



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA to Close Alexandria and Lake Charles Business Counseling Centers

Sacramento, CA – Michael W. Ricks, Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s Louisiana District Office, announced today that SBA will close its Alexandria and Lake Charles Business Counseling Centers at the close of business on **Friday, October 31, 2008**. “Until then, SBA will continue to provide one-on-one service to those businesses affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike,” he said.

The Alexandria and Lake Charles Business Counseling Centers are located at:

CALCASIEU PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

Willis Nolan Resource Center
120 West Pujoe Street, 1st Floor Conference Room
Lake Charles, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Closes Friday, October 31

RAPIDES PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

LSBDC – Alexandria Office
Dunbar Plaza
3600 Jackson Street Extension, Suite 114
Alexandria, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Closes Friday, October 31

“Even though these business counseling centers are closing, disaster recovery centers are still open in Alexandria and Lake Charles where business owners can receive on-on-one help,” Ricks said. The DRCs are located at:

CALCASIEU PARISH

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

Leadership Center
1701 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA

Mondays – Saturdays, 9 am – 6 pm
Until further notice

RAPIDES PARISH

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

Bolton Avenue Community Center
315 Bolton Avenue
Alexandria, LA

Mondays – Saturdays, 9 am – 6 pm
Until further notice

“SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available at the following five business counseling centers located throughout the area to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, help each business owner complete their application and close their approved loan. Business owners can meet with SBA representatives on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary,” Ricks continued.

(more)

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

Bon Carré Business Center
Louisiana Technology Park, LLC
7117 Florida Boulevard, Suite 307
Baton Rouge, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Until further notice

LAFAYETTE PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

Enterprise Center of Louisiana
3419 N. W. Evangeline Thruway
Carencro, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Effective Monday, November 3 becomes
8 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday
Until further notice

JEFFERSON PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

LSBDC Greater New Orleans Region
UNO Jefferson Center
3330 N Causeway, Suite 422
Metairie, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Until further notice

LAFOURCHE PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

South LA Economic Business Assistance Center
629 East First Street
Thibodaux, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Until further notice

TERREBONNE PARISH

Business Counseling Center (BCC)

Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
6133 Hwy 311
Houma, LA

Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm
Until further notice

SBA offers low-interest Federal disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed by the disaster. “So far, SBA has approved nearly \$79 million in low-interest loans to Louisiana residents and businesses hurt by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike,” Ricks said.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit a Business Counseling Center or Disaster Recovery 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>.

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

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