



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance in Wake of Recent South Florida Tornadoes

WASHINGTON – Residents and businesses affected by severe storms, flooding and tornadoes on March 31 in Florida can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills announced today.

Mills made the loans available in response to a letter from Florida Gov. Rick Scott on April 5, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Hillborough County and the adjacent counties of Hardee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk in Florida.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the people of Florida with the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes with federal disaster loans,” said Administrator Mills. “Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta. SBA’s customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program, explain the process, issue and help individuals complete their applications.

The Centers will be located in the following communities and will open as indicated:

Hillsborough County

Progress Village Recreation Center

8701 Progress Village Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33619-7201

Open: Tuesday, April 12
Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Days : Tuesday, April 12 to Saturday, April 16
Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closing: Saturday, April 16, 2011 at close of business

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Pinellas County

Southwest Recreation Complex
13120 Vonn Road
Largo, FL 33774

Open: Tuesday, April 12
Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Days : Tuesday, April 12 to Saturday, April 16
Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closing: Saturday, April 16, 2011 at close of business

“Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said Francisco A. Marrero, SBA’s South Florida district director.

The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of disaster damage to real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by SBA, to make improvements that lessen the risk of property damage by future disasters of the same kind.

For small businesses, and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 2.563 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Center in person may obtain information on loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Those affected by the disaster may apply for disaster loans from SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **June 6, 2011**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **January 9, 2012**.

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov.