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Iowa's information and referral service on disability services, assistive technology (AT), AT funding resources, and AT legal advocacy.

Disability Information & Referral
Connecting People to Programs

A PROGRAM OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Iowa COMPASS News

Flood 2008

Iowa has experienced record breaking floods this year and many people are affected, including people with disabilities. We are creating this resource with links to printable documents to give folks information on what they can do and where they can go for help.

You will find all of the documents linked below at at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.

A few things everyone needs to know!

Register with FEMA the sooner the better. You need a FEMA number to be eligible for many other services. However, **PROTECT** your FEMA number. **DO NOT GIVE YOUR FEMA NUMBER TO ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE CREDENTIALS!!**

- Check with your home owner's, automobile, and renter's insurance on what is covered.
- Call 211 for your local assistance sites and services.
- You might be eligible for **food stamps**. If you are already enrolled, you may get additional funds to replace lost food and you can purchase prepared food (i.e. grocery deli items).
- Avoid scam contractors. Check with your local Better Business Bureau to see if the company has proper certification from a local government agency.

For persons with disabilities and their families:

There are very few services specific to persons with disabilities and their families. Help and supports for shelter or housing, food, flood clean-up, and transportation are available to anyone and should be accessed through 211 or your local assistance center.

Iowa COMPASS will keep track of disability-related flood recovery supports and services. Please call them at 800-779-2001.

Resources and Links

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The Iowa 2008 Flood Resource Center can be found at www.flood2008.iowa.gov/.

- **Disaster Assistance Clarification** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.

Assistive Technology or Adapted Equipment

- Be sure to contact **Iowa COMPASS** for all information on adapted technology and any late breaking information on resources. Call them at 800-779-2001 or email them at iowa-compass@uiowa.edu or on the web at www.iowacompass.org.
- **Iowa Easter Seals** has *used* adapted equipment. **Donations are also needed:** power wheel chairs and scooters, bath chairs and stools, electric beds, lifts, and other assistive technology devices. Contact them at 515-309-2395 or email them at info@eastersealsia.org.
- If the flood destroyed any adapted devices or assistive technology for your home or work purchased by the **Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services**, you should contact your local VR office immediately for assistance. You can find the number and address for your local VR office at www.ivrs.iowa.gov/.
- **Telecommunications Access Iowa (TAI)** will replace any telecommunications equipment lost in the flood that was issued to a person in Iowa. (5 year rule will not apply.) The person affected will have to make a special request. Call TAI for the procedure. They are asking for a letter explaining that the AT was lost in flood and some documentation or proof of this. Also, the requester should fill out a regular application and give some idea of monthly expenses at this time. You can call TAI at 800-606-5099 (toll free and TTY) or 515-282-5130 (TTY only), or 515-282-5099 (voice and TTY). They can be found online at www.relayiowa.com/tai/index.html.

Children

- **American Academy of Pediatrics Resources to Help Cope with Natural and Other Disasters** at www.aap.org/new/disasterresources.htm.
- **APA Help Center at the American Psychology Association** produced two fact sheets that are available at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp. The fact sheets are:
 - ~ Managing Traumatic Stress
 - ~ Tornadoes, Hurricanes, and Children
- **AutismCares** provides support for costs associated with housing, utilities, insurance premiums, medical care, prescriptions, daycare, automobile repair, funeral expenses, and other items or events for eligible families on a case-by-case basis. The family must apply directly at www.autismcares.org/.
- **Disaster Preparedness for Families with Children with Special Needs** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Disaster Resources for Families and Organizations** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **FEMA for KIDS** at www.fema.gov/kids/index.htm.
- **Iowa Respite and Crisis Care Coalition** has funds for emergency daycare for children with disabilities. You can contact them at 515-309-0858 or 877-255-3140 (toll free), by email at ed@irccc.com, or on the web at <http://irccc.affiniscap.com/>.

- With all the water, there will be more breeding ground for mosquitoes. Look for ways to reduce them at **Mosquito Prevention Key** that can be found online at the Iowa Department of Public Health at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flood.asp. Hand in hand with mosquitoes is the use of repellent. For more information on **Bug Repellent Safety** - the American Academy of Pediatrics has a caution on the use of Deet at www.aap.org/family/wnv-jun03.htm.
- **National Association of School Psychologists Resources** at www.naspoline.org/resources/crisis_safety/index.aspx.
- **Resources for Parents and Teachers** at www.fema.gov/kids/teacher.htm

Department of Human Services and Medicaid

- **DHS** has provided information on how to get replacement prescriptions and replacement equipment that was lost in the flood/ tornadoes. and how to contact FEMA for housing assistance. The document is called Resources for Case Management and you can find it at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **State Disaster Assistance application** www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html. This site lists County Emergency Management Coordinators and information on what assistance is available and income guidelines. The Disaster Assistance hotline is 877-937-3663.

