



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

09-03-09

IP11

Date: September 2, 2009
To: City Council
From: Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Re: Update: Flood-related activities

- The City was notified about a number of I-Jobs grant applications this week. The following projects received funding: The construction of Fire Station #4 - \$2,268,867; UniverCity Neighborhood Partnerships affordable housing program - \$1,000,000; relocation of the wastewater treatment facility - \$3,500,000. In addition, the City's grant application for \$997,972 in I-Jobs funds for the rehabilitation of flood impacted homes (Jumpstart #3) was approved last month and the agreement was signed this week so funds are being disbursed to homeowners. The Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity's I-Jobs grant application of \$105,000 for the construction of three energy efficient affordable homes and Shelter House's I-Jobs grant application of \$2.66 million were approved last Friday.
- Several more closings of homes in the HMGP buyout program will occur in the next few weeks. FEMA has been approving duplication of benefits on a more reliable basis.
- An archeological monitoring contract was awarded for the HMGP buyout program. Also, asbestos removal began on September 2nd and the demolition of the first 11 homes will begin around September 10th.
- The first round of checks from the \$1 million CDBG Business Rental Assistance Program will be distributed on Tuesday, Sept. 8. This program will pay for up to six months rent (with a maximum of \$50,000) for businesses who are located or will locate in commercial buildings that were flooded. Contracts have been signed with the state and staff has begun verifying the eligibility of applicants. To date, we have 41 applications for a total of \$683,000.
- A Request for Proposals was sent out last week to consultants for a study to determine the feasibility of creating a downtown business incubator for creative technology-related businesses. The EDA (Economic Development Administration) recently approved a \$60,000 grant request for the study. The EDA determined the project eligible for disaster recovery funds, in part, because of the job creation potential in the creative technologies sector in downtown locations.
- The Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program closed on April 15. Businesses were eligible for up to \$50,000 in forgivable loan funds plus an additional \$5,000 for reimbursement of new energy efficient equipment. We distributed \$1.25 million to 44 participants. Of the \$1.25 million, \$45,000 was for reimbursement of energy efficient equipment.
- The Iowa City Flood Recovery program, instituted very shortly after the flood, provided up to \$5,000 in grant funds to businesses for flood related clean up expenses. We distributed almost \$75,000 to 18 applicants.