

CYNTHIA AXNE
3RD DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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May 11, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Attn: Congressional Relations
500 C Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20472

Acting Secretary Wolf:

Thank you for your continued work in helping Iowans, and all Americans, work to recover from coronavirus (COVID-19). We have only just begun to invest into our communities, and I know we have a long road to recovery ahead. I am writing to request a funding summary from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that details what has been allotted to help Iowans recover from COVID-19

As you are aware, Congress passed and the President signed into law four supplemental funding bills that will provide direct assistance to our citizens, businesses, community, health systems, and more. Much of the funding authorized by Congress was given broad discretion by each Secretary to distribute rather than traditionally funding plans which provide line by line requests for how much funding should be allocated.

I firmly believe that in order to be good stewards of taxpayer funding, we must have transparency and accountability when it comes to where tax dollars are being spent. I have heard concerns from some of my constituents about challenges applying for FEMA grants and issues with receiving funding. It was our Congressional intent that every dollar is used to support and benefit those who are suffering the effects on COVID-19. That is why it is so important to ensure a transparent process that allows Americans to see where these funds are being used and spent.

I look forward to working with you and your agency to ensure Iowa communities, businesses, and families have the resources they need to stay healthy, safe, and stay afloat. That is why I am seeking answers to the following questions:

- 1) Please provide for me 1) a total funding amount spent in Iowa, 2) a summary of that funding broken down by grant program, loan program, direct support, or other funding measure, and 3) a summary of where in Iowa that money was spent or given, wherever possible to record that information.
- 2) Please include a) which programs are available under your agency for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, b) where are the website links and relevant application information, c) who is the Agency Point of Contact (POC) to submit a question or request to, and d) who is the correct POC that my office should speak with to ensure funding is allocated to those most in need?

3) Please outline each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure that has been provided to Iowa and a summary of what each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure is for.

4) Please provide as much information as possible about which businesses, communities, counties, and state agencies have received funding. This information should include locations, points of contact, what type of funding (e.g.: grants, loans), and total dollar amounts.

a. There may be circumstances where personal information cannot be released. In those cases, please provide information that does not include personal details and instead provide me with the program information and total dollar amount.

5) If there are pending applications, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

6) If there have been denials for funding, please provide me with information on why those requests were denied.

Given the nature of this request, please respond back to my office upon receipt of this request with the expected timeline of your full response. You may contact Denise Fleming in my office at Denise.Fleming@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-5476.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Iowans and helping our communities respond to COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress