



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Residents & Businesses Affected By October Storms in Hardin and Newton Counties

WASHINGTON, DC – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans will be available to Texas and Louisiana residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding that began on October 15, 2006, in Hardin and Newton Counties.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston’s action makes the SBA assistance available. The declaration covers the primary Texas counties of **Hardin** and **Newton**; the neighboring Texas counties of **Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Orange, Polk, Sabine** and **Tyler**; and the neighboring Louisiana parishes of **Beauregard, Calcasieu, Sabine** and **Vernon**.

“We look forward to working with the individuals and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses,” said Administrator Preston.

Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said that following the January 4, 2007, denial of the state’s appeal for a major disaster declaration, SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties and parishes a disaster area.

“Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the October storms and flooding,” said Manuel R. González, SBA’s Houston, Texas District Director. “SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” added González.

The centers will be located in the following communities and will be open on the indicated days and times:

Kountze, TX

Hardin County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
300 Monroe Street (Hwy 326)
(Near Dogwood Street)

Newton, TX

County Extension Office
509 Main Street
(Near Parker Street
in the old hospital building)

Centers open Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mondays through Fridays
8 am – 5 pm

Mondays through Fridays
8 am – 4: 30 pm

Disaster 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.

(more)

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. 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 only, 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.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **March 19, 2007**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **October 16, 2007**.

For more information visit SBA's website at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance>.

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