



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 Opens Disaster Loan Outreach Center; Officials Stress Submit Disaster Loan Applications Now

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that they are establishing a Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) on September 29 in Cattaraugus County at the Cattaraugus County Emergency Service Building. The establishment of the Center 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 registered with FEMA for assistance have received SBA disaster loan applications. 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 disaster declaration covers Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Erie counties, which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses, and most private non-profit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Allegany, Genesee, Niagara and Wyoming in the State of New York; and Erie, McKean and Warren in Pennsylvania.

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate,” said Skaggs. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. “The SBA’s customer service representatives are on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their applications,” added Skaggs.

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 offers mitigation loans to disaster victims up to 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.

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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 2.750 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.

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

**FEMA/SBA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs)
Open Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cattaraugus County**

Cattaraugus County Emergency Services Building

303 Court Street
Little Valley NY 14755

Monday, September 28; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday, September 29-October 2, 2009; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closes: Friday, October 2, 2009 at the close of business

Fire Hall

230 Aldrich Street
Gowanda NY 14070

Chautauqua County

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School

165 Central Avenue
Silver Creek NY 14136

SBA Business Recovery Center

Cattaraugus County

HSBC Bank USA

76 West Main Street
Gowanda, NY 14070

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

Disaster victims who are unable to visit a Center may obtain applications and program information 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 6 p.m. EDT or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA Web site 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 visit SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **November 3, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 4, 2010**.

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

