

1.0 Recovery Support Function: Natural and Cultural Resources

1.1 Core Capability

The core recovery capability for the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (RSF) is the ability to protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties through appropriate response and recovery actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore them consistent with postdisaster community priorities and in compliance with appropriate environmental and cultural resources laws.

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) coordinates the efforts of the RSF primary and supporting agencies to ensure those agencies with relevant authorities, expertise, and resources are positioned to provide assistance to, and collaborate with, public and private-sector partners.

1.2 Overview

The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (RSF) provides guidance to State and federal agencies by aiding local communities in several key areas:

- Assisting in the identification of natural and cultural resources through the State and federal inventories.
- Assessing natural and cultural resources for vulnerability to hazards and potential impacts to the community that their damage or loss would cause.
- Facilitating ongoing management of natural and cultural resources, including maintenance of natural systems in a state of health and resilience, and establishment of protocols and resources for maintaining temporary and permanent safekeeping of cultural resources before, during, and after disaster events.
- Providing historical and environmental specialists to ensure compliance early in recovery. Specific expertise in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Section 304 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), could be provided.

1.3 Responding Agency Hierarchy

A variety of partner agencies and organizations have important roles in the implementation of the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF. Each identified partner is designated a primary, coordinating, or supporting role based on their specific authorities, resources, and capabilities. Consistent with the NDRF, the coordination of programs delivered by these agencies can be done quickly based on their intended use, funding, and authorities.

Primary Agency: Provides direction and oversight for the efficient delivery of resources to impacted communities.

Coordinating Agency: Facilitates communication and technical assistance needed for the implementation of actions by the primary and supporting agencies.

Supporting Agency: Assists primary agency or agencies with recovery actions consistent with their resources and capabilities.

The following agencies have been identified as primary, coordinating, and supporting:

Agency Role Identification	
Primary State Agency:	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Primary Federal Agency:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Coordinating State Agency:	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Coordinating Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of the Interior
Supporting State/Federal Agencies:	Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs State Historic Preservation Office and State Archeologist Office, Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Finance Authority, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, University of Iowa Flood Center, Iowa State University Water Center, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1.4 Recovery Continuum - Transition from Response to Recovery

The following Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) directly relate to the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (RSF):

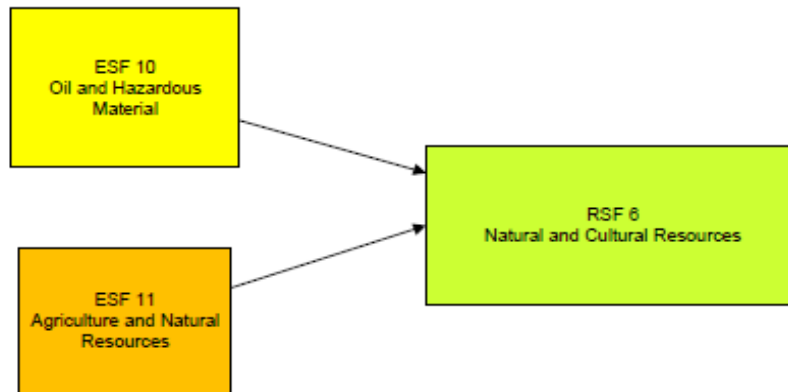
- ESF 10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
- ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Following a disaster event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) may be activated to coordinate the State-level response. Depending on the type and severity of the disaster event, specific ESFs are activated by the HSEMD Response Division Administrator to effectively address the response needs. As the disaster management transitions from response to recovery, HSEMD response and recovery leadership will initiate the transition to the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF. HSEMD facilitates the sharing of information between ESF and RSF primary agencies to ensure a smooth transition.