Drug Replacement

- **DHS** has provided information on how to get replacement prescriptions and replacement equipment that was lost in the flood/ tornadoes. and how to contact FEMA for housing assistance. The document is called Resources for Case Management and you can find it at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Flood/Storm Drug Replacement Medicare Part D** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.

General Flood Assistance and Information

- **Lutheran Social Services** is not a "first responder," but our response program works with the affected community to address the long-term unmet needs of residents impacted by disaster long after the cleanup phase is complete. In addition to support from an assigned case advocate, typical assistance may include purchasing a bed or other household items, paying an insurance deductible, paying a utility bill, rent assistance or addressing a wide range of uninsured or underinsured financial losses. For more information on disaster response efforts by LSI, the Iowa affiliate of LDR, contact Pastor Michael Stadie at [mi-chael.stadie@lsiowa.org](mailto:michael.stadie@lsiowa.org).
- **Iowa Department of Transportation Road Closings** can be found at <http://hb.511ia.org/main.jsf>.
- www.kcrg.com/floodwatch
- www.corridorrecovery.com is a comprehensive source of information and updates on the continuing 2008 flood recovery efforts in Cedar Rapids, Linn County and surrounding communities.
- www.2008flood.org a site for volunteers needed/offered and materials needed/offered.

Resources and Links continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Food

- **Disaster Food Assistance Program** information at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.

Flood Clean-up, Recovery, and Safety

- **CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response** at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/
- **Disaster Resources for Families and Organizations** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Family Recovery Project** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp
 - ~ **Flood Waters and Wells**
 - ~ **Flooding**
 - ~ **Post Storm Risks**
- **Flood Clean Up Safety** pamphlet from the International Code Council at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Iowa Concern Hotline** 800-447-1985 has counselors and legal staff on hand and can refer families to local organizations and agencies.
- **ISU Extension Disaster Recovery** at www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecovery/flood.htm
- **Recover and Rebuild** at www.fema.gov/rebuild./index.shtm
- **Red Cross Repairing Your Flooded Home** is a 56-page booklet available at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **US Department of Health and Human Services** offers *A Guide to Managing Stress in Crisis Response Professions* at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.

Housing

- <http://iowaflood08.com> a resource to find temporary housing if you have been displaced due to flooding.
- **Insurance Commissioner Bulletin 08-09** about deferral of premium payments and policy time frames for flood and tornado victims at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Small Business Administration (SBA)** Physical Disaster Loans are a primary source of funding for permanent rebuilding and replacement of uninsured or underinsured disaster damages to privately-owned real estate and/or personal property. SBA's physical disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations. They do have low interest loans for homes, not just businesses. Contact SBA at 800-659-2955 or email them at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. You can find them online at www.sba.gov/floods/.

Iowa Department of Public Health

- **Safety Fact Sheets** has a number of great resources on their website at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flood.asp, including topics such as:
 - ~ Private sewage systems
 - ~ Cleaning
 - ~ Disinfecting
 - ~ Vaccinations
 - ~ Tetanus
 - ~ Contaminated foods
 - ~ Flooded restaurants
 - ~ Salvage
 - ~ Water storage
 - ~ Safety for pets

Project Recovery

- This is a crisis counseling program sponsored by a grant from FEMA under the auspices of the Iowa Department of Human Services. There are several fact sheets available at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp. These fact sheets include:
 - ~ After Disaster - What Teens Can Do
 - ~ Dealing with the effects of Trauma
 - ~ Reaction of Children to Disasters
 - ~ Recovery Guide for Older Adults
 - ~ How to Help Children after a Disaster
 - ~ How Families Can Help Children Cope
 - ~ It's Been 6 months
 - ~ Tips for Managing Stress
 - ~ Self Care Tips

Medicare

- Anyone who has lost adaptive equipment/assistive technology/DME that Medicare paid for can request replacement on the claim. Individuals need to go to a Medicare approved durable medical equipment dealer (DME) and request whatever needs to be replaced. The vendor needs to put "CR Modifier" on the claim.
- **Flood/Storm Drug Replacement Medicare Part D** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.
- **Medicare Waivers and Flexibility for Iowans** at www.uihealthcare.com/cdd/flood.asp.



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We're on the web!
www.iowacompass.org

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Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council

Iowa COMPASS

800-779-2001 (toll-free)
877-686-0032 (toll-free, TTY)
319-353-8777 (local)

**If you know of other flood resources we have not listed ,
please contact Iowa COMPASS so we can update our website.
Thank you!**



An aerial view of flooding on the University of Iowa Campus. (UI News Services)