



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

Release Date: July 30, 2009
Release Number: 09-594, FL 11825

Contact: Michael Lampton
Phone: (404) 331-0333

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Florida Residents Affected By Severe Storms and Flooding in Osceola County

WASHINGTON – Florida residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding that occurred in Osceola County on July 11, can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, (SBA) Administrator Karen G. Mills announced today.

Administrator Mills made the loans available in response to a letter from Gov. Charlie Crist on July 24, 2009, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Osceola County and contiguous counties of Brevard, Highlands, Indian River, **Lake**, Okeechobee, Orange 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 our 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 Disaster Field Operations Center in Atlanta. SBA’s customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their applications.

The Center will be located in the following community and will open as indicated:

Osceola County

Oak Street Park Community Center
717 N. Palm Avenue
Kissimmee, FL 34741

Opens: Monday, August 3, at 8 a.m.

Hours: Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday; August 8, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (one Saturday only)

Closes: Friday, August 14, at the close of business

Francisco A. Marrero, SBA’s South Florida District Director, added, “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.”

The SBA also provides mitigation funds to disaster survivors based on 20 percent of the verified physical damage. These funds are designed to help borrowers pay for protective measures to minimize damages of the same kind in the future.

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 2.437 percent for homeowners and renters, 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 and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. 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.

Survivors may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **September 28, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **April 29, 2010**.

###

For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.