



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 Storms and Flooding in Starr and Wichita Counties

SACRAMENTO – Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and business owners who were affected by the severe storms and flooding in Starr and Wichita Counties that occurred August 18 through August 21, 2008. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request from the state following the October 23 denial of the state’s appeal for a major disaster declaration.

By declaring a disaster, Acting Administrator Baruah’s action makes SBA assistance available. The declaration covers the Texas counties of **Archer, Baylor, Brooks, Clay, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Wichita, Wilbarger** and **Zapata** and the Oklahoma counties of **Cotton** and **Tillman**.

“We look forward to working with Texas and the people affected by the severe storms and flooding and making SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses,” said Acting Administrator Baruah.

“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 Joseph O. Montes, SBA’s Regional Administrator. “SBA customer service representatives will be on hand beginning **Friday, October 31** at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Montes continued. The centers will be located in the following communities and will be open on the days and time indicated:

STARR COUNTY

Rio Grande City Library
591 E. Canales Street
(nearest cross street is N. Garza Street)
Rio Grande City, TX

Opens Friday at 8:30 am

Mondays, 12 pm – 4:30 pm
Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Closes Thursday, November 20

WICHITA COUNTY

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
880 Huntington Lane
(between Old Iowa Park Road & FM Road 367)
Wichita Falls, TX

Opens Friday at 9 am

Mondays through Fridays, 9 am to 6 pm
Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm

Closes Thursday, November 20

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.

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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.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Center may contact SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Additionally, disaster victims may now go online to file an SBA application for disaster loan assistance. The Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **December 29, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **July 28, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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