



## **AIRS Responds to Iowa, Indiana Flooding**

For Immediate Release  
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Thursday, June 19, 2008

**AIRS, the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems today announced that it has activated its national Disaster Response Team to assist in flood ravaged areas of the Midwest.**

**At the present time more than 10 DRT members are on the ground working in Iowa and Indiana. The DRT is a national disaster response program developed jointly by AIRS and United Way of America.**

**One report from a DRT member indicated that more than 1/3 of Iowa is underwater. One DRT went to work in Cedar Rapids and built an enhanced web based capacity for the one stop regional wide website set up to aid in recovery efforts.**

**Other work being undertaken by the DRT's include expanded information and referral services coordinating volunteers and training call center managers.**

**AIRS indicated it would continue to respond to requests for assistance through its DRT network. Similar work was done by these DRT's in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the San Diego Wildfires.**

**AIRS is a professional membership organization of over 1200 community information and referral organizations and in partnership with the United Way of America developed the 2-1-1 system which links services and people together. AIRS is also the credentialing authority of I & R programs and the driving force in the development of clear and consistent standards in I&R**

**AIRS will provide updated reports from DRT members as they continue to assist this unprecedented flood event.**

*The above Press Release went to US Newswire's most extensive list (US -1), which sends it to wires and news organizations all over the country. It was specially coded to make sure it got to all Iowa and Indiana news sources. Then, today, it was also sent to a list of 45 or so journalists who have specifically requested information on disaster relief/emergency preparedness issues. We intend to send out follow up PRs regarding the progress and impact of the DRT deployments and would welcome any tidbits you would like to share on how 211/I&R is responding to the flooding.*