



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA to Close Houston Business Assistance Center

SACRAMENTO – Manuel R. Gonzalez, Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Houston District Office, announced today that SBA’s Business Assistance Center in **Houston** will close on **Friday, December 19 at 5 pm.**

“SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available at the Business Assistance Center to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, help individuals complete their application and close their approved disaster loans until then,” he added.

Residents and business owners who suffered damages as a result of Hurricane Ike can speak with SBA representatives on the days and times indicated below until the office closes. No appointment is necessary.

Harris County

University of Houston SBDC
2302 Fannin Street, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77002

Mondays thru Fridays
8 am to 5 pm

Closes Friday, December 19 at 5 pm

“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 customer service representatives continue to be available in disaster recovery centers (DRC), SBA disaster loan outreