

Governor Culver has announced a new assistance program for certain Iowa homeowners and small business owners whose property was damaged by the severe weather of 2008.

The "Jumpstart Iowa" Disaster Recovery Initiative will provide financial assistance to small business owners and homeowners who suffered damage due to the severe weather in the spring and summer of this year. Included in the program is up to \$10,000 to homeowners and up to \$5,000 to small business owners for the purchase of qualifying energy efficient equipment. Money for energy efficient equipment is being provided by the Iowa Power Fund. Funds will be distributed by the Councils of Government (COGs) beginning October 1, 2008 (exceptions to COG distribution may occur in a few large cities).

While this will not directly impact municipal utilities, they will still have two main responsibilities:

1. Knowledge of the program in order to inform customers about it and where to refer inquiries.
2. To supply information to the COGs regarding utility rebate programs. Utility rebate programs will figure into the distribution of recovery funds to individual utility customers.

Counties covered by the FEMA Iowa Disaster Declaration as of 8/26/08 are covered by the Jumpstart Iowa program. To determine if your county is included, use this link to the Disaster Declaration map: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=9867>

Municipal utilities in the counties covered by the program are strongly urged to immediately do the following:

- Designate a contact person in your city of utility for COG communication
- Prepare a list of all residential and small commercial customers who have been affected by severe weather in 2008
- Assemble a list of current customer rebates in effect as of May 25, 2008
- Assemble a list of all residential and small business customers who have received rebates on or after May 25, 2008.

You may soon be contacted by representatives of your COG seeking this information.

Communication and cooperation with your local COG is essential for this program to properly benefit your utility customers with their recovery efforts.

If you are not able to satisfactorily answer questions about the program from your utility customers, they should be referred to your regional COG office. For your office's contact information, use this link:

<http://www.iarcog.com/FindCOG.htm>

For more information about Jumpstart Iowa, use following links:

[http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2008/09/15\\_1.php](http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2008/09/15_1.php)

[http://rio.iowa.gov/news/releases/092208\\_jumpstart\\_funding.html](http://rio.iowa.gov/news/releases/092208_jumpstart_funding.html)