Exhibit A

Executive Summary

State of Iowa

From 2011-2013, Iowa received eight Presidential Disaster Declarations, encompassing 73 of Iowa's 99 counties. Hundreds of communities, representing more than 70 percent of the state's geography were impacted. These disaster events reflect an increase in the frequency and intensity of weather events and leave communities with depleted resources, while the cost of maintaining critical assets increases.

Through the framing process of this application, the State of Iowa conducted a risk and vulnerability assessment of the qualified events to determine the most impacted and distressed areas. As demonstrated in Exhibit B, the following unmet recovery needs (*supporting documents found at* https://drive.google.com) were identified in the most impacted and distressed areas as a result of the eight qualifying disasters: Structural damage to low-income households housing in Dubuque; eight sub-county areas with damage to public infrastructure not yet repaired due to inadequate resources; and 35 sub-county areas with environmental degradation through measured significant loss of topsoil.

Conventional disaster recovery has focused on the repair and replacement of housing and infrastructure. Traditional hazard mitigation efforts have focused geographically within the immediately impacted areas. While a level of recovery is achieved and incremental progress is made to mitigate future damage, this approach does not make communities resilient to future disaster events.

Resiliency to flooding requires a more holistic, watershed and science-based strategy. A watershed-based approach is unique in that it increases community resiliency through actions that address the contributions to flood hazards of the entire geography. These land use modifications change the hydrology of watersheds, resulting in peak water flow reduction. The State of Iowa's project focuses at the macro level on rural watershed strategies that protect infrastructure and agricultural soils and at the micro level on urban watershed strategies that increase the resiliency of low-income housing stock. Scientific modeling and design-based, whole watershed changes will be achieved that are cost-effective and mutually beneficial to communities and agricultural producers. Watershed stakeholders will be engaged to understand their roles and contribution to disaster resiliency thereby protecting Iowa's agricultural economic base as well as vital roads, bridges, drainage infrastructure, private property and critical public facilities. Iowa's analysis of unmet needs found significant impacts to low-income housing in the City of Dubuque.

The State's proposal also includes urban watershed strategies to protect residents and businesses. Dubuque is a case study of a community that has been impacted by repeated Presidential Disaster Declarations related to extreme rain events. While Dubuque is taking proactive measures to address stormwater events and become a more resilient community, investments in gray infrastructure alone have not addressed unmet needs of the community's most at-risk neighborhoods, where approximately 69 percent of the residents in flood-prone areas are at less than 80 percent of the median income. Residents there have received minimal assistance to make basic repairs following storms that inundated residential and commercial properties. Assistance through a comprehensive Bee Branch Healthy Homes approach will help residents meet unmet structural needs, and engagement and education will empower individuals to be part of the creation of more resilient housing through onsite stormwater management principles and sustainable "healthy home" behaviors. This resident-centered approach will be coupled with holistic innovative green infrastructure investments that will minimize the impact of increasingly frequent and severe rain events on the Bee Branch watershed, allowing nature to manage flash flooding and creating co-benefits like improved public health; increased public and private investment; creation of more high-quality, cost-effective housing; and improved quality of life for at-risk neighborhoods.

Funding will be utilized to establish and leverage comprehensive, multi-objective planning; demonstrate long-term stability; and expand relationships among local, state, federal, and private partners. This engagement will encourage inclusivity among political subdivisions, assess hydrologic conditions and pursue scientifically-based strategic solutions. Iowa is well positioned and the timing is right for this type of sustained resiliency effort through the partners identified in *Attachment A: Partner Documentation*.

The outcome of a watershed-based approach benefits everyone within the watershed. The State, in collaboration with its partners, believes that its proposed watershed-based program will reduce peak flows by 30 percent, thereby creating sustainable and resilient conditions that address and anticipate changing climate conditions in urban and rural watersheds. Reducing peak water flow will also create benefits beyond flood mitigation. The scientific relationship of reduced peak water flows, soil and nutrient run-off, and overall water quality is strongly correlated. Finally, these efforts will culminate in a replicable model that reduces peak water flows, enhances water quality, improves soil health and reduces soil erosion.