



U.S. Small Business Administration

# 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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## **SBA Makes Low Interest Disaster Loans Available for Severe Storms And Flooding Victims In Florida**

**WASHINGTON** – Low-interest disaster loans will be made available by the U.S. Small Business Administration to Florida residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding on February 21-22, 2008, SBA Administrator Steve Preston announced today.

Administrator Preston took this action following a March 5 letter from Florida Governor Charlie Crist requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Bay County and the adjacent counties of Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Walton and Washington in the State of Florida.

“We look forward to working with residents of Florida who were affected by these storms and flooding,” said Preston. “We will work as hard as we can to make SBA disaster recovery loans available so the people of Florida can rebuild their lives, their homes, their businesses and their communities.”

Frank Skaggs, Director of Disaster Field Operations Center East said, “Residents, both homeowners and renters, are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. The SBA’s Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their application.”

The Center will be located in the following community and will open as indicated:

### **Bay County**

City of Springfield City Hall  
3529 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Springfield, Florida 32401

**Opens:** Thursday, March 13, 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Hours:** Thursday, March 13 – Friday, March 14; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.(one Saturday only)  
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Closing:** Thursday, March 27 at the close of business

Wilfredo Gonzalez, SBA’s North Florida District Director stresses, “Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to renters, homeowners, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the severe storms and flooding.”

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, equipment, inventory, and other business assets. The 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.

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For small businesses only, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loans assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Center 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 physical property damage is **May 9, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 10, 2008**.

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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).*