



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: October 22, 2007
Release Number: TX 11076-01

Contact: Richard Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Texas Residents and Businesses Affected by Hurricane Humberto

SACRAMENTO – Steve Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and businesses affected by Hurricane Humberto.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston’s action makes the SBA assistance available. The declaration covers the counties of **Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty** and **Orange** in Texas and **Cameron** Parish in Louisiana.

“We look forward to working with Texas and the people affected by Hurricane Humberto 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 October 16 denial of the state’s request for a major disaster declaration, SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties 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 Hurricane Humberto,” said Manuel R. Gonzalez, SBA’s Houston 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,” he continued.

The outreach centers will be located at the following locations and will be open on the days and times indicated:

Galveston County

High Island High School
2113 6th Street
High Island, TX

Mondays through Fridays
8 am – 5 pm

Opens Wednesday, October 24

Jefferson County

Ford Park Events Center, Liberty Room
5115 Interstate 10 S
Beaumont, TX

Mondays through Fridays
8 am – 5 pm

Opens Wednesday, October 24

Orange County

Orange County Law Library
902B Division Avenue
Orange, TX

Mondays through Fridays,
8 am – 5 pm

Opens Wednesday, October 24

All centers will be closed November 12, for Veterans Day

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. 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 homeowners and business owners 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 business owners unable to visit SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Center may obtain information by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955** or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **December 21, 2007**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **July 22, 2008**.

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

###

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841