



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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Contact: Mark Ihenacho

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Phone: (404) 331-0333

SBA Assistance Still Available; Disaster Recovery Centers Transition to Loan Outreach Centers

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers are transitioning into SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in **Madison and Suwannee** counties. The establishment of the Centers demonstrates SBA’s commitment to ensure that every qualified individual and business receives the help they need to recover from this disaster.

“Assisting individuals and business owners to recover from a disaster is our primary mission,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East. “We are encouraging anyone affected by this disaster to visit a Center while we still have staff here and obtain individual assistance with completing their loan applications from our representatives.”

Many residents and businesses that have registered with FEMA for assistance have received an SBA disaster loan application. Completing the loan application and returning it is a crucial step toward disaster recovery. Homeowners and renters unable to obtain a disaster loan from the SBA may be referred to FEMA for grant consideration. To be eligible for these grants, applicants must submit their SBA loan application even if they do not want a loan. No one is required to accept a loan.

The locations of the Centers are as follows:

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs)

Madison County	Suwannee County
Madison County Emergency Operations Center	Hatch Park Community Center
1083 SW Harvey Green Drive	403 SE Craven Street
Madison, FL 32340	Branford, FL 32088
Opens Thursday, May 21 at 8:00 am	Opens Thursday, May 21 at 8:00 am
Open Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM <i>(closed May 25 for Memorial Day)</i>	Open Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM <i>(closed May 25 for Memorial Day)</i>
Closing Thursday, May 28 at the close of business	Closing Thursday, May 28 at the close of business

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“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” Frank Skaggs added.

Businesses of any size and non-profit organizations in the following counties may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, inventory, machinery and equipment. The SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future

For small businesses and 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 property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 2.187 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4.000 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.

Anyone unable to visit one of the Centers may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (or 1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, (Closed in observance of Memorial Day) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications may be downloaded from www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Applications may be returned to one of the Centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas, 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 29, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **January 28, 2010**.

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