



FEMA

October 28, 2020

The Honorable Cynthia Axne
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congresswoman, Axne:

Thank you for your letter from October 23, 2020 in which you were requesting an update on FEMA's recovery efforts in Iowa related to the 2019 Severe Storms and Flooding Disaster (DR-4421-IA), declared March 23, 2019.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program supports communities' recovery from major disasters by providing grant money to help pay certain costs associated with emergency work such as debris removal and life-saving emergency protective measures and permanent work to restore public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, public buildings and parks. Local governments, states, tribes, territories, houses of worship and certain private nonprofits are eligible to apply.

Grant funding is provided by FEMA (75% cost share) for eligible, disaster-related projects. These funds go to the state emergency management agency – in this case Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) – as the primary grant recipient. From there, the State disburses those grant funds to eligible local, state and tribal government entities, and non-profit organizations when certain work and documentation benchmarks are met. The remaining 25% project cost comes from the State and/or eligible applicant.

As of October 27, 2020, **FEMA has obligated a total of approximately \$105 million** in Public Assistance funding to the State of Iowa since November 1, 2019. To date, **1,178** grant requests have been completed with **11** grant requests denied, and **221** grant requests outstanding.

At the request of Gov. Kim Reynolds, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding was approved for projects statewide under DR-4421-IA. This money, which is in addition to the disaster assistance provided, can be used to pay for eligible projects from any of the state's 99 counties.

Hazard mitigation funding supports local projects intended to reduce or eliminate future disaster damage. Projects funded through this program are based on a percentage of the total disaster assistance provided and have a cost-share of 75% federal money; 25% non-federal money.

To date, **FEMA has obligated a total of approximately \$32 million** to the State of Iowa for **nine HMGP projects**, with a **total of approximately \$494 thousand** obligated for HMGP State Management Costs. FEMA has **seven** projects that are still in the review process, with a **total Federal share of approximately \$2.6 million**.

I hope you find this information helpful. Should you have additional questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Region VII's Congressional Affairs point of contact, Luis Zenteno at 202-875-3473.

Sincerely,

Michael Cappannari
External Affairs Director
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