The primary agency identified in *Part A: Iowa Emergency Response Plan* for each specific ESF is responsible for briefing the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as the primary agency for the RSF, on the impact to natural and cultural resources within the state and ensuring a smooth transition from ESF to RSF. In conjunction with the primary and coordinating agencies for each ESF, short-, intermediate-, and long-term recovery goals and objectives will be defined as they relate to each sector

within the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF. HSEMD is the overarching coordinating agency that ensures open communication and coordination when transitioning from ESF to RSF. This effort becomes the basis of a recovery strategy for the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF and is scalable to the type, impacts, and magnitude of the disaster event.

Figure 1: Transition from Response to Recovery, 2016. Source: HSEMD



Identified below are predisaster-related operational steps with the potential to address issues early on:

- If possible, include personnel with natural and cultural resource expertise at the State Emergency Operations Center for planning activities.
- The establishment of a network of potential technical experts to assess impacts and deliver recovery assistance to communities with consideration of natural and cultural resource impacts.
- The creation and maintenance of a natural and cultural resource inventory for prioritization purposes in the event of a disaster.

Determining the extent and characteristics of a hazardous material contamination includes assessing what methods are necessary for cleanup and how long the contamination will last. Establishing regulatory and environmental review processes in advance can expedite response and recovery actions. Preparedness activities include:

- Statewide and/or community-wide planning for facilities most at risk.
- Developing a process for identifying hazardous material contamination and actions for mitigation.
- Creating and maintaining programmatic agreements for the streamlining of regulatory and environmental regulations.

1.5 Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery Responsibilities by Magnitude of the Disaster

By gauging the magnitude of the event affecting jurisdiction(s), each agency's roles can be identified to expedite the recovery process. Early identification allows each respective State agency to easily see the

agencies with which they will need to coordinate, which aspect of recovery they will assist with, and at what magnitude level they will be needed in order to expedite the recovery process. Because the majority of recovery efforts under the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF are long-term in nature, severe-magnitude events are usually seen as the main activating component. Long-term recovery actions generally address issues that go beyond both short-term and intermediate recovery and carry on beyond 12 months.

As these event levels build upon the previous level of intensity, the activities at higher levels include the activities at the lower levels.

Magnitude 

Minor events usually remain within the local community's jurisdiction. These events include damage to dwellings with minimal structural issues and minor loss of contents. When requested, HSEMD will provide and/or coordinate technical and advisory assistance, identifying existing local and State resources that could be utilized for recovery tasks.

These events can include minor hazardous material spills, localized storms that damage historic property, and/or minor contamination of an area that threatens endangered species, local wildlife, or the integrity of the natural environment.

Magnitude 

Moderate events can result in a Governor's Proclamation. The Governor's Proclamation activates the Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan, formalizing the structure for delivering State resources to local communities. Recovery requires a joint effort from local, county, and State personnel to assess the need for equipment, technical assistance, supplies, and essential services. HSEMD coordinates with local officials on the damage assessment of the natural and cultural resources. Damage can encompass a wide range of issues and impacts.

Members of the Natural and Cultural Resources recovery working group are the representatives of the agencies listed under the responding agency hierarchy section. Their purpose is to coordinate recovery requirements and resources at the State level.

A State agency recovery structure may be activated to facilitate potential resource identification for cultural resource needs, to complete surveys and historic preservation designations, and to coordinate with other RSFs in Housing and Infrastructure.

Magnitude 

An event of this magnitude easily surpasses the ability of the community and State to recover without additional federal resources. Not all federal programs are automatically activated for every disaster event. However, when federal resources are activated, the functional structure of the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF expands to include other coordinating, primary, and supporting federal agencies. In the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF, consideration is given to the cross-functional needs in the Housing and Infrastructure Systems RSFs. State functional roles and responsibilities remain consistent from a moderate to severe event.

1.5.1 Types of Federal Disaster Declarations that can Involve Natural and Cultural Resources Impacts:

Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance and/or Individual Assistance: The president declares a major disaster and authorizes Public Assistance (assistance to state and local government agencies and/or certain, qualified private nonprofit (PNP) agencies) and/or Individual Assistance (assistance to homeowners and businesses). FEMA provides a disaster declaration summary to other agencies after it is signed by the president. For additional information on Presidential Disaster Declarations, see the basic section of this plan.

