



# PRESS RELEASE

## State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18<sup>th</sup> District

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### **SEN. SHOEMYER ENCOURAGES COMMUNITIES TO APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDING**

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, is urging local governments and communities in northeast Missouri impacted by severe weather last year to apply for federal disaster assistance. Congress has allocated more than \$92 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for weather-related disasters that occurred in Missouri during 2008. The Missouri Department of Economic Development is requesting proposals from cities and counties that received a Presidential disaster declaration last year. All 13 counties in the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District have received those declarations due to flooding and other storm damage.

“I know a lot of folks are still hurting from all of the severe weather our region experienced last year,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “We went through several rounds of flooding and endured a few tornadoes and it has taken some time to clean up the mess and start rebuilding. I hope our city and county government leaders will apply for this money to help speed the recovery and get our lives back to normal.”

Congress approved the funding with passage of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, which provides \$6.5 billion in CDBG funds for disaster relief, long-term recovery, and rebuilding infrastructure and housing damaged or destroyed by hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters during 2008.

To qualify for CDBG funding, all projects must meet one of the following national objectives:

- At least 51% of the people benefitting from the project must be of low-to-moderate income, which is defined as at or below 80% of the county median household income;
- Slum and blight removal, or;
- An urgent threat to health and safety.

Proposals for the supplemental disaster relief funding must be postmarked no later than September 4, 2009. One original and one copy of the proposal and preliminary engineering reports or other cost estimate documentation must be sent to:

Community Development Block Grant Program  
P.O. Box 118  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of need, disaster recovery impact, economic impact, the amount of local and other funds leveraged and committed, project readiness, the ability to start and complete a project, and whether it is identified as a priority on a local or regional development plan.

Sen. Shoemyer also encourages local government officials to contact his office for assistance.

For more information and proposal guidelines, visit the Division of Business and Community Services website at [www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org) or call Andy Papen at (573) 751-3600.

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