



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

**Release Date:** December 9, 2008

**Release Number:** 09-152, VI 11517/11518

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## One-on-One Assistance Available Through December 17

**ATLANTA** – The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that the Disaster Loan Outreach Center located in Christiansted, on the Island of St. Croix will cease operations **Wednesday, December 17** at the close of business.

“To date we have approved \$1,357,900 million SBA disaster loans, but there are a number of people with disaster loan applications that have not returned them to SBA. I encourage anyone who has not completed their disaster loan application and needs help to meet with a Customer Service Representative at the Center before it closes for one-on-one assistance,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East in Atlanta. Victims are urged to complete and return their SBA disaster loan application before the **December 30** deadline.

The Center is located at:

Island of Saint Croix

Florence Williams Public Library

1122 King Street

Christiansted, VI 00820

**Hours:** Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Closing:** Wednesday, December 17 at the close of the business

“We want to express our sincere gratitude to the staff of the Florence Williams Public Library in Christiansted,” said Skaggs. “By providing the facility for our Disaster Loan Outreach Center, they have helped disaster victims in their community. We deeply appreciate their generosity.”

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

Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. 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 in the future.

For small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, 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.

Interest rates are as low as 2.875 percent for homeowners and renters and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

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Anyone unable to visit the Center before it closes may obtain an application by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, or by emailing our Customer Service Center at [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155. Disaster victims may also apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The deadline to return physical loan applications is **December 30, 2008**. The deadline for returning economic injury loan applications is **July 31, 2009**.

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*For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*