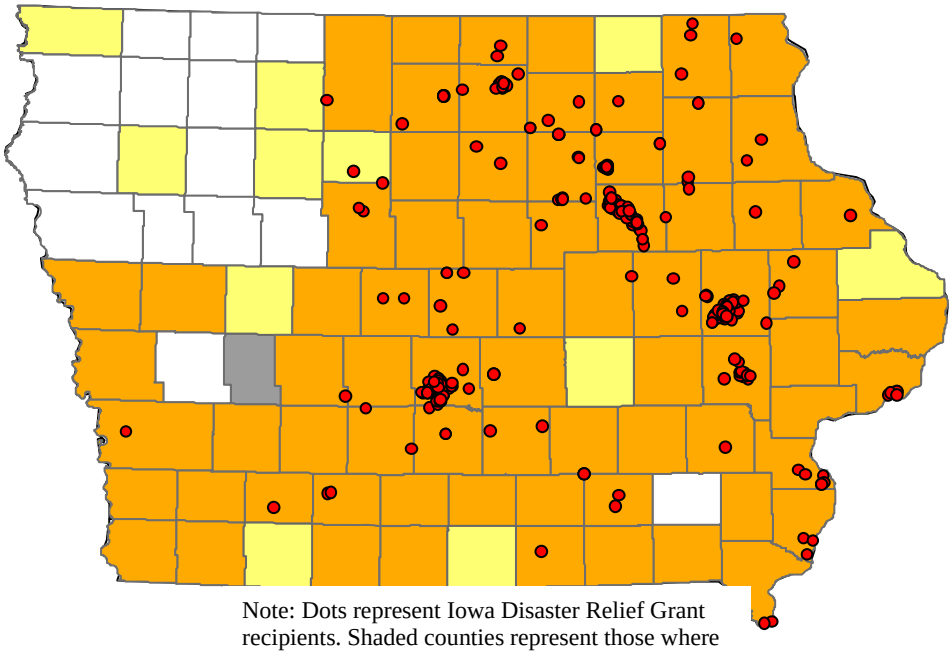
Community college students received 169 grants wile students at Regent Universities received 112 grants: 99 grants were directed to students at non-profit colleges and universities and 34 grants were provided to students at proprietary institutions.

Table 1
Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Iowa Disaster Relief Grants by Sector
October 9, 2008

	Number	Percent
Regents	112	27.1%
Private Non-Profit	99	23.9%
Community College	169	40.8%
Proprietary	34	8.2%
Total	414	100.0%

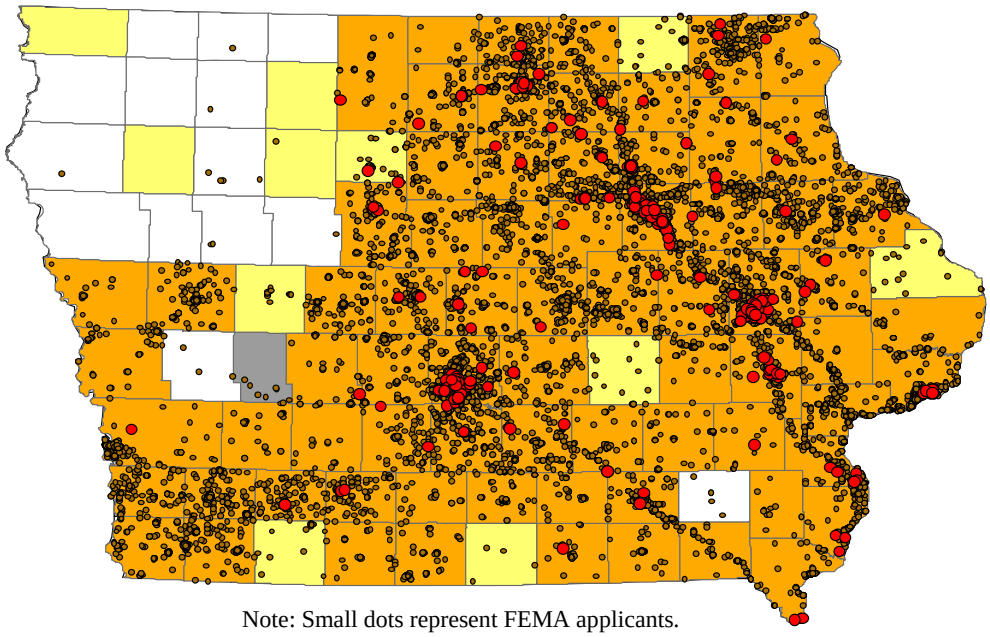
Awards were distributed to students in 45 counties, with concentrations in areas where the greatest number of FEMA applications originated. Map 1 shows the distribution of Iowa Disaster Relief Grant awards, and Map 2 shows a combination of disaster relief awards and the location of over 37,000 FEMA applicants. Both maps indicate that applications came from a wide area of the state with patterns centered around rivers and other areas where flooding was a problem.

Map 1
Iowa Disaster Relief Grants to Students
and Counties Eligible for Federal Disaster Assistance



Note: Dots represent Iowa Disaster Relief Grant recipients. Shaded counties represent those where residents qualified for individual assistance.

Map 2
Iowa Disaster Relief Grants to Students/ FEMA Applicants
and Counties Eligible for Federal Disaster Assistance



Note: Small dots represent FEMA applicants. Larger dots represent Iowa Disaster Relief Grant recipients. Shaded counties represent those where residents qualified for individual assistance.

When viewed by county, the greatest number of awards assisted students in Linn county, where 123 individuals received assistance, followed by Black Hawk county with 59, and Polk county with 44. Table 2 shows the number of Iowa Disaster Relief Grant awards by county.

Table 2

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa Disaster Relief Grants by County

County			County		
Number	Name	Recipients	Number	Name	Recipients
1	Adair		51	Jefferson	-
2	Adams	1	52	Johnson	16
3	Allamakee	1	53	Jones	2
4	Appanoose	3	54	Keokuk	-
5	Audubon	1	55	Kossuth	1
6	Benton	2	56	Lee	3
7	Black Hawk	59	57	Linn	123
8	Boone	3	58	Louisa	10
9	Bremer	22	59	Lucas	-
10	Buchanan	1	60	Lyon	-
11	Buena Vista		61	Madison	1
12	Butler	19	62	Mahaska	2
13	Calhoun		63	Marion	2
14	Carroll		64	Marshall	1
15	Cass		65	Mills	-
16	Cedar		66	Mitchell	-
17	Cerro Gordo	28	67	Monona	-
18	Cherokee		68	Monroe	-
19	Chickasaw	3	69	Montgomery	-
20	Clarke		70	Muscatine	-
21	Clay		71	O 'Brien	-
22	Clayton	4	72	Osceola	-
23	Clinton		73	Page	-
24	Crawford		74	Palo Alto	-
25	Dallas		75	Plymouth	-
26	Davis		76	Pocahontas	-
27	Decatur		77	Polk	44
28	Delaware	2	78	Pottawattamie	1
29	Des Moines	4	79	Poweshiek	-
30	Dickinson		80	Ringgold	-
31	Dubuque	1	81	Sac	-
32	Emmett		82	Scott	5
33	Fayette	3	83	Shelby	-
34	Floyd	5	84	Sioux	-
35	Franklin	2	85	Story	8
36	Fremont		86	Tama	1
37	Greene	1	87	Taylor	-
38	Grundy		88	Union	2
39	Guthrie	1	89	Van Buren	-
40	Hamilton		90	Wapello	1
41	Hancock	8	91	Warren	5
42	Hardin		92	Washington	-
43	Harrison		93	Wayne	-
44	Henry		94	Webster	3
45	Howard		95	Winnebago	-
46	Humboldt	1	96	Winneshiek	4
47	Ida		97	Woodbury	-
48	Iowa		98	Worth	2
49	Jackson		99	Wright	-
50	Jasper	2		Total	414

Table 3
Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Federal Disaster Declarations
State of Iowa 2008
As of October 20, 2008

