



News Release

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SBA's Disaster Loan Approvals to Businesses Top \$2 billion; Another \$685 Million Delivered To Affected Areas Through Conventional Business Loan Programs

WASHINGTON – With processing nearly completed on disaster loan applications filed by businesses affected by last fall's hurricanes, the total dollar amount of approved loans for businesses has surpassed a record \$2 billion in the Gulf Coast region. In addition, SBA's regular small business loan programs have provided another \$685 million in loans to small businesses in the affected areas.

Through May 15, with more than 96 percent of business applications processed, SBA has approved \$2.02 billion in disaster loans to 20,482 businesses. Louisiana has the most, with \$1.17 billion, followed by Mississippi with \$437 million, Florida with \$280 million, Texas with \$95 million and Alabama with \$33 million. Overall, including loans to homeowners and renters whose property was damaged, 144,750 loans worth \$9.4 billion have been approved.

Aside from the disaster recovery loans, more than 3,635 loans totaling \$685 million have been made to small businesses in the affected areas through the SBA's two conventional business loan programs: the 7(a) general business loan guarantee program and the 504 Certified Development Company loan program.

"Putting money into the hands of businesses in the Gulf Coast communities remains our top priority," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "These businesses are the economic foundation of the region's renewal and spirit, and we are going to stay on the job until it's done.

"The challenges these businesses face are significant," Barreto noted. "They have to rebuild their facilities and communications, recover records, find and hire employees, reestablish a client base, and acquire inventory. In New Orleans, a city where half of the residents haven't returned, those are major obstacles. But over time, they will overcome them, and the SBA and its resource partners will be here to help with financing and counseling."

Barreto noted that many businesses have been approved for loans but have not yet scheduled a loan closing or requested disbursement of the approved funds. So far, \$266.6 million has been disbursed to borrowers under the agency's two disaster loan programs for businesses.

"We are eager to disburse these loans and help the people of these communities put this money to work as quickly as possible," Barreto said. "We urge everyone whose loan application has been approved and is ready to start rebuilding to call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or e-mail us at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov and arrange for a loan closing."

For more information on the SBA's disaster assistance programs, please visit:
http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/hurricanes/.

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