

NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION

The Iowa Approach

Iowa Homeland Security &
Emergency Management Department

BACKGROUND

- Funding ~ \$1 billion; HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Superstorm Sandy Disaster Appropriation
- Applicant: State of Iowa – through the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA)
- Reviewer: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation
- Nationwide - 40 applicants invited; 15-20 expected to be funded; Iowa is in the Phase 2 competition – expected announcement in January of 2016

HUD PROGRAM GOALS

- Help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters, hazards, and shocks
- Consider future risks and vulnerabilities in planning and decision-making
- Help communities better understand their risks and identify ways in which they can protect the long-term well-being and safety of residents

HUD - RESILIENCE

- Applicants (Iowa) must consider how projects
 - Reduce Flood Risk
 - Promote community development goals
 - Ensure meaningful public engagement and participation
 - Build collaborations with neighboring jurisdictions and stakeholders who are critical partners in preventing, mitigating and recovering from disasters

HUD SAID – THROUGH THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

- THE PROJECT OUTLINED IN PHASE 1 AND DEFINED IN PHASE 2 SHOULD:
 - REFLECT THINKING BIG AND COMPREHESIVE
 - BE A PROPOSAL THAT IS OUTSIDE OF THE TYPICAL FEDERAL/STATE RECOVERY PROGRAMS BOX
 - REFLECT CONCEPTS THAT ARE NOT BOUND TO AGENCY/PROGRAM STOVEPIPES
 - REDUCE HAZARDS AND RISK BUT BE MULTI-OBJECTIVE
 - HAVE A BROAD ARRAY OF NON-TYPICAL PARTNERS

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1

TWO BIGGEST ISSUES

- Who is going to lead and coordinate the effort of the State with respect to development and submittal of the Phase 1 Application?
- What project(s) will be chosen for development in the Phase 2 Application assuming Iowa qualifies and is invited?

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1

TWO BIGGEST DECISIONS

- HSEMD will lead and coordinate the effort of the State with respect to development and submittal of Phase 1?
- A comprehensive, multi-objective watershed based project will be developed in Phase 2?

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1

WHY HSEMD?

- The HUD MIDURN criteria is in the “wheelhouse” of HSEMD. Basically if we don't lead, coordinate and provide the analytics for this effort in Phase 1 – Iowa will not qualify.

THE WATERSHED BASED APPROACH – WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- The 1993 Governor's Recovery Task Force Report
- The Galloway Report following the Great Midwest Flood of 1993
- The 2001 Watershed Task Force Report
- The 2007 Water Quality Task Force Report
- The 2009 WRCC Final Reports
- The 2008, 2010 and 2014 Recovery Task Force Reports
- The 2003,2006,2009,2012 State Hazard Mitigation Plan(s)

STATEMENTS ABOUT PHASE 1 OF THE HUD RESILIENCY PROCESS

- Phase 1 of the HUD application required intensive analytics and the measurement of data in ways not contemplated previously
- HSEMD is the only agency that is involved in all disaster response, recovery and mitigation functions – Because of this role we either have the data, know the data exists, or know who to talk to etc. Majority of States – HSEMD equivalent agency led the Phase 1 application.
- HUD requirements in Phase 1 were sometimes firmly entrenched within the typical HUD CDBG regulatory stovepipe – VERY URBAN CENTRIC
- Example – HUD expressed a desire that applicants identify and measure hazards/risks and unmet needs comprehensively BUT in the end those things were not “countable” if:
 - They were not directly related to the 2011-2013 Disasters or
 - They were not identified formally during the disaster timeframe
 - They were not supported by engineering analysis and
 - planning based unmet needs even if directly related to the type of event – could not be counted.

