OnTheMap Floods in Iowa

Local Employment Dynamics ⸱ **All About Jobs**

On June 15, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 24 counties in Iowa to be flood disaster areas where residents can apply for federal assistance.

OnTheMap is an innovative, publicly available, online tool from the Census Bureau that can be used to present a finer resolution of the impacted areas. Two demonstration packages have been developed in response to FEMA's request about what OnTheMap can produce about specific flood-impacted cities in Iowa:

- A set of standard maps and reports that can be generated directly from OnTheMap using a standard Internet browser for four flood-impacted cities – Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Iowa City – and one tornado-impacted city (Parkersburg). These maps and reports cover respectively workers who live in a selected city and workers who work in a selected city; and

- A set of custom maps and reports created using GIS tools and OnTheMap data to estimate flood-impacted Census Blocks in the Greater Des Moines and Cedar Rapids regions. These detailed maps and reports cover respectively workers who live in the selected Census Blocks and workers who work in the selected Census Blocks.

OnTheMap is available at http://lehd.did.census.gov. The data source is based on Local Employment Dynamics (LED), which is a federal-state partnership between the Census Bureau and the state Labor Market Information offices to integrate existing data about workers, employers and jobs from multiple sources to create new, innovative products about the U.S. economy and society. OnTheMap has also been supported by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

OnTheMap public-use data currently cover 42 states and the second quarters of three years from 2002 to 2004, with resolution at the Census Block level. The present base map geographies (including city boundaries) are based on TIGER 2005 2nd edition. More information about TIGER is located at http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/index.html. The LED database includes all workers covered under the partner state's unemployment insurance programs; it does not currently include federal jobs, uniformed military, or the self-employed.

The next version of OnTheMap is scheduled for release in September 2008. Forty five (45) states will participate in the next version. Data for two more years, 2005-2006, will also be added.

Comments about OnTheMap should be sent to DID.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov.