



DISASTER NEWS

Physical and Economic Injury Loans for Businesses

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

Release Date: October 23, 2008
Release Number: 09-032, IN 11449/11450

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SBA Opens Recovery Centers for Indiana Business Owners Impacted by the Severe Storms and Flooding

ATLANTA – The U. S. Small Business Administration announces today that two Business Recovery Centers are being established in Lake and LaPorte counties. The Centers will open Monday, October 27, 2008 at 8 a.m. to help businesses impacted by the severe storms and flooding that occurred from September 12 through October 6, 2008.

“Due to the amount of physical and economic losses caused by the severe storms and flooding in Indiana, we want affected businesses to have resources where they can meet individually with SBA representatives and find out how a low-interest disaster loan can help them recover,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

The SBA Business Recovery Centers will open at the following locations:

<p><u>Lake County</u> Merrillville Municipal Building, Town Council Room 7820 Broadway Merrillville, IN 46410 Opening: Monday, October 27th at 8 a.m. Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (one Saturday only, November 1)</p>	<p><u>LaPorte County</u> Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce 414 Lincoln Way LaPorte, IN 46352 Opening: Monday, October 27th at 8 a.m. Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (one Saturday only, November 1)</p>
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Businesses of any size and non-profit organizations 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 offers mitigation loans to disaster victims 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 to help meet working capital needs, such as ongoing operating expenses. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 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.

Victims should not wait to settle with their insurance companies before applying for disaster loan assistance. If a victim does not know how much of their loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, the SBA will consider making a loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided the borrower agrees to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay their SBA loan.

Business owners unable to visit a Center may obtain an application 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. until 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. EDT or by emailing the Customer Service Center at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be returned to one of the Centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155.

Victims may also apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The deadline to return applications for physical damage is **November 24, 2008**; the deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 23, 2009**.

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