



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

02-19-09

IP7

Date: February 19, 2009
To: City Council
From: Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Re: Update – Flood related activities

Planning and Community Development

- Jumpstart State #1 has been distributed to 17 households. The total amount distributed is \$300,918, after this week the total distributed will be near \$400,000.
- An additional 37 households will be assisted with recently allocated \$823,435 in Jumpstart State # 2 funds
- Staff is working with landlords with the CDBG funded rental rehabilitation program. The State will release the funds after February 20.
- Nearly \$200,000 in Jumpstart CDBG funds have been distributed to 13 households.
- The City will receive an additional allocation of \$1,029,000 in Jumpstart CDBG funds in the next few weeks for housing repair/rehabilitation, interim mortgage assistance and downpayment assistance.
- Staff commented on the IDED Action Plan for the use of the second allocation of CDBG funds that were set aside for housing buyouts. The Action Plan specified that the funds could be used for buyouts of properties that were condemned or likely to be condemned as a result of the flood. Staff proposed that the language state that the funds could be used for properties that were condemned or likely to be condemned or have experienced very significant damages of at least 70% of the value of the home. This would offer the City an opportunity to work with homeowners that did not qualify for the HMGP funds, but are still interested in a buyout.
- Staff mailed letters to nearly 200 contractors in the Iowa City area to make them aware of the CDBG funded lead-based paint hazard and abatement training opportunities offered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). The Iowa City area needs more lead-paint certified contractors for flood recovery projects and for the City's regular CDBG and HOME funded projects.
- Staff attended the IDED sponsored "Iowa Housing Working Session" in Coralville on February 18 & 19. This was a working session for staff from flood affected communities, IDED, Iowa Finance Authority and the Rebuild Iowa Office to come together to discuss program issues and problem areas with the procedures & policies of the housing disaster assistance and to develop a plan to make the process more efficient.