



## Disaster Field Operations Center East

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**Contact:** Michael Lampton (404) 331-0333

[Michael.Lampton@sba.gov](mailto:Michael.Lampton@sba.gov)

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### **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Businesses and Residents of Alabama Affected by Severe Storms, Straight-Line Winds and Tornadoes**

**WASHINGTON** – Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to businesses and residents in **Alabama** following the announcement of a Presidential disaster declaration due to severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes on March 25-26.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing **Alabama** residents with the most effective response possible to assist businesses, homeowners and renters with federal disaster loans. Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman.

Businesses and residents in the declared area can now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA. The disaster declaration covers Bibb, Calhoun, Clay, Hale, Jefferson, Perry, Randolph and Shelby counties in **Alabama**, which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Blount, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Cleburne, Coosa, Dallas, Etowah, Greene, Marengo, Saint Clair, Tallapoosa, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Walker in **Alabama**; and Carroll, Heard and Troup in **Georgia**.

In accordance with health precautions for COVID-19, the SBA will not establish a field presence to assist survivors. However, the SBA will continue to provide customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance. The SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center/Business Recovery Center (VDLOC/VBRC) to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA’s secure website at [DisasterLoan.sba.gov](https://DisasterLoan.sba.gov). Virtual customer support representatives are available to help applicants complete the online application during these hours:

#### **Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center/Business Recovery Center (VDLOC/VBRC)**

Open: **Monday - Sunday (7 days/week)**

Hours: **8 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Eastern Time)**

Email: [FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov)

Phone: **(800) 659-2955**

Survivors should contact the SBA’s Disaster Customer Service Center at **(800) 659-2955** for assistance in completing their loan applications. Requests for SBA disaster loan program information may be obtained by emailing [FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov). The SBA will conduct extensive outreach to ensure that those affected by the disaster have an opportunity to apply for assistance.

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Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates are as low as 3 percent for businesses, 2 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.25 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoan.sba.gov](https://DisasterLoan.sba.gov).

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **June 25, 2021**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **Jan. 26, 2022**.

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#### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

*The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [sba.gov](https://sba.gov).*