

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FEMA Approves Gov. Branstad's Request for Extension to Appeal Denial of Individual Assistance Benefits**

DES MOINES – Gov. Terry E. Branstad today received notice that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Iowa's request for an extension to the time period to appeal the denial of Iowa's request for Individual Assistance under FEMA-1998-DR. Gov. Branstad made the request for an extension on Aug. 12, 2011, for Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties.

FEMA granted the extension, in part, because additional time is needed to allow for flood waters to recede, safe access to damage homes be restored and more damage assessments be conducted. FEMA has extended the deadline to October 7, 2011, which will allow Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division the time needed to work with local officials to bolster Iowa's appeal by capturing damages and associated impacts.

On Aug. 4, 2011, Gov. Branstad received notification that FEMA had denied his request to make the Individual Assistance Program available to residents of Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties. The State of Iowa had 30 days to appeal FEMA's denial of the Individual Assistance Program. However, since the flood water will recede slowly, the Governor asked FEMA for an extension of the appeal.

The FEMA Individual Assistance Program is made available to homeowners, renters and businesses and can include grants and low-interest loans to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other aid programs.

For more information, please visit [www.governor.iowa.gov](http://www.governor.iowa.gov) or [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org).

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