



U.S. Small Business Administration

# DISASTER NEWS

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

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## Louisiana Business Counseling Centers to Transition to SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers

**Sacramento, CA** – Michael W. Ricks, Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s Louisiana District Office, announced today that SBA will convert its five Business Counseling Centers (BCCs) throughout Louisiana to Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs) on **Thursday, December 18, 2008**. The DLOCs will be open at the same locations and will operate at the same hours.

The Louisiana Economic Development Department and the SBA opened the BCCs to provide personal assistance and disaster information to Louisiana businesses impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in September. “Since the centers opened, SBA has met with nearly 35,000 individuals and business owners. So far, SBA has approved over \$145 million in low-interest loans to Louisiana residents and businesses hurt by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike,” Ricks said.

“SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available at the five DLOCs to meet one-on-one with individuals and business owners who were impacted by the hurricanes, issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and close approved disaster loans,” said Ricks. “Applicants can meet with SBA representatives on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary,” Ricks continued.

The Business Counseling Centers are located at:

<p><b>EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH</b> <i>Business Counseling Center (BCC)</i> Bon Carré Business Center Louisiana Technology Park, LLC 7117 Florida Boulevard, Suite 307 Baton Rouge, LA</p> <p>Mondays –Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm <i>Until further notice</i></p>	<p><b>JEFFERSON PARISH</b> <i>Business Counseling Center (BCC)</i> LSBDC Greater New Orleans Region UNO Jefferson Center 3330 N Causeway, Suite 422 Metairie, LA</p> <p>Mondays –Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm <i>Until further notice</i></p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE PARISH</b> <i>Business Counseling Center (BCC)</i> Enterprise Center of Louisiana 3419 N W Evangeline Thruway Carencro, LA</p> <p>Mondays–Fridays, 8:00 am– 4:30 pm <i>Until further notice</i></p>
<p><b>LAFOURCHE PARISH</b> <i>Business Counseling Center (BCC)</i> South LA Economic Business Assistance Center 629 East First Street Thibodaux, LA</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm <i>Until further notice</i></p>	<p><b>TERREBONNE PARISH</b> <i>Business Counseling Center (BCC)</i> Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce 6133 Hwy 311 Houma, LA</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 am – 5 pm <i>Until further notice</i></p>	

(more)

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. SBA 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 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 all sizes, 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.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims should first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-3362.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit a Disaster Loan Outreach 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](mailto: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](http://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 Hurricane Gustav, the filing deadline to return applications for property damage was **December 3, 2008**. The EIDL deadline is **June 2, 2009**.

For Hurricane Ike, the filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **January 12, 2009**. The EIDL deadline is **June 15, 2009**.

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

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