



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA to Open Additional Business Assistance Centers for Ike Victims

Sacramento, CA – The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced the opening of three additional Business Assistance Centers (BACs) to provide a wide range of services to businesses impacted by Hurricane Ike. The business centers will open Tuesday, September 30.

“Due to the severe property damage and economic loss Hurricane Ike inflicted on businesses in Texas, we want to provide every available service to help get them back on their feet,” said Rear Admiral Steven G. Smith USN (Ret.), Chief of the Executive Office of SBA’s Office of Disaster Strategic Planning and Operations. “These centers will provide a single one-stop location for businesses to access a variety of specialized help,” he added. The centers will be open at the following locations on the days and times indicated.

Lake Jackson

Brazosport County BAC
Brazosport College SBDC
Corporate Learning Center
500 College Drive
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Opens Tuesday, September 30
Until further notice

La Porte

Harris County BAC
San Jacinto College SBDC
Economic Alliance -
Houston Port Region Building
908 West Main Street
La Porte, TX 77571

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Opens Tuesday, September 30
Until further notice

Orange

Orange County BAC
Northway Shopping Center
3737 N. 16th Street
Orange, TX 77632

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Opens Tuesday, September 30
Until further notice

Specialists from the following organizations will be available to meet with business owners:

- U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- University of Houston Small Business Development Center Network

According to Manuel R. Gonzalez, SBA’s Houston District Director, SBA customer service representatives will be available to meet individually with each business owner to explain how an SBA disaster loan can help finance their recovery. “We can answer your questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and accept your completed application,” he said.

According to Mike Young, Executive Director of University of Houston Small Business Development Network, SBDC representatives will provide business consulting services designed to help these business owners re-establish their operations and plan for their future. They will provide disaster loan program information, answer questions and help businesses apply for this much needed financial help. All services are provided free of charge.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may apply to SBA for low-interest disaster loans of up to \$2 million to repair or replace damage to real estate, leasehold improvements, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. These loans cover losses that are not fully covered by insurance or other recoveries.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs created by the disaster. Many small businesses are suffering financial losses caused by extended power outages, even though they have not suffered any property damage. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered property damage.

Assistance is also available at the five business assistance centers previously opened. Their locations, days, and times of operations are as follows:

Houston

University of Houston BAC
University of Houston SBDC
2302 Fannin Street, Ste 200
Houston, TX 77002

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Houston

Houston SCORE BAC
Houston SCORE Chapter
8701 S. Gessner, 12th Floor
Houston, TX 77074

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lufkin

Angelina County BAC
Angelina College SBDC
3500 S. First Street
Lufkin, TX 75901

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Port Arthur

Jefferson County BAC
Lamar State College SBDC
1401 Procter Street
Port Arthur, TX 77641

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Texas City

Galveston County BAC
Galveston County SBDC
8419 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway
Texas City, TX 77591

Mondays thru Fridays
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Business owners may also get help from SBA representatives at any Disaster Recovery Center in Texas. They may also contact SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing us at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's website 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>.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, disaster victims should first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling (800) 621-3362, or visit their web site at www.fema.gov.