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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Partnering with State Agencies on Resiliency Grant Application

DUBUQUE, Iowa — The City of Dubuque is partnering with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and Iowa Economic Development Authority to apply for community resiliency funding through the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NRDC), a program offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation.

The competition defines a resilient community as able to resist and rapidly recover from disasters or other shocks with minimal outside assistance. Reducing current and future risk is essential to the long-term vitality, economic well-being, and security of all communities. By identifying future risk and vulnerabilities, resilient recovery planning can maximize preparedness, save lives, and bring benefits to a community long after recovery projects are complete

The NDRC is a two-phase process that will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities. All states with counties that experienced a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster in 2011, 2012 or 2013 are eligible to submit applications that address unmet needs as well as vulnerabilities to future extreme events, stresses, threats, hazards, or other shocks in areas that were most impacted and distressed. The competition is designed to help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters. To complement these funds, the Rockefeller Foundation will provide technical assistance and training workshops to every eligible state and local government. This support will help applicants

consider future risks and vulnerabilities in planning and decision-making, and assist them in applying for HUD funding. While distinct, these two programs will work together to help communities better understand their risks and identify ways in which they can protect the long-term well-being and safety of their residents.

Iowa's application highlights the need to address remaining impacts from the flooding experienced in downtown Dubuque and continuing vulnerabilities to future flooding. Following storms in July 2011, the City of Dubuque received reports of damage to over 200 homes concentrated in the Bee Branch Creek area. The application cites property owners with limited resources which hinders their ability to perform home maintenance and renovations to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding such as dampness and mold growth, electrical hazards, and structural issues. A comprehensive "Bee Branch Healthy Homes" approach is outlined to help residents meet unmet structural needs, and engagement and education to empower individuals to be part of the creation of more resilient housing through onsite stormwater management principles and sustainable, healthy homes behaviors.

The joint application is now posted and available for viewing at:

http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/disasters/hazard_mitigation.html A public hearing will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 16, at the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management office located at 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500, in Windsor Heights, to receive comments on the State of Iowa's application. Members of the public are welcome to attend and offer any comments they may have about the application. This will be an opportunity for making comments only and not a question-and-answer forum.

Written comments may be made to the HSEMD Recovery Division, 7900 Hickman Road, Ste. 500, Windsor Heights, Iowa, 50324. Comments may also be submitted via email to Jessica.turba@iowa.gov. Comments will be accepted from March 6 through March 21 at 4:30 p.m. Responses to all comments will be posted online on March 23, 2015.

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