

IOWA

Highlights of State Council Activities

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council is a group comprised of voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as government agency representatives that serve as a committee to address unmet needs during emergency events. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at the Joint Forces Headquarters.

Representatives from the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council and the statewide Citizen Corps Council agreed to staff the position coordinating volunteer response and donations management in the State Emergency Operations Center.

Facing a reduction in Citizen Corps grant funds during the FY05 funding cycle, Citizen Corps funds were distributed equally to all regions with active Citizen Corps programs.

Highlights of State Activities

Public Education and Outreach

Throughout the current funding cycle, Iowa Citizen Corps printed brochures for statewide use that promote citizen preparedness and provided information about the division and its capabilities for assisting citizens.

As Iowa is a heavily agricultural state, Citizen Corps funding was used to partner with the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, with the development of brochures entitled "Biosecurity Basics." This program promoted agriculture security and provided information on Veterinary Rapid Response Teams, which can be utilized during an agro-terrorism event or an agriculture disaster.

Iowa recently completed a statewide expansion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All-Hazards Radio system. Many of Iowa's county Emergency Management Coordinators utilized a portion of their Citizen Corps funds to provide NOAA All-Hazards Radios to critical facilities in their communities, furthering the capability to warn their citizens.

Training and Exercises

Six northwest Iowa counties are currently developing and participating in AgWatch, a program that continues to educate local producers on agriculture security concerns that may impact their operations and the state of Iowa.

Three different CERT training classes were conducted because of the interest among state employees housed on the Capital Complex system. Each session concluded with a full-scale exercise so employees could practice the skills acquired in training. Key to one of these CERT

classes was the capability to provide interpreters for individuals who were hearing-impaired. Citizen Corps funds provided the needed resources that allowed these individuals to participate.

Volunteer Programs and Support

Iowa held a volunteer recognition luncheon to thank Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council members for their ongoing support and commitment.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Through voluntary and faith-based partners involved in the statewide Citizen Corps Council, many communities throughout Iowa supported and continue to support Hurricane Katrina evacuees who relocated to Iowa.

National Preparedness Month

Iowa utilized Citizen Corps funds to place print and radio advertising at local newspapers throughout the state during National Preparedness month. Ads encouraged citizens to visit the Web site, www.bereadyiowa.org to view useful preparedness information.