



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## **SBA Acting Administrator Tours Midwest Disaster Areas**

***Disaster assistance operations up and running; prepared to help communities rebuild***

**WASHINGTON---**U.S. Small Business Administration Acting Administrator Jovita Carranza demonstrated SBA's support in the recovery efforts of Midwest states impacted by recent storms and floods during a tour of Iowa and Indiana disaster areas today. Carranza joined FEMA Administrator David Paulison to assess areas impacted by the storms and ensure SBA's coordination with federal, state and local governments in providing critical services.

"SBA is committed to assisting those who seek resources to rebuild their lives and communities," said Carranza. "SBA's 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 disasters. SBA customer service representatives will be available at all disaster recovery centers as they are established throughout the affected areas to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help every person complete their applications. SBA is also working with FEMA, state and local governments to ensure that residents receive support during their time of need."

As the federal government's leading post-disaster economic recovery agency, SBA plays an important role helping affected communities get back on their feet.

The agency provides a wide range of services:

- Disaster loans to homeowners, businesses, and renters;
- Working capital loans to small businesses impacted by the disaster;
- Counseling and entrepreneurial development for small business owners;
- Assistance to small businesses seeking federal contracting opportunities.

SBA currently has disaster staff working to meet the needs of residents impacted by severe storms and flooding in Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin and other states.

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