



# ***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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**Contacts:** Michael Lampton  
**Phone:** 404-331-0333

## **Do Not Wait for Insurance Settlement; SBA Urges Return of Applications by October 12 Deadline**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding disaster victims in eligible Puerto Rico municipalities not to wait to settle with their insurance companies before applying for disaster loan assistance. The SBA encourages victims of the severe rains and flooding that occurred on July 19 through July 23, 2010 to return their completed applications, even if they have not settled with their insurance company. Waiting to file an SBA application could cause unnecessary delays in receiving disaster assistance. The deadline to return applications for physical damage is **October 12**.

“SBA is here to help you with your recovery efforts,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East. “I encourage anyone who has not completed their disaster loan application to do so and return it as quickly as possible,” Skaggs added.

Homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations of all sizes in the following municipalities are eligible to apply for physical disaster assistance: Canovanas, Ceiba, Fajardo, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Luquillo, Naguabo, Rio Grande, San Lorenzo and Yabucoa municipalities in Puerto Rico.

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.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses of any size and most private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, inventory, machinery and equipment and other business assets.

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 caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

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The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of disaster damage for real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by SBA, to make improvements that lessen the risk of property damage by future disasters of the same kind.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.5 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Anyone may obtain program information or a loan application by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., EDT or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Business loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

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

The deadline for physical loan applications is **October 12, 2010**. The deadline for economic injury applications is **May 11, 2011**.

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*For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*