



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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FREE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESSES

SBA partners with local organizations to help business owners with disaster loan applications

Richmond, VA---The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that two business organizations will be joining SBA in providing assistance for victims of the recent disaster in central Virginia. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance (DBA) and the Greater Richmond Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are offering free help in preparing loan applications for small businesses impacted by the storms and flooding associated with Tropical Depression Gaston.

According to SBA Disaster Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr., "SBA is committed to providing the resources necessary to help affected businesses quickly recover from the recent flooding, and this partnership between SBA and community stakeholders furthers that goal."

In addition to assisting business owners complete the SBA loan application package, representatives from the Virginia DBA and SBDC are also prepared to provide technical assistance and business counseling at **no cost** to affected companies.

Beginning at noon on Wednesday September 8th, interested businesses can visit the **Virginia Department of Business Assistance at 707 East Main Street, Suite 300** in Richmond (804-371-8200) for immediate assistance, or they can call the **Greater Richmond SBDC at 201 East Franklin Street** (804-783-9314) to set an appointment to obtain an SBA disaster loan application and assistance in its completion. Both organizations will be offering their assistance Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Businesses in the independent cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond, as well as the primary declared counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Henrico, and Prince George may apply for low-interest SBA disaster loans to repair or replace uninsured or otherwise uncompensated disaster-damaged business property and contents. Additionally, through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, SBA can provide eligible small businesses with working capital to meet continuing operating expenses and debt payments until normal operations resume. Small businesses in the primary counties and independent cities, as well as contiguous counties may apply for EIDLs. SBA business disaster loans carry interest rates as low as 2.9 percent with terms of up to 30 years.

Business owners are encouraged to register with FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Once registered, an application will be mailed automatically. Business loan applications may also be obtained via SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

For more information regarding SBA's disaster loan program or for a disaster recovery center nearest you visit SBA's website or call 1-800-659-2955. The hearing-impaired may call SBA via the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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The filing deadline to apply for loans to cover physical damages is November 2, 2004, and the deadline to apply for loans to cover economic injury is June 3, 2005.

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

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office/Area 1 - 360 Rainbow Blvd., South - Niagara Falls, NY 14303

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