1.6 Disaster-related Programs, Functions, Roles, and Responsibilities

1.6.1 State Agencies and Programs

A. Primary State Agency: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the statutory authorities and programs necessary for delivering technical assistance and resources to impacted communities. DNR staff provide air, land, and water quality expertise and assistance in both the response and recovery phases of disaster management. Other staff functions include wildlife, conservation, parks, fisheries, forestry operations, and management. The DNR works with communities and counties to develop and administer local floodplain management programs and coordinates the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

As the primary State agency, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the following:

- Integrating environmentally knowledgeable staff in natural resources and environmental regulatory requirements early in a disaster recovery planning process.
- Addressing potential environmental or regulatory issues.
- Assisting in the development of predisaster programmatic agreements between natural resource and cultural resource agencies to facilitate postdisaster recovery options.
- Providing assistance to jurisdictions regarding the applicability of environmentally friendly designs to guide recovery projects.
- Sharing best management practices with working group members to improve the efficiency of the recovery process.

1. Section 304, Emergency Release Notification

The DNR supports emergency planning and requires notification of some types of hazardous materials spills. Additional information can be found on the DNR's website, [Section 304 Emergency Release](#)

Notification process. This is a response-initiated program but may be of sufficient magnitude to require organizational coordination in recovery.

B. Coordinating State Agency: Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

As the coordinating agency, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management commits to facilitating the following:

- Developing a process by which disaster-related programs are activated.
- Communicating processes among stakeholders that are streamlined and collaboration is ongoing.
- Defining program responsibilities and roles that are carried out.
- Supporting the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery Work Group/Task Force actions and activities.
- Identifying unmet needs and additional assistance.

2. Public Assistance

The Public Assistance (PA) Program provides public entities (local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, certain private nonprofit organizations, political subdivisions and the State) with disaster recovery grants for eligible work to expedite response and recovery from a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

HSEMD serves as the grantee for this program.

If an eligible facility is damaged or destroyed, natural, cultural, and historical considerations must be taken into account before determining the recovery path for that facility.

A PNP in a declared county that provides an “essential government service” that also owns or operates a “critical facility” as defined in [44 CFR 206.211 \(e\)](#) can apply directly to FEMA.

When a PNP has an impacted facility that provides noncritical, essential social services as defined in [44 CFR 206.211 \(f\)](#), the PNP must apply first for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan prior to requesting additional assistance from FEMA for permanent facility repairs. Assistance may be available if SBA declines their application or approves a loan insufficient to cover repair costs. PNP that provide both essential government services, as well as noncritical essential social services, can apply for emergency work cost reimbursement under the PA program. Examples of critical services and noncritical essential services can be found in [FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** – A Presidential Disaster Declaration as authorized under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as amended (The Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. § 5170C.

Cost Share Requirements:

The federal share is not less than 75 percent with the state and local governments responsible for the remainder.

Program Website: [HSEMD PA Program](#)

3. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The State, acting as the grantee in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), provides funding to local governments and eligible private nonprofits following a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The amount of available HMGP funding to the applicant is based upon the estimated total of federal assistance, subject to a sliding scale formula outlined in the 44 CFR § 206.432(b). The key purpose of HMGP is to ensure the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to reduce the loss of life and property from future disasters is not lost during the reconstruction process following a disaster.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** – A Presidential Disaster Declaration as authorized under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as amended (The Stafford Act), 42, U.S.C. §5170C. Hazard Mitigation project funds do not have to be spent in disaster areas; projects can be developed in any jurisdiction with a current hazard mitigation plan.

Cost Share Requirements:

FEMA can fund up to 75 percent of the eligible costs of projects submitted under each Presidential Disaster Declaration. The state or project applicant is responsible for the remaining 25 percent cost share, which can be a combination of cash, in-kind services, or materials.

***More detailed information is available in the State of Iowa Hazard Mitigation Administrative Plan*

Program Website: [HSEMD HMA Program](#)

C. Supporting State Agencies and Programs

Supporting agencies are available and able to assist in a specialized capacity to support the primary and coordinating agencies. Their role aligns with their agency missions and may not be needed at all times during disaster recovery.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

4. Emergency Historical Resource Development Program

Applications are accepted for the Emergency Historical Resource Development Program in the documentary collections category only. Funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum amount of the grant is \$15,000. Grant funding is intended to help preserve, conserve, interpret, enhance, and educate the public about Iowa's historical assets.

Program Website: [EHRDP](#)

State Historical Society of Iowa

The State Historical Society of Iowa acts as the consulting agency for the [Section 106 process](#) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800. This process is utilized when a federal agency identifies there is an undertaking potentially affecting a historic property. The State Historical Society facilitates the Certified Local Government Program to encourage preservation and wise use of historic resources. The Certified Local Government Program facilitates the creation of State and federal partnerships for historic preservation activities and provides training and technical assistance to communities.

Office of the State Archeologist

The Office of the State Archeologist manages the I-Sites program. I-Sites is a database of locations across the state that have undergone a formal review and are either archeologically or culturally sensitive.

Program Website: [I-sites public viewer](#)

Office of the State Archeologist, OSA Indian Advisory Council

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) interacts frequently with Indian tribes and communities on matters of mutual interest and concern. The OSA Indian Advisory Council includes representatives from several Indian communities in Iowa. Through regular meetings and informal consultation, Indian Advisory Council members and OSA staff members share information and address issues relating to Indian burial sites, human remains, repatriation, and other topics.

If, after a disaster occurs, there is the potential to have impacted Indian burial sites, human remains, and/or repatriation of remains, the OSA Indian Advisory Council may provide the linkage back to the Indian nation.

Program Website: [OSA Indian Advisory Council](#)

Iowa Economic Development Authority

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) supports communities in revitalizing their downtown and historic commercial districts through the Iowa Downtown Resource Center. The Center assists communities around the state through the Main Street Iowa Program. IEDA qualified staff can provide technical assistance to communities as well as small grants through the Community Development Block Grant.

Iowa Finance Authority

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) manages several State revolving loan programs for water quality and protection. IFA programs can potentially fund the costs of completing design and compliance reviews, replacing old infrastructure, and creating incentives for general nonpoint-source pollution reduction. More information about these programs can be found online.

Program Website: [State Revolving Fund](#)

Iowa Department of Transportation

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) administers the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which can be utilized to preserve and/or rehabilitate historic transportation systems. The DOT also plays a supporting role in the Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) process with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Iowa’s TAP program funds may pay for up to 80 percent of eligible project costs, or up to the approved grant maximum, whichever is less. A local match is required to pay for 20 percent or more of the remaining project costs.

Program Website: [DOT TAP guidance](#)

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

As agricultural impacts can have a profound effect on the environment, The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Center for Agriculture Security provides reliable information and assistance to emergency responders for an agricultural incident and provides important emergency information to the industry.

IDALS also manages the Watershed Protection Program, which provides technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of local watershed initiatives. Watershed protection projects include reducing soil erosion, protecting and enhancing waterways, providing flood control, and the protection of other natural resources.

The IDALS Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality provides farmers with expertise and funding for the installation of initiatives that preserve our highly productive soil, prevent erosion, and protect our critical waterways.

Program Website: [IDALS Soil Conservation](#)

Iowa Flood Center

The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) at the University of Iowa provides information to legislators, State agencies, and local decision makers for the purposes of flood prediction and modeling. Through web-based inundation maps, stream-stage sensors, and hydrologic stations, staff members predict flood trends that assist emergency management. The IFC can also facilitate project development for the purposes of watershed conservation, storm water, and floodplain management.

