

GOVERNMENT

**DISASTER RECOVERY
PROGRAMS FOR FEMA**



CASE STUDY | IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**LARGEST OVERLAND FLOODING EVENT
IN FEMA HISTORY**

CHALLENGE

In the months prior to the 2008 floods in Iowa, Witt O'Brien's engaged with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) to discuss strategies and planning requirements necessary to prepare for future response and recovery operations. The preparedness discussions turned to assistance after extremely heavy rainfall - on top of record snowpack - that led to a sustained period of flooding, impacting 92 of the State's 99 counties (including the catastrophic flooding of Cedar Rapids). Within days of the start of the flooding and severe storms, the State asked Witt O'Brien's to help them secure recovery funding and implement FEMA and other agency disaster relief programs and long term recovery programs.

SOLUTION

We deployed a highly-skilled team of technical experts, at a peak number of 35, to provide the State with technical and professional services to assist and implement the State of Iowa's responsibilities as the recipient under FEMA grant programs, including the PA and HMA Programs. We provided strategic assistance in the form of organization, communications, and planning. We also provided assistance in requesting innovative initiatives to meet challenges identified in the recovery period. We continue to provide assistance in the writing and filing of first and second appeals involving FEMA eligibility decisions. Our successful appeals work has resulted in favorable decisions resulting in more than \$30 million of additional funding on behalf of the State of Iowa.

RESILIENCE DELIVERED

This effort involved extensive coordination, team development, and communications with eligible subrecipients, to maximize grant awards and reduce eligibility problems. The work of the RIO and the resulting planning efforts were widely applauded throughout the State and became the foundation for the State's successful long-term recovery efforts and requests for supplemental appropriations, including through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. Witt O'Brien's continues to provide the State with ways to enhance their resiliency.

WITH YOU WHEN IT COUNTS



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Experience is vital when you're responsible for your community's safety and welfare. Our team has managed all types of disaster, from terrorism and cyber attacks to hurricanes and wildfires. Many of us have done so in government roles.

CONTACT AN EXPERT



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