



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: December 5, 2008
Release Number: 08-117

Contact: Carol Chastang (202) 205-6987
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

Grant Funds Available for SBDCs to Help Small Businesses Recover from Hurricanes in Texas and Louisiana

WASHINGTON — Small businesses affected by Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike can receive additional technical assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration as a result of \$10 million in supplemental funding for SBA-supported Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in the recent continuing resolution.

The funding, under the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, could allow the SBDCs to expand their support of small businesses in the hurricane-damaged areas of Louisiana and Texas by providing individualized technical assistance, training and business management counseling.

SBDCs in Texas and Louisiana can apply for \$6.245 million of the funding appropriated for the grants.

Hurricane Dolly made landfall in extreme southern Texas, and was the first U.S. hurricane of the 2008 season to hit. After Hurricane Gustav hit south-central Louisiana, Hurricane Ike made landfall in Texas and caused widespread property damage there and along the Louisiana coast.

“Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike and other disasters during 2008 have had a significant impact on small businesses and greatly increased the demand for the technical advice that SBDCs provide,” said SBA Acting Administrator Sandy K. Baruah. “These grants will enable the SBDCs to continue their hard work on behalf of the small businesses that desperately need their resources and expertise.”

The SBA can initially award \$8 million to SBDCs serving businesses that have sought assistance in areas declared as disasters earlier this year. The remaining \$2 million appropriated by Congress can be awarded after the deadline for businesses to register for 2008 disaster assistance expires early next year.

SBDCs have been a continuous resource to small businesses, providing needed disaster relief counseling, training and technical assistance in crucial areas such as rebuilding cash flow, adjusting business and marketing plans, and rebounding after a natural disaster. As SBA’s largest grant-funded service delivery network, SBDCs, in coordination with federal, state, local and private sector resources, deliver management and technical assistance to small businesses utilizing an effective business education network of 63 lead centers with over 900 service center locations nationwide.

The legislation also makes grants available in other states where SBDCs have mounted major efforts to help small businesses deal with the effects of natural disasters.

###