



# News Release

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## **SBA Breaks Disaster Loan Record; More than \$4 Billion Approved in the Gulf Region**

### *Surpasses Response Following the 1994 Northridge Quake*

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$4 billion in disaster loans to homeowners, renters and businesses affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, surpassing the previous record set after the Northridge Earthquake in 1994.

In just over five months, the SBA has approved \$4.12 billion in disaster loans to more than 58,700 residents and business owners in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida. In comparison, a total of \$4.052 billion in disaster loans were approved in the 12-month period after the Northridge Earthquake.

“The SBA has been approving disaster loans at an unprecedented pace,” said Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “Never before in our history has the SBA been asked to respond to a disaster of this magnitude, and our people have worked tirelessly, compassionately and with urgency to meet the needs of the people affected by these hurricanes. Our results beat by more than six months the time it took SBA to reach \$4 billion after the Northridge Earthquake, which was the only other disaster to surpass the \$2 billion mark in our 52-year history.”

Disaster loans for homeowners are the biggest category of loans being approved at \$3.17 billion. Disaster loans to businesses currently stand at \$952.6 million in approvals.

Louisiana leads in disaster loan approvals at \$2.4 billion. Mississippi follows with \$1.4 billion in disaster loan approvals. In Alabama, \$82 million in disaster loans have been approved and in Texas the figure stands at \$78 million. The total for Florida is \$107 million.

Throughout the affected region, over 229,100 properties have been inspected and at least 96 percent of the economic injury disaster loans submitted have been processed. More than 204,700 applications have been processed so far. The record number of loans processed following a disaster declaration is 250,042 after the Northridge Earthquake. That figure should be surpassed within the next two months.

March 11 is the deadline for residents and business owners in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas to submit a disaster loan application for property losses.

For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Assistance loan programs, visit the SBA Web site at [http://www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/hurricanes/](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/hurricanes/).