



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Businesses of All Sizes, Homeowners and Renters

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

Release Date: Oct. 6, 2017
Release Number: 18-014, SC 15340/15341

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Businesses and Residents of South Carolina Affected by Hurricane Irma

WASHINGTON – South Carolina businesses and residents affected by Hurricane Irma Sept. 6-13, 2017, can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA Administrator Linda McMahon announced today.

Administrator McMahon made the loans available in response to a letter from Gov. Henry McMaster on Oct. 4, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Beaufort and Jasper counties and the adjacent counties of Colleton and Hampton in **South Carolina**; Chatham and Effingham in **Georgia**.

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

SBA’s Customer Service Representatives will be available at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program and help individuals complete their applications.

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

<p><u>Beaufort County</u> Burton Wells Park 1 Middleton Recreation Dr. Beaufort, SC 29906</p> <p>Opening: Wed., Oct. 11, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours: Thu. - Fri., Oct. 12-13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat., Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sun., Oct. 15, Closed Closing: Mon., Oct. 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Jasper County</u> Jasper County Government Building – Zenie Ingram Conference Room 358 Third Ave. Ridgeland, SC 29936</p> <p>Opening: Wed., Oct. 18, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours: Thu. - Fri., Oct. 19-20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., Oct. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sun., Oct. 22, Closed Closing: Mon., Oct. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>
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“Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said SBA’s South Carolina Acting District Director R. Gregg White.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

“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.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 3.305 percent for businesses, 2.5 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 1.75 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be returned to the centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **Dec. 4, 2017**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **July 5, 2018**.

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