The Honorable Cindy Axne  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515-0001

Dear Representative Axne:

On behalf of Secretary Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., thank you for your letter requesting an
update on the status of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)
funding to assist the State of Iowa in recovery from the catastrophic floods of 2019. The following
information is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of
Community Planning and Development.

On January 27, 2020, the Department published a Federal Register Notice that allocates
$96,741,000 of CDBG-DR funds to the State and establishes the requirements for the use of those
funds. To expedite access to this funding, the Federal Register Notice does not establish new
requirements for this grant but relies on the requirements previously established by the Department
for 2017 disasters.

As required by the appropriation that provided this funding, the State is required to expend
CDBG-DR funds in the most-impacted and distressed (MID) area of the disaster. For the State of
Iowa, data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources indicate that all
CDBG-DR funds must be expended in Mills and Fremont counties. The State has proposed adding
additional areas to the HUD-identified MID area and that request is under review.

Under the Notice, the State must post its proposed Action Plan for using these funds no later
than April 4, 2020, and solicit public comment on its proposed long-term recovery activities. The
State must respond to public comments and submit a final Action Plan to HUD for review no later
June 2, 2020. As a former CDBG-DR grantee, the State is well positioned to move quickly with
implementation of the Action Plan following HUD’s approval.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

[signed electronically on April 15, 2020]

Len Wolfson
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations