



JOHN R. BENSON, HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

November 26, 2024

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is seeking authority for the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensure (DIAL) to have inspection and recoupment authority over the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program where cases of fraud or misrepresentation are suspected. This program came to HSEM two years ago through state government realignment and the department continues to implement lessons learned. Currently, there is no formal method to determine if individuals fraudulently were awarded disaster grant funds, nor recover those funds that may have been awarded under false pretenses or otherwise inappropriately obtained.

HSEM has worked with DIAL on proposed legislative language that would update Iowa Code 10A.108 and 29C.20 to provide HSEM and DIAL these authorities. The proposed bill would add HSEM to existing 10A.108, alongside Health and Human Services (HHS), to give DIAL these authorities. Proposed changes to 29C.20 would mirror existing language from HHS to provide HSEM the authority to refer suspected cases of fraud to DIAL and the methodology in which funds may be recouped.

Questions towards this legislative initiative can be directed towards the Department's Legislative Liaison, Blake DeRouchey, 515-323-4232 or blake.derouchey@iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blake DeRouchey".

Blake DeRouchey
Legislative Liaison