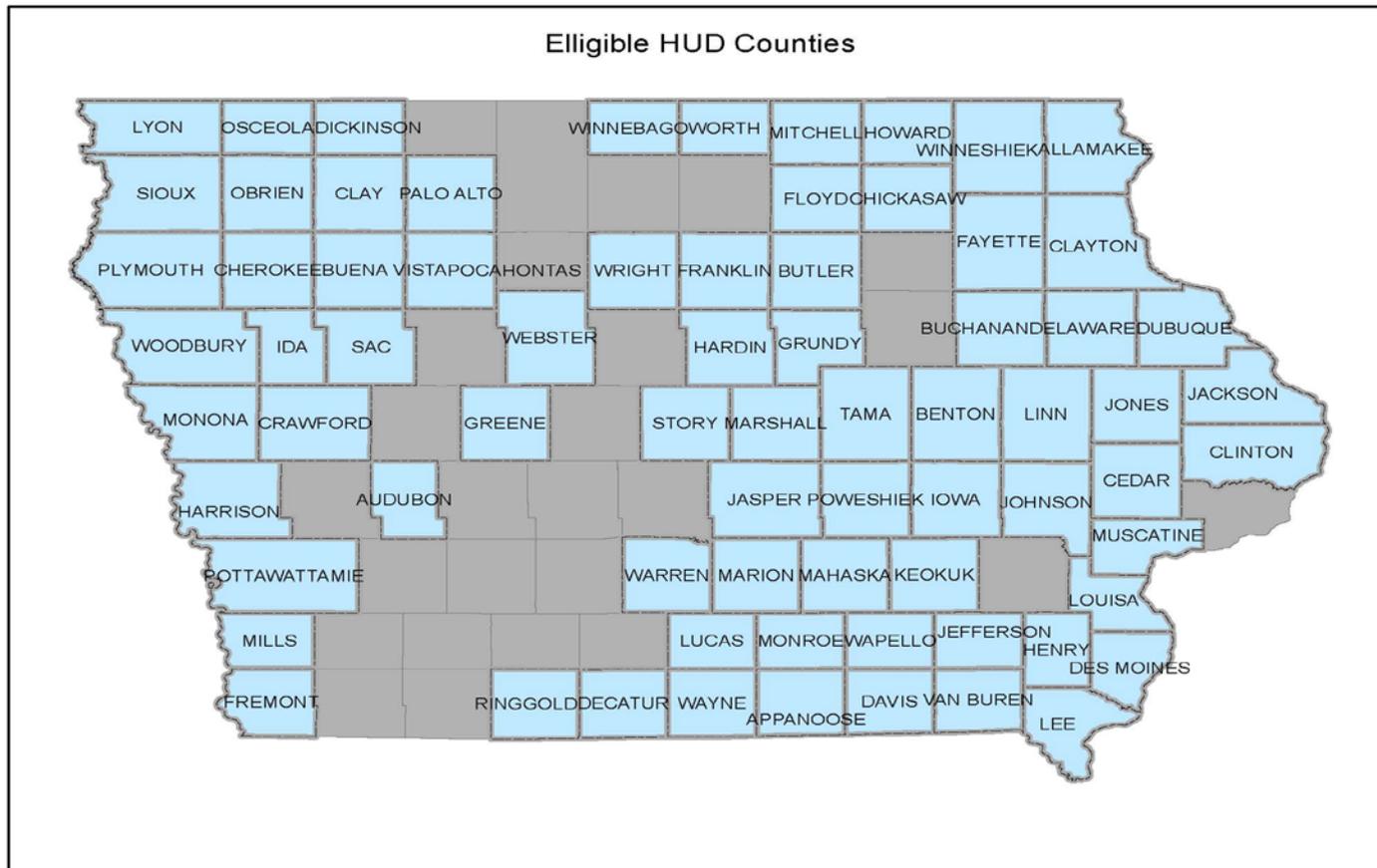
BIG DEEP BREATH #2

- Iowa was able to qualify the Phase I application and was selected for Phase II –
 - The watershed based initiative of Phase 1 became- The Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA) in Phase 2
 - Developed with local and state input
 - The ask is around \$130 Million
 - Includes funding for
 - Unmet Housing and Infrastructure Needs
 - Watershed Approach to reduce peak flow of a 1% event
 - Defined other or multiple objectives beyond flood damage reduction

