



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

Release Date: August 27, 2009  
Release Number: LA 11418-19, 11432-11

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## **One Year After Hurricanes Gustav and Ike SBA Disaster Assistance Tops \$185 Million in Louisiana**

**Sacramento, CA** – With the Louisiana anniversaries of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike approaching, Michael W. Ricks, the U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Louisiana District Director, announced today that SBA has approved more than \$185 million in disaster loans to help more than 5,000 Louisiana homeowners, renters and businesses recover and rebuild from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

According to Ricks, SBA responded to the needs of Louisiana residents and business owners by deploying 211 SBA disaster assistance workers to Louisiana to provide one-on-one service to disaster victims. SBA representatives staffed 56 Disaster Recovery Centers, 23 SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers and 18 SBA Business Counseling Centers. At these centers, SBA representatives personally met with more than 39,000 disaster victims to answer questions, explain SBA’s disaster loan program, help complete disaster loan applications and close disaster loans.

In times of disaster, SBA disaster loans are the Federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of private property. SBA disaster loans help pay the costs to repair or replace disaster-damaged homes and personal possessions, as well as the business assets of any size business and private non-profit organizations.

“SBA approved \$142.3 million in disaster loans for Louisiana residents to repair or replace their disaster-damaged or destroyed homes and personal possessions. SBA approved \$42.8 million for Louisiana businesses and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace their real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, other business assets and provide working capital to help meet disaster related needs,” said Ricks. The SBA disaster loan program also provided funds to help residents and businesses with the cost of making improvements to prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

SBA disaster loan information is available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) or visiting SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

*For more information, visit SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

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