

**Weekly News
7/30/09**

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Des Moines Renaissance Faire

Greg Schmidt asked us to let you know that the Des Moines Renaissance Faire has incorporated numerous new components this year. Check it out at www.dmrenfaire.com.

IOWANS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

Grant money helps replace personal property, furniture, clothing and more not covered by other disaster-assistance programs

Funds through the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program are still available to impacted Iowans in all 78 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance after last summer's natural disasters.

The program, which was included in the Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill (House File 64), provides up to \$2,500 per household to help pay for losses or expenses from last year's disasters which have not yet been covered by other forms of assistance.

The grants are to be used for personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, transportation and temporary housing incurred as a result of last year's disasters. These grants are designed to help cover unmet needs of impacted individuals in counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance between May 24 and Aug. 14, 2008.

The grants are available to families with household incomes up to three times the federal poverty level and will help with needed goods and services not already paid for with assistance from insurance, charity or other government programs. For example, a household of two must make at or below \$3,643 per month or no more than \$43,710 a year to be eligible.

Applications will be taken through June 30, 2010, or until all funds have been expended; however, officials are urging Iowans to apply as soon as possible. To begin the application process, people should call the Long-Term Recovery Committee in their area. People who have moved need to apply with the Long-Term Recovery Committee that covers the area where they lived at the time of the disaster.

To find the office in your area visit the Rebuild Iowa Office web site at www.rio.iowa.gov for a map and contact information or call the Iowa Concern Hotline at (800) 447-1985.

Join our listserv

We've discovered that for a lot of us it's just too much trouble to participate in the CHAT Facebook page, but it's still really important for us to be able to quickly and easily share ideas. So we're going old school! We have established a CHAT listserv.

To join, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for Iowa_CHAT. You'll see our logo there☺ There is an easy sign in process. You are required to create a yahoo account (if you don't have one) but can then select your primary email account as the way you want to share information. Please consider joining—this will be one way we distribute the Weekly News and share legislative information in the future.

Don't worry, we'll still have Facebook and our webpage; this is just one more way to communicate!

Upcoming meetings

Please let deirdre.giesler@iowa.gov know if you've scheduled your next regional CHAT meeting. We'll announce it in the CHAT Weekly News!

Wow Moment

Take a look at this article, "Why the arts matter and deserve support -- especially in bleak times." This is powerfully written stuff.

http://www.miamiherald.com/news/issues_ideas/v-fullstory/story/1156977.html

Have a great week!

--Deirdre