



# *News Release*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## ***Grant Funds Available for SBDCs to Help Small Businesses Recover in Iowa's Flood, Tornado Disaster Areas***

**WASHINGTON** — Iowa small businesses affected by flooding and tornadoes earlier this year can receive additional technical assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration as a result of an emergency supplemental grant that will be awarded to the Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program.

The additional \$356,830 award recently provided under the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, will allow the Iowa SBDC to continue to expand their support to small businesses in the disaster-damaged areas of Iowa. As a result, Iowa small businesses could receive individualized business management assistance and training for the next three years, and a fourth year if necessary. This award is in addition to an exclusive grant of \$458,000 that the SBA awarded in September and was matched dollar-for-dollar, resulting in more than \$900,000 to the Iowa SBDC.

Coupled with the funds made available today, the Iowa SBDC can expand its capacity to help small businesses in the area rebuild.

“The 2008 tornado and summer floods that devastated parts of Iowa had a significant impact on small businesses,” said SBA Acting Administrator Sandy K. Baruah. “This new assistance will result in over \$1.2 million in resources that have been made available to the Iowa SBDC this year. These funds will enable the SBDC to meet the additional demand while supporting the recovery of the Iowa small business community.”

The Iowa SBDC is hosted by Iowa State University and has 15 regional service centers throughout the state. Eight of those centers are located in areas that suffered the greatest impact from the summer floods. Working closely with the SBA, Iowa SBDCs have been a continuous resource to area businesses, providing disaster-related financial assistance, as well as technical assistance to companies adapting to the business market in the aftermath of this year's disasters.

In addition to the supplemental funding to Iowa SBDC, SBA has provided financial support directly to area businesses. Since May 2008, when much of the state was declared a disaster area in the aftermath of severe flooding and tornadoes, the SBA has approved 659 business disaster loans in Iowa for a total of \$93 million. Additionally, more than \$157 million in disaster loans has been made to 3,120 homeowners and renters in the state.

SBDCs, in coordination with federal, state, local and private sector resources, deliver management and technical assistance to small businesses utilizing an effective business education network of 63 lead centers with over 900 service center locations nationwide. For information about SBDC services, visit the Web site at [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org).

The legislation also makes grants available in other states where SBDCs have mounted major efforts to help small businesses deal with the effects of natural disasters. ####