PHASE 2 – TRANSITION TO THE PROJECT AS A HUD CDBG GRANT

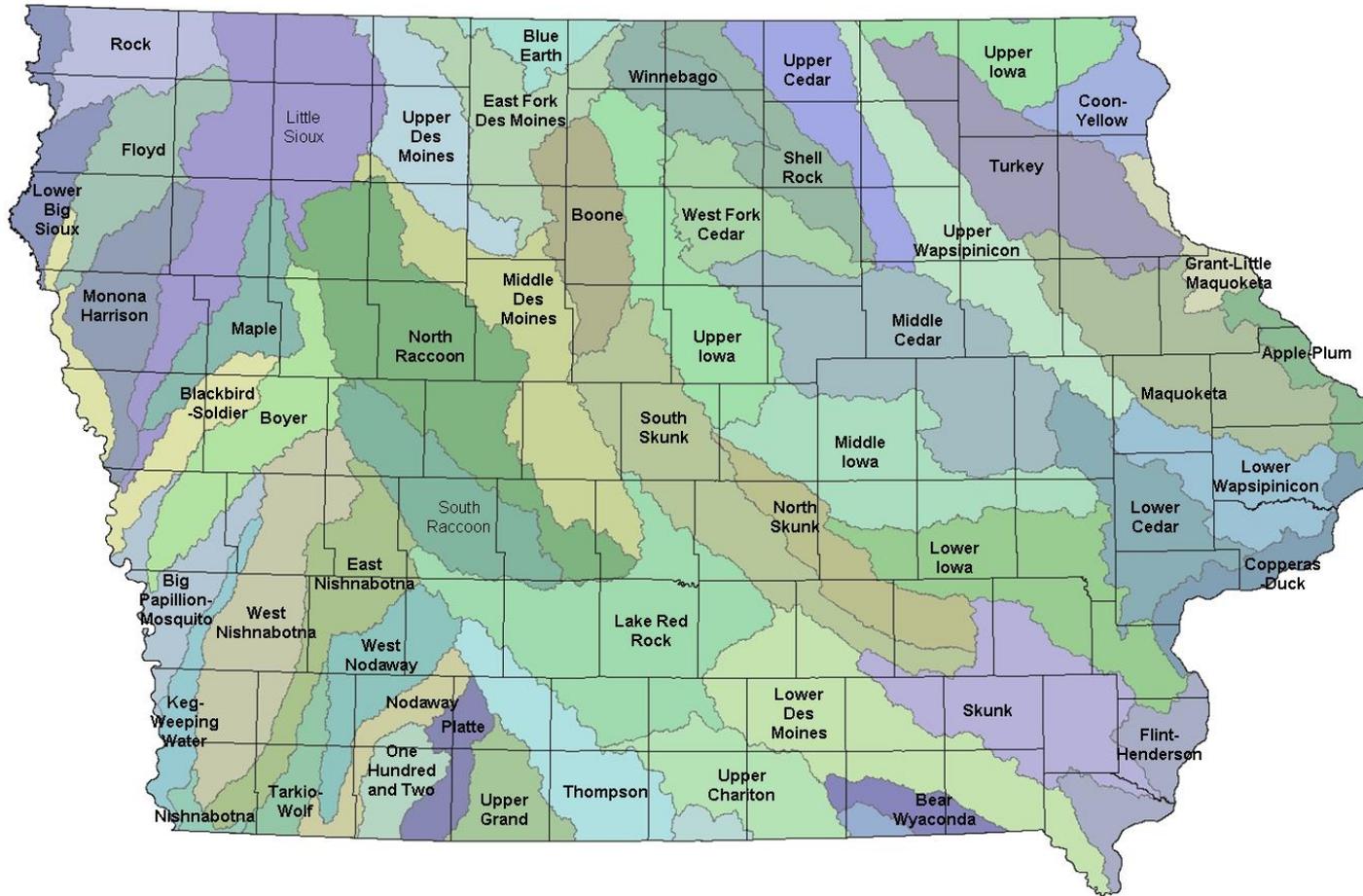
- PHASE 2 STRATEGY–
 - To be successful it became clear that Iowa must capitalize on the previous HUD/IEDA/IFC Pilot Project to foster HUDs acceptance and comfort with the IWA as a larger and more comprehensive approach that will meet HUDs objectives and regulatory requirements.
 - My statement – In absence of the earlier HUD pilot project from the 2008 HUD/CDBG disaster appropriation – Iowa probably not invited to the Phase 2 competition
 - The technical writing for the grant scope of work and integration with HUDs criteria – Iowa Flood Center was critical