Iowa Water Center

Staff at the Iowa Water Center at Iowa State University identify research needs, fund education, and research projects regarding water quality, water quantity, and water resources management. Staff provide outreach and education to water resource professionals, teachers, policymakers, and the general public.

As part of the Iowa Water Center’s project portfolio, staff members support the development and education of watershed management authority staff. These entities work with jurisdictional leaders and landowners to address watershed management issues in Iowa.

1.6.2 Federal Agencies and Programs

When federal programs are involved, impacted structures must go through an Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliance review before actions are taken. These actions can include repair, demolition, or replacement.

D. Primary Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Consistent with the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the primary responsibility of protecting public health and the natural environment from hazards by supporting associated recovery activities.

The EPA is the proponent agency for the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). NEPA assures that all branches of government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment.

Through a mission assignment from FEMA, the EPA:

- Provides technical assistance to support recovery planning of public health and social services infrastructure.
- Provides technical assistance for long-term cleanup to minimize public health threats, including environmental sampling and monitoring, decontamination, and disposal.

The EPA integrates sustainable planning elements by providing a multidisciplinary effort that includes the consideration of long-term environmental effects on natural resources, the integration of open space and sensitive resources, and overall community well-being.

E. Primary Federal Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- Provides leadership, mission assignments, technical and financial assistance to federal recovery missions, including guidance on Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation program eligibility available under the Robert T. Stafford Act.
- Identifies relevant federal programs and incentives that have a role in supporting the preservation, protection, conservation, rehabilitation, recovery, and restoration of natural/cultural resources during recovery.
- Promotes the principles of sustainable disaster-resistant communities through the protection of natural resources such as coastal barrier zones, floodplains, wetlands, and other natural resources critical to risk reduction.
- Promotes activities that cultural institutions can pursue to develop and implement strategies for the protection of cultural collections and essential records.

F. Coordinating and Primary Federal Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior

The mission of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is to conserve and manage the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. DOI provides information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people. DOI honors the nation's trust responsibilities or special

commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance is the arm of the DOI that works with federal, state and local partners to improve preparedness, protection, response, and recovery from disasters impacting department-managed lands and resources. DOI is the lead for the coordination of protection and recovery of natural and cultural resources and historic properties nationwide.

Beyond the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, the DOI has numerous bureaus that can be leveraged to support recovery for impacts to natural and cultural resources:

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to “enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a coordination role with the Sac and Fox Indian Nation, whose tribal lands are located within Tama County.

Bureau of Land Management

The mission of the Bureau of Land Management is to “sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

National Park Service

The mission of the National Park Service (NPS) is to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” In Iowa, the NPS operates the Effigy Mounds in Allamakee and Clayton counties and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Cedar County.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to “work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” Biologists on staff may be able to assist regarding the impacts of environmental contaminants and can leverage subject matter expertise on endangered species.

U.S. Geological Survey

The mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is to serve the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect quality of life. The U.S. Geological Survey manages the physical stream gage network and can provide historic data for analysis.

When DOI accepts a mission assignment from FEMA, it facilitates effective communication and coordination among RSF primary and supporting agencies. These tasks can include:

- Encouraging local and state leadership of the disaster-impacted communities to take ownership of the recovery planning process.

- Providing coordination between agencies for community and task assignments.
- Supporting any coordinating activities implemented through all RSFs.
- Providing technical expertise on NEPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA) and NHPA compliance.
- Reporting to FEMA on progress made and a determination of when to demobilize the RSF.
- Requesting the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to engage with Native American tribes and assist with impact assessments on tribal lands and burial grounds.

A. Federal Supporting Agencies

Supporting agencies assist in a specialized capacity with the support of the primary and coordinating agencies. Federal supporting agency roles align with their agency missions and may not be needed at all times during disaster recovery.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation performs outreach to stakeholders regarding proposed mitigation for disasters affecting historic properties. The council develops program alternatives to expedite federal agencies' compliance with Section 106 of NHPA, provide policy advice regarding historic preservation focused on the nature of the incident, and train and educate agencies and other stakeholders regarding historic preservation reviews.

Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides trained members of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to support communities with their most pressing needs in long-term recovery. The agency engages in case management intake, direct physical labor, volunteer management, and capacity building.

Council on Environmental Quality

The Council on Environmental Quality provides assistance at the national level on issues involving NEPA review for recovery planning and assistance in coordination planning. The council also provides emergency alternative arrangements for short-term recovery efforts that are not exempted from NEPA review under the Stafford Act.

United States Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides technical assistance to facilitate recovery of facilities regulated by the department. The USDA also provides technical advice on outbreaks of animal/zoonotic disease, plant infestation, and eradication strategies as appropriate. Further, the USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and nutrition, based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management. The USDA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), work closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the primary state agency for this RSF.

5. Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) allows communities to quickly address serious and long-lasting damage to infrastructure and to the land. The EWP Program authorities offer NRCS the

flexibility to act quickly to help communities cope with adverse impacts resulting from natural disasters. The EWP Program does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state officials for program assistance. If funding becomes available, all projects must demonstrate they reduce threats to life and property; are economically, environmentally, and socially sound; and must be designed to acceptable engineering standards, if applicable. Program funds can be used for activities such as:

- Removing debris from the stream channels, road culverts, and bridges.
- Reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks.
- Correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities.
- Repairing agricultural levees and structures.
- Repairing conservation practices.

❖ **Activating mechanism** - Congress approves all EWP Program funding.

Cost Share Requirements:

Generally, NRCS can pay a federal share between 75 and 90 percent of the restoration costs, and the project sponsor is responsible for the remaining balance of funded needs.

6. Environmental Quality Incentives Program

While not designed to be an emergency response program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can play a vital role in assisting producers recovering from natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and drought. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters NRCS-funded conservation activities protect land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair, and can help mitigate loss from future natural disasters and may include stream bank restoration, grassed waterways, and buffers. NRCS funding is available at the local level to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.

U.S. Department of Commerce

The U.S. Department of Commerce provides technical and subject matter expertise in assessing impacts on natural and cultural resources during the recovery process. U.S. Department of Commerce staff provide rapid-response research grants to assess ecosystem and community impacts and facilitate community meetings, ensuring the appropriate scientific information is shared with decision makers.

U.S. Small Business Administration

With a federal disaster declaration or administrator designation letter, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, and homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged property. If the SBA declines the loan application or damage exceeds the amount of the loan, the organization may then apply to FEMA for further assistance. The SBA has its own independent process if there is not a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

Through outreach efforts, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force can facilitate the identification of organizations and individuals to provide impact-assessment assistance to cultural heritage institutions. The task force can also identify subject matter experts for cultural resources and historic properties. The Heritage Emergency National Task Force is sponsored by FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution.

Program Website: [Heritage Emergency National Task Force](#)

1.6.3 Nondisaster programs

Ongoing nondisaster programs support disaster recovery efforts and may be available without a disaster declaration.

7. Certified Local Government Grant Program

Iowa cities, counties, and land use districts that have signed a certified local government agreement with the State of Iowa and the National Park Service may apply for grant funding through this program to support historic preservation activities. The certified local government must be in good standing and current in its submission of annual reports to apply for this grant opportunity.

Eligible grant activities include National Register nominations, education projects, surveys, and planning for preservation and planning projects.

Program Website: [Certified Local Government Program](#)

8. Resource Enhancement and Protection

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program is an investment in Iowa’s natural and cultural resources. REAP provides grants for projects including roadside vegetation, historical resources, public land management, city parks and open spaces, soil and water enhancement, county conservation, state open space, and conservation education. REAP can be administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs State Historic Preservation Office, and/or the Iowa Department of Transportation. The REAP program is divided into segments managed by different agencies within the State of Iowa government.

❖ **Activating Mechanism** – A successful application approved for funding or emergency funding.