County	Type of Federal Assistance		County	Type of Federal Assistance	
	Public	Individual		Public	Individual
Adair	x	x	Jasper	x	x
Adams	x	x	Johnson	x	x
Allamakee	x	x	Jones	x	x
Appanoose	x	x	Keokuk	x	x
Audubon		x	Kossuth	x	x
Benton	x	x	Lee	x	x
Black Hawk	x	x	Linn	x	x
Boone	x	x	Louisa	x	x
Bremer	x	x	Lucas	x	x
Buchanan	x	x	Lyon	x	x
Butler	x	x	Madison	x	x
Carroll	x		Mahaska	x	x
Cass	x	x	Marion	x	x
Cedar	x	x	Marshall	x	x
Cerro Gordo	x	x	Mills	x	x
Cherokee	x		Mitchell	x	x
Chickasaw	x	x	Monona	x	x
Clarke	x	x	Monroe	x	x
Clayton	x	x	Montgomery	x	x
Clinton	x	x	Muscatine	x	x
Crawford	x	x	Page	x	x
Dallas	x	x	Palo Alto	x	
Davis	x	x	Pocahontas	x	
Decatur	x	x	Polk	x	x
Delaware	x	x	Pottawattamie	x	x
Des Moines	x	x	Poweshiek	x	x
Dubuque	x	x	Ringgold	x	x
Fayette	x	x	Scott	x	x
Floyd	x	x	Story	x	x
Franklin	x	x	Tama	x	x
Fremont	x	x	Taylor	x	
Greene	x	x	Union	x	x
Grundy	x	x	Van Buren	x	x
Guthrie	x	x	Wapello	x	x
Hamilton	x	x	Warren	x	x
Hancock	x	x	Washington	x	x
Hardin	x	x	Wayne	x	
Harrison	x	x	Webster	x	x
Henry	x	x	Winnebago	x	x
Howard	x	x	Winneshiek	x	x
Humboldt	X	x	Worth	x	x
Iowa	X	x	Wright	x	x
Jackson	X	x	Total	84	79

Background

This section is a summary of the natural disaster events that occurred during 2008. The summary draws upon reports from the National Climatic Data Center, an agency of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The disaster events of 2008 began on May 25, when severe thunderstorms including large hail and an EF-5 tornado that demolished about half of the community of Parkersburg in Butler county, northwest of Cedar Falls/Waterloo, and continued to areas north of new Hartford, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls. The storms dropped up to six inches of rain on parts of the state. The National Climate Data Center provided the following summary:

> Numerous tornadoes hit Iowa on May 25; the worst was a deadly EF5 tornado in Parkersburg that claimed the lives of 7 people, caused an estimated $5.8 million in damage, and destroyed more than 200 homes and 21 businesses. The last time an F5 tornado occurred in Iowa was on June 13, 1976. . (NCDC, 2008a)

The problems continued into June, July, and August. The National Climate Data Center included the following comments in its update for June.

> Following the active pattern of the first five months of 2008, June brought 377 preliminary reports of tornadoes across the United States and six reported fatalities. The most deadly incident occurred the evening of June 11, when a tornado struck a Boy Scout camp in western Iowa, killing 4 and injuring nearly 50. (NCDC, 2008a)

Typically, tornado weather includes heavy rain, and 2008 was no exception. Again, this report will call upon the words of the National Climatic Data Center for an overview. Persistent heavy rain across the Midwest triggered flooding along the Cedar River in Iowa, and many tributaries to the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa and southern Wisconsin. … Iowa had its wettest April-June period on record with an average of 20.4 inches of precipitation - 8.7 inches above average. (NCDC, 2008b)

> In Dorchester, IA, the maximum 24-hour rainfall accumulation (approximately 7 inches or 180 mm) was similar to what you might expect to see once every 200 years. For the maximum 2-day and 4-day rainfall totals during June, values exceeded the 1000 year threshold. Flash flooding in this area on the 7th and 8th washed away many trailers and propane tanks along the Waterloo Creek. For the month of June, the preliminary precipitation total was 15.13 inches (384 mm), setting a new record for the most rainfall on record (1948 to present) during the month of June. The previous record was 11.45 inches (291 mm) and occurred during June 2000. This monthly total is also the 2nd wettest month on

record for Dorchester. In August 2007, the station received 17.11 inches (435 mm) of rainfall which fell at intervals throughout the month, causing significant flooding. NCDC. (2008c)

Along the Des Moines and Cedar Rivers, the NCDC reported that flood crests exceeded 500-year levels in some locations as major levees were breached, causing damage, and forcing Iowans from their homes. By the end of the Summer, 89 of the 99 Iowa counties had been declared disaster areas for either public or individual assistance. Data received by the Commission from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicated that over 30,600 individuals had applied for federal disaster assistance.

On October 20, the Iowa Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management listed 84 counties approved for Federal Public Assistance Grants and 78 counties approved for Federal Individual Assistance Gants. Table 1 shows the counties and their Federal disaster declarations.

References

NCDC. (2008a). Climate of 2008: US tornado overview. Asheville, NC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/tornadoes08.html on October 18, 2008.

NCDC. (2008b). Climate of 2008 June in historical perspective. Asheville, NC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/jun/jun08.html on October 18, 2008.

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NCDC. (2008c). Climate of 2008: Midwestern US flood overview. Asheville, NC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/flood08.html on October 18, 2008.

Appendix A

National Climate Data Center
Climate of 2008
Excerpts from an Historical Perspective for the Month of June
U.S. Precipitation Highlights

Rainfall patterns across the country in June consisted of both extremely wet and extremely dry conditions. Heavy rain and flooding occurred in the Midwest, while parts of the Southeast, southern Plains, and West were dry.

Five states (Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Vermont) were much wetter than average for June, with Iowa ranking second wettest on record.

Persistent heavy rain across the Midwest triggered flooding along the Cedar River in Iowa, and many tributaries to the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa and southern Wisconsin. Flooding also occurred along the Mississippi River in parts of western Illinois and eastern Missouri. By the end of June, 26 percent of the contiguous U.S. was classified in moderate-to-extreme "wet spell" conditions, based on the Palmer Index.

Over the past six months, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri had the wettest January-June on record. Iowa had its wettest April-June period on record with an average of 20.4 inches of precipitation - 8.7 inches above average.

Five states (California, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas) were much drier than average, with California having the fourth driest June on record and North Carolina ranking eighth driest.

Continued lack of rainfall across much of the Southeast and parts of the southern Plains and West worsened drought conditions. Twenty-eight percent of the contiguous U.S. was classified in moderate-to-exceptional drought at the end of June compared to 22 percent a month ago, based on the U.S. Drought Monitor

Source: NCDC. (2008). Climate of 2008 June in historical perspective. Asheville, NC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/jun/jun08.html on October 18, 2008.

Appendix B

Following is a selection of photographs of the Iowa disasters of 2008 as published by the Rebuild Iowa Office and available on the internet at http://www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/timeline.html on October 21, 2008.

Parkersburg Destruction

Cedar Rapids Bridge

Oakville Home

Appendix C

Rebuild Iowa Office
Timeline of Events of 2008

Published by the Rebuild Iowa Office and available on the internet at http://www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/timeline.html on October 21, 1008.
A chronological list of key events during and after the incident period (May 25 – August 13, 2008).

May 25, 2008

Severe thunderstorms including large hail and tornadoes impacted the State of Iowa. The storms also brought heavy rainfall ranging from 4 – 6 inches, causing flooding and flash flooding. According to the National Weather Service, a large and destructive EF-5 tornado moved across Butler and Black Hawk counties. The tornado hit the city of Parkersburg (Butler County) and moved just north of New Hartford (Butler County). The tornado weakened and caused damage north of the Waterloo (Black Hawk County) and Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County) areas.

May 27, 2008

President George W. Bush signs FEMA-1763-DR-IA designating Butler County for Individual Assistance (IA) and for emergency protective measures (Category B) limited to direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance (PA) Program. All counties within the State of Iowa are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

May 30, 2008

Federal Register Notice (FRN) 1 adds Black Hawk and Buchanan Counties for IA and PA; Butler County for PA (already designated for Emergency Protective Measures [Category B], limited to direct federal assistance, under the PA Program); and Delaware County for PA.

June 8, 2008

Iowa River surpasses flood stage of 22 feet. Mason City (Cerro Gordo County) was impacted with heavy rain and flooding. High water overtops the levee in New Hartford (Butler County).

June 10, 2008

Saylorville Dam (Polk County) tops emergency spillway at approximately 9:30 p.m. CDT. Coralville Reservoir tops emergency spillway.

June 11, 2008

A tornado strikes the Little Sioux Boy Scout ranch between Moorhead and Blenco (Monona County) at approximately 7:00 p.m. CDT. There are four fatalities and 48 injuries. Water begins coming up through storm sewers in Cedar Rapids. Coralville Reservoir ups output to 33,000 cubic feet per second.

June 13, 2008

Cedar River crests at 31.1 feed in Cedar Rapids at 10:15 a.m. CDT, almost 20 feet above flood stage.

Iowa River surpasses 28.52-foot record.

FRN 2 adds Adams and Page Counties for IA. Marion, Story, Tama and Union Counties for IA and PA. Boone, Cerro Gordo, Crawford, Dallas, Dubuque, Floyd and Franklin Counties for PA.

FRN 3 adds Benton, Bremer, Fayette, Hardin, Johnson and Linn Counties for IA. Cerro Gordo, Delaware and Floyd Counties for IA (already designated for PA).

June 14, 2008

A levee breach occurs at Sixth and New York Streets in Des Moines (Polk County). A levee breach occurs in Lagoon area of Des Moines (Polk County). Coralville Lake level surpasses record of 716.71 feet above sea level.

June 15, 2008

Iowa River crests earlier than expected at 31.5 feet. Coralville Lake crests at 716.97 feet above sea level. A levee breach occurs in Oakville (Louisa County). FRN 4 adds Cedar, Jones, Louisa, Muscatine, Polk and Winneshiek Counties for IA.

June 16, 2008

Interstate Highway 80 reopens at Cedar River.

June 17, 2008

FRN 5 adds Allamakee, Des Moines, Fremont and Harrison Counties for IA. Clayton County for IA and PA. Adams, Linn and Winneshiek Counties for PA (already designated for IA). Grundy, Howard, Iowa, Marshall, Mitchell, Ringgold, Worth and Wright Counties for PA. Interstate Highway 380 reopens.

June 18, 2008

FRN 6 adds Chickasaw, Crawford, Jasper, Mahaska, Mills, Monona and Warren Counties for IA and Adair, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette, Hancock, Humboldt, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Madison, Page, Taylor, Warren and Webster Counties for PA.

June 19, 2008

FRN 7 adds Lee County for IA; Wapello County for IA and PA; Hancock, Kossuth, Madison and Marshall Counties for IA (already designated for PA), Benton, Bremer, Cedar, Fremont and Mahaska Counties for PA (already designated for IA); and Cass, Clinton, Decatur, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Montgomery and Poweshiek Counties for PA.

June 20, 2008

FRN 8 adds Scott County for IA; Boone, Franklin, Hamilton and Wright Counties for IA (already designated for Public Assistance (PA); Carroll, Jackson and Keokuk Counties for PA; and Jasper, Mills, Monona and Polk Counties for PA (already designated for IA).

June 21, 2008

Cedar River drops below 12-foot flood stage for the first time since Jun 2 in Cedar Rapids. FRN 9 adds Webster County for IA (already designated for PA); Washington County for PA; Hardin, Harrison, Louisa and Scott Counties for PA (already designated for IA).

June 24, 2008

Water stops going over Coralville Lake spillway.

June 27, 2008

FRN 10 adds Davis, Henry, Lyon, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie and Van Buren Counties for PA; Des Moines, Lee and Muscatine Counties for PA (already designated for IA).

Iowa Governor Chet Culver signs Executive Order No. 7, creating the Rebuild Iowa Office, Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission, and nine Rebuild Iowa Task Forces to coordinate recovery efforts for the state.

June 28, 2008

FRN 11 adds Lucas County for IA; Dallas, Davis, Iowa, Mitchell and Worth Counties for IA (already designated for PA).

June 30, 2008

FRN 12 authorizes federal funds for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, at 90 percent federal funding of total eligible costs. Effective until the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service River Forecast Center reports that the rivers in the State of Iowa, which have experienced historical flooding, fall below flood stage. (The adjustment cost sharing applies only to Public Assistance costs and direct federal assistance eligible for such adjustments under applicable law.)

July 7, 2008

Iowa River falls below flood stage in Johnson County.
FRN 13 adds Clinton, Decatur, Dubuque, Greene, Keokuk, Pottawattamie, Van Buren and Washington Counties for IA (already designated for PA).

July 17, 2008

FRN 14 adds Montgomery County for IA (already designated for PA); Appanoose and Monro Counties for PA only; and Lucas County for PA (already designated for IA).

August 6, 2008

FRN 15 adds Appanoose, Monroe and Ringgold Counties for IA (already designated for PA); Clarke County for IA and PA; and Wayne County for PA.

August 12, 2008

FRN 16 adds Audubon and Winnebago Counties for IA; Adair, Cass, Grundy, Guthrie and Henry Counties for IA (already designated for PA); and Cherokee County for PA.

August 13, 2008

FRN 17 closes the incident period for this disaster.

August 14, 2008

The FEMA/Tribal Agreement for the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa was signed designating the Settlement area located in Tama County as eligible for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance.

August 18, 2008

FRN 18 adds Winnebago County for Public Assistance (already designated for IA).

August 26, 2008

FRN 19 adds Howard, Humboldt, Jackson and Poweshiek for IA (already designated for PA).

September 3, 2008

FRN 20 (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service River Forecast Center) establishes that the rivers in the State of Iowa, which experienced historical flooding, fell below flood stage on August 8, 2008.

September 8, 2008

FRN 21 authorizes federal funds for all categories of PA at 90 percent of the total eligible costs.