



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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

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SBA to Open a Business Recovery Center in Harrison County for Businesses Affected by the Deepwater BP Oil Spill

ATLANTA The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that it will open an additional Business Recovery Center in Mississippi Wednesday, May 19 to make it convenient for small businesses and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes to get one-on-one assistance. The SBA encourages those affected by the Deepwater BP Oil Spill that began on April 20, 2010 to visit the Harrison County Center or any of the Centers located throughout the disaster area.

“Due to the amount of economic losses caused by the Deepwater BP Oil Spill in Mississippi, we want affected businesses to have a resource 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’s Disaster Field Operations Center in Atlanta.

The **Newly** established Center location and hours of operation are:

Harrison County

Small Business Administration, Gulfport Branch Office

Hancock Bank Plaza

2510 14th Street, Suite 103

Gulfport, MS 39501

Open: Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **existing** Business Recovery Centers are located in the following communities:

George County	Hancock County
George Co. EOC 355 Cox Street – Suite J Lucedale, MS 39452 Open: Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Civic Center 335 Coleman Avenue Waveland, MS 39576 Open: Monday-Saturday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jackson County	Stone County
Jackson County Fairgrounds, Ticket Office 2902 Shortcut Rd. Pascagoula, MS 39567 Open: Monday-Saturday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Stone County Courthouse 323 E. Cavers Avenue Wiggins, MS 39577 Open: Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Eligible small businesses in Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry and Stone counties in **Mississippi**; Mobile County in **Alabama** and the Parishes of Saint Tammany and Washington in **Louisiana** may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) up to \$2 million. The SBA offers EIDLs to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

Interest rates are 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Eligibility for an EIDL is determined by the SBA based on the size and type of business and its financial resources. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Business Owners unable to visit one of the Centers may obtain applications and program information 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.; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT or by sending an e-mail to 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.

Business Owners may apply for disaster loans on SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is **February 14, 2011**.

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