



# CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

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04-09-09

IP7

Date: April 9, 2009  
To: City Council  
From: Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Re: Update: Flood-related activities

## **Planning and Community Development:**

- Staff attended a special Long Term Recovery Meeting Monday on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the US Bank center downtown. The purpose of this meeting was to set goals for the meaning of "long term" recovery and come to consensus as a community.
- Staff is working with 75 jumpstart applicants to disburse state and federal funds for housing repair, down payment assistance and interim mortgage assistance.
- Jumpstart Business I update: 47 approved applications for \$1,075,861 and another \$105,000 is expected to be allocated before the program ends on April 15.
- Staff is working with the Governor's office and legislators to request that a portion of our unused Jumpstart Business allotment be allowed to be used for businesses whose inventory is residential units. Jumpstart Business I ends in two weeks, the funds are available and these businesses have not been eligible for any other Jumpstart funding. The need is substantial: between the two businesses affected, mold mitigation and rebuild costs alone top \$775,000. These are hard costs and do not account for lost income on the properties.
- Jumpstart Business II update: Staff is developing a mailing to all commercial property owners in flooded areas informing them that a new Jumpstart Business program is coming on line April 16. This program incents businesses to locate in commercial buildings that were flooded by funding 6 months of lease payments up to a maximum of \$50,000.
- Staff submitted eight applications on April 1 for funding through the Community Disaster Grants program. The projects include acquiring vacant undeveloped land in the 100-year floodplain (approximately 20 acres along the Iowa River south of Taft Speedway, west of Dubuque Street and two lots/eight undeveloped units in Idyllwild), design and engineering for a levee to protect Baculis and Thatcher Mobile Home Parks and the Commercial Drive area, acquisition of two homes in the 100-year floodplain, additional funds for housing rehabilitation for flood affected homeowners, reimbursement to the Idyllwild Homeowners Association for mold mitigation expenses and reimbursement to the City's general fund for items not covered by FEMA or insurance. The total amount requested was \$2,417,339. The City should hear by the end of April if the grant request was successful.

- PCD staff is assisting the engineering department with preparing grant applications for CDBG Public Infrastructure. Iowa City will be submitting several grants in April and May.
- Iowa City has not yet heard about the anticipated approval date of its HMGP acquisition grant. In preparation, staff will collect information such as other benefits the homeowners have received and repair receipts so that these can be quickly submitted once the grant award has been made.