



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Texas Residents and Businesses Affected by Severe Storm and Flooding**

**Sacramento, CA** – U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen G. Mills today announced the availability of low-interest disaster loans for residents and business owners affected by the severe storm and flooding that occurred April 27 and 28 in Harris County. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to Governor Rick Perry’s request, which SBA received on May 14, 2009.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in **Harris County** and the neighboring counties of **Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery** and **Waller**.

“The U.S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist Texas residents and businesses with federal disaster loans,” said Mills. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“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 the disaster,” said Manuel R. Gonzalez, SBA’s Houston District Director. “SBA will announce the opening of a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in the coming days where SBA customer service representatives will meet one-on-one with disaster victims to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Gonzalez continued.

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

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations 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 homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **July 14, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **February 15, 2010**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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