Program Website: [REAP](#)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the point of contact for grant administration, conservation education, State land management, city and parks open spaces, and county conservation.

A percentage of the REAP funding is available to the DNR for the development and management of state conservation lands. Project examples include trail renovation, shower and restroom replacement, repairs to lodges, shelters, and cabins, and minor repair of dams, spillways, parking lots, and beaches. This account serves as a substitute for the state park user permit receipts which were terminated by the

legislature when REAP was enacted. While most of the funds have been directed to projects in State parks and recreation areas, they can also be used for improvements on state wildlife management areas and State forests.

A percentage is also available to support city parks and open spaces. Parkland expansion and multi-purpose recreation developments are typical projects funded under this REAP program. Funds are not available for single or multipurpose athletic fields, baseball or softball diamonds, tennis courts, golf courses, and other organized sport facilities. Swimming pools and playground equipment are also ineligible.

Another area supported by REAP funding is available to county conservation activities for land easements or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. Expenditures are not allowed for single or multipurpose athletic fields, baseball or softball diamonds, tennis courts, golf courses, and other organized sport facilities. Swimming pools and playground equipment are also ineligible. There are three portions of this grant. Each county in Iowa gets an equal share of 30 percent of the grant, another 30 percent is allocated by population, and the remaining 40 percent is available through a competitive grant application process.

The DNR also manages a portion of REAP funding for State acquisition and development of lands and waters. The Natural Resource Commission has set a policy that half of this money be directed to land acquisition and half to facility developments.

❖ **Activating Mechanism** – A successful application approved for funding or emergency funding.

Program Website:	REAP
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Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation, Field Services Bureau, administers REAP funding to work with soil and water conservation districts to address local water quality protection needs. A percentage of the REAP funding is available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects and practices. Project money is directed toward protecting the state's surface and ground water resources from point and nonpoint sources of contamination. Funding for practices is directed toward reforestation, woodland protection and enhancement, wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement, protection of highly erodible soils, and water quality protection. Soil conservation districts designate high priority watersheds for which REAP funds can be expended. Districts may also designate animal waste management as a priority.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, State Historical Society of Iowa

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, State Historical Society coordinates the application for two programs under REAP as follows:

9. State Tax Credit

The State Historic Preservation and Cultural & Entertainment District (HPCED) Tax Credit Program provides a state income tax credit for the sensitive, substantial rehabilitation of historic buildings. HPCED

ensures character-defining features and spaces of buildings are retained and helps revitalize surrounding neighborhoods. The program provides an income tax credit of up to 25 percent of Qualified Reimbursement Expenditures (QRE).

10. Historical Resource Development Program

This program provides funds to preserve, conserve, interpret, enhance, and educate the public about the historical resources of Iowa.

- All projects must involve Iowa’s historical resources. Nonresidents may apply if the project resource is located in Iowa.
- All projects involving personal property must, upon request, document a legal relationship to the property and/or owner agreement to the project.
- Funded projects will encourage and support the economic and cultural health and development of the state and the communities in which the resources are located.

Program Website:

[State Tax Credit Information](#)

11. Federal Tax Credit

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program encourages private sector investment in the rehabilitation and repurposing of historic buildings. The federal tax incentives program for Iowa properties is administered by the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office of Iowa. Complete information is available with the [Technical Preservation Services](#).

Iowa Department of Transportation

For locally developed trails, the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is a significant funding source through administration of the State’s major trail grant program under REAP. The program also offers planning and design assistance, financing guidance, and reviews final trail plans for DOT-funded projects. For trails developed by State agencies, the DOT is responsible for subsequent trails planning and implementation, specifically for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

A percentage of REAP funding is available through the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Living Roadway Trust Fund for integrated roadside vegetation management activities, including the establishment of native prairie vegetation in rights-of-way. Low-maintenance prairie roadsides reduce erosion, slow runoff, trap sediment and provide habitat, while giving travelers a glimpse of Iowa's prairie past.