#1 – STAFFORD ACT DECLARED COUNTIES 2011-2013

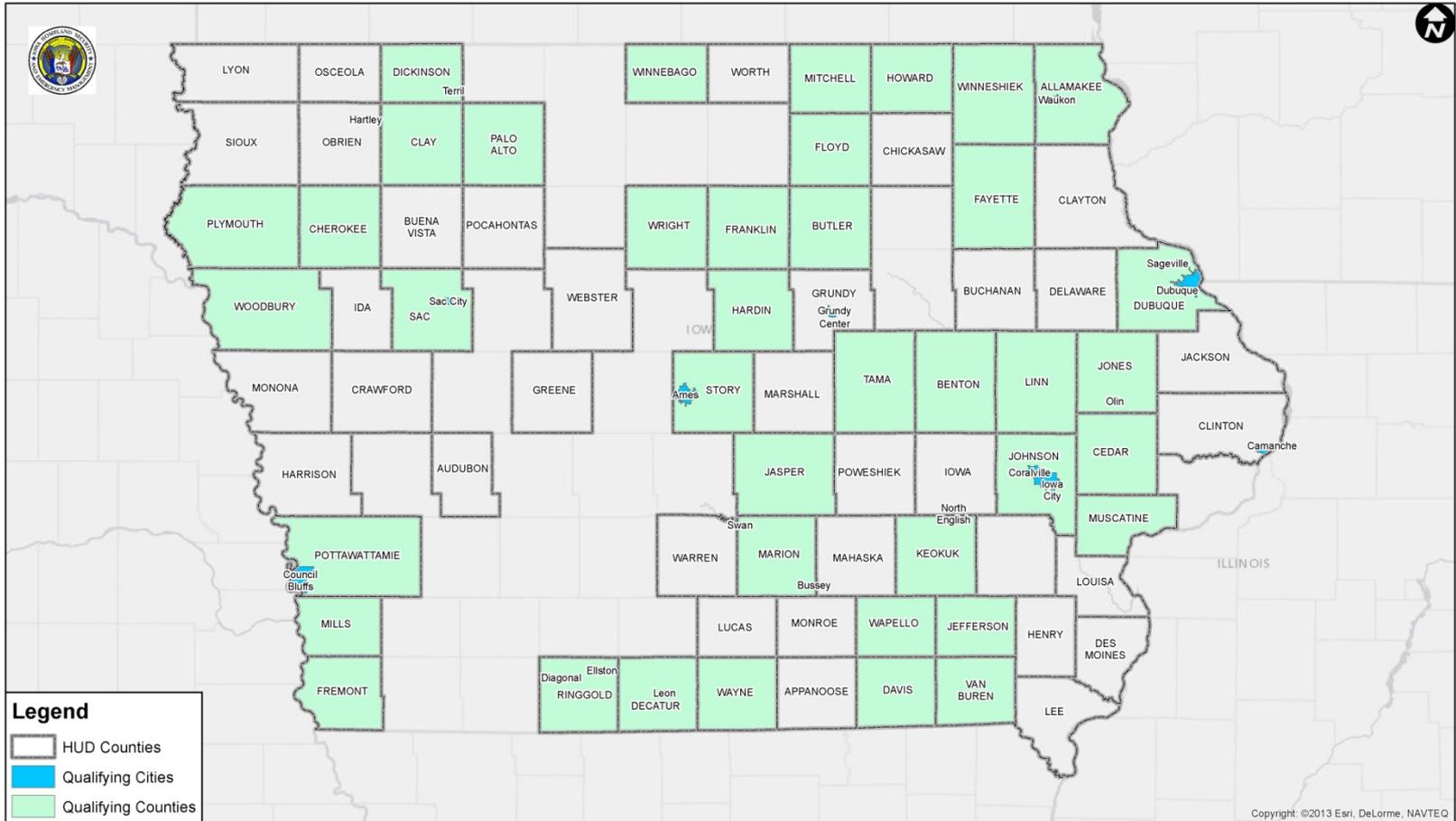


Iowa Watersheds

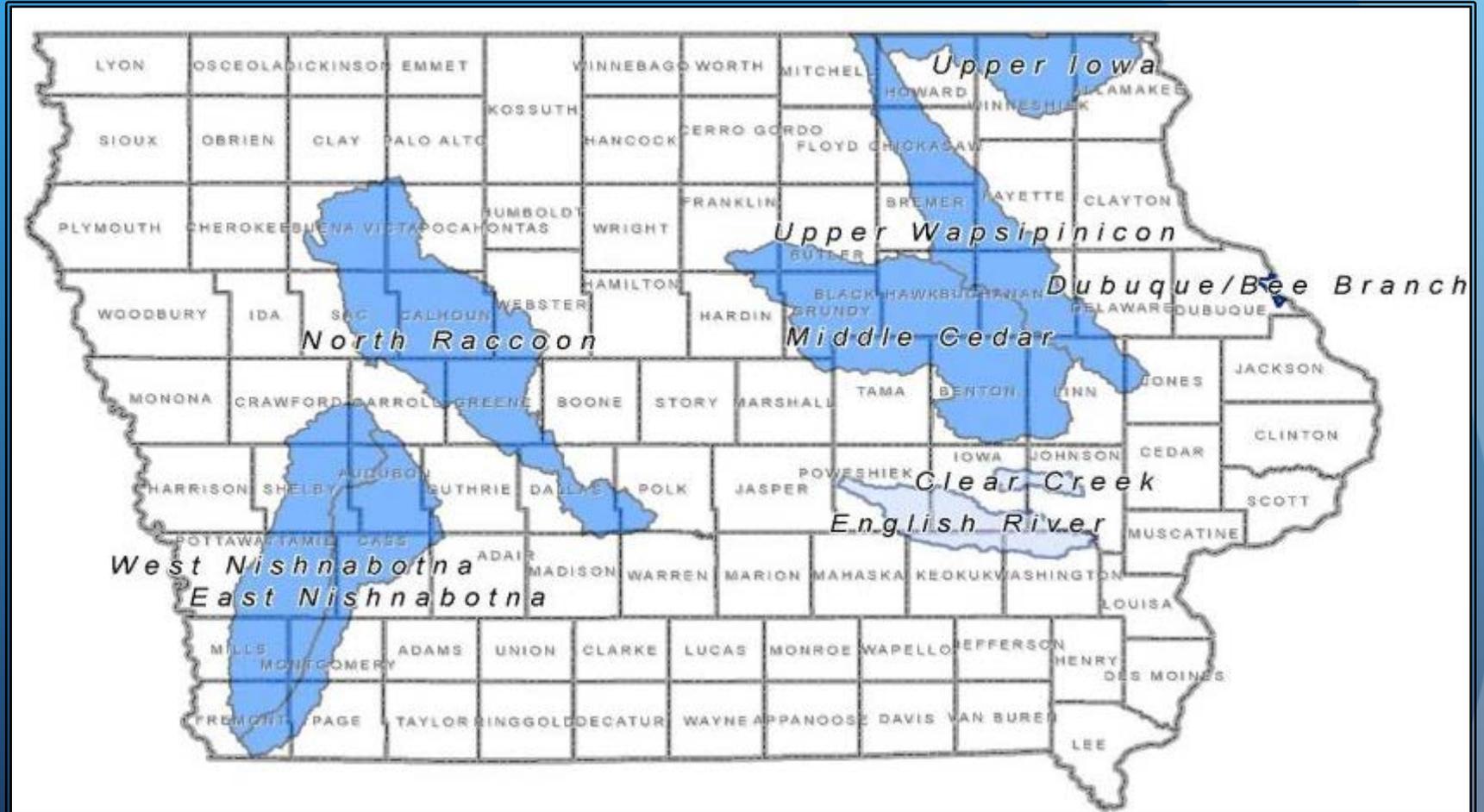
Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8



Qualifying Areas Submitted to HUD



HUD RESILIENCY GRANT – IWA WATERSHEDS



THE IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH (IWA)

The Iowa Watershed Approach recognizes:

- Increasing heavy precipitation and flooding events
- Upstream activities impact downstream communities
- Upstream and downstream communities need to voluntarily work together



THE IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH (IWA)

Continued...

- **Flooding should be addressed at its source**
- **Resilience to floods requires risk mitigation *and community-directed initiatives and planning***
- **Program strategies must also respect, protect, and sustain Iowa's valuable agricultural economy**

IWA – SIX SPECIFIC GOALS

1. **Reduce flood risk**
2. **Improve water quality**
3. **Increase resilience**
4. **Engage stakeholders**
5. **Improve quality of life and health**
6. **Develop a program that is scalable and replicable throughout the Midwest and the United States.**

IOWA'S RESILIENCY OUTCOMES

- **Expected Outcomes**
 - **Significant reduction of flood levels associated with major flood events**
25% reduction in flood volume at .01 return interval (100 year flood)
 - **Measurable improvement to water quality**
 - **Increased economic sustainability agriculture/non-agriculture**
 - **Quality of life**

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1

- Establish Target Area(s) – Most Impact and Most Distressed Unmet Recovery Needs (MIDURN) defined at the sub-county level within qualified Counties that meet at least :
 - One HUD defined Most Impacted Criteria,
 - at least one HUD defined Distressed Criteria,
 - AND at least one HUD defined Unmet Recovery criteria
- Important to understand that the TARGET AREAS were restricted to Qualified Stafford Act Disaster Declarations between 2011 – 2013 -
 - County – Received a Qualified Disaster declaration
 - Sub-County-Level – e.g., Individual or contiguous census tract(s)/census block(s)
- Identified Target Areas must benefit from the Phase 2 Project Scope of Work

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1

MOST IMPACTED

- Most Impacted – Damage resulting from the Qualified Disaster meeting at least one of the following characteristics:
 - Housing – A concentration of housing damage in a sub-county area due to the eligible disaster causing damage to either a minimum of 100 homes or serious damage to a minimum of 20 homes.
 - Infrastructure – **Damage to permanent infrastructure in a sub-county area estimated at \$2 million or greater.**
 - Economic Revitalization – A disaster in a sub-county area causing significant employment loss and extended harm to the local economy.
 - Environmental Degradation – **A disaster resulting in significant degradation to the environment putting the housing, infrastructure, and/or economic drivers in the area and nearby areas in great harm for a future disaster.**
 - For example, damage to stream beds from a severe flooding event damaging a containment dike or dam increasing risk of more flood damage to property.

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1 MOST DISTRESSED

- Distressed – Meeting one or more of the following characteristics:
 - Disaster impacted low- and moderate-income households. More than 50 percent of the people in the target area are at less than 80 percent of median income
 - Loss/shortage of affordable rental housing. There is a severe shortage of affordable rental housing or as a result of the effects of the disaster there is a new high risk of damage to more than 100 assisted rental housing units from a future event the intended intervention would protect against.
 - Disaster impacted a federal target area or economically fragile area. The affected area is a tribal area, contains a Promise Zone, is in a Strong Cities Strong Communities site, and/or has an unemployment rate more than 125 percent of the national average unemployment rate.
 - Disaster impacted an area with prior documented environmental distress. The affected area contains a contaminated property cleaned, undergoing cleanup, or proposed for cleanup.

IOWA'S APPLICATION – PHASE 1 UNMET RECOVERY NEEDS

- Unmet Recovery Needs – In the area(s) identified as “most impacted and distressed” that have not been addressed by other sources. (e.g., insurance, state and local funds, SBA disaster loans, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, non-profit contributions, or prior allocations of CDBG funds.)
 - Housing – Households still displaced from housing due to the disaster or are there housing units in or near the impacted area that were damaged by the disaster.
 - Infrastructure – A minimum of \$400,000 damage to permanent public infrastructure located within the most impacted target area that has not yet been repaired due to inadequate resources.
 - Economic Revitalization –
 - Minimum of 5 businesses with remaining repair needs;
 - Business revenues continued to be depressed by 10 percent or more relative to revenues prior to the disaster for one or more modest sized employers (10 or more employees) due to the disaster, OR three or more smaller businesses show revenues 10 percent less than prior revenues.
 - Environmental Degradation – Threatens long-term recovery of critical natural resources and places housing, infrastructure, and/or economic revitalization at risk. Remaining repairs must be \$400,000 or greater.

HUD CRITERIA AND THE IWA

- Extent and location of unmet recovery needs stemming from the effect of the community's Presidentially-declared major disaster from 2011, 2012, or 2013
- The extent and location of LMI and other vulnerable communities/groups in the watershed
- Community interest and engagement
- Potential for leveraging other related projects in the watershed

HUD CRITERIA AND THE IWA (CONT)

- The local interest and enthusiasm for forming or continuing to work with a Watershed Management Authority in this watershed?
- Identification of the most vulnerable populations in the watershed and who may benefit from this program?
 - This may be based on a wide range of criteria from socio-economic to ethnicity, age, education level, etc.
- Bee Branch in Dubuque is a critical component of the Iowa application – because of the HUD LMI criteria but also because the larger project is a watershed based project

STATE OF IOWA PARTNERS;

- Iowa Economic Development Authority
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Flood Center ; primary application development
- Iowa State University; Iowa Water Center
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- NGOs, commodity groups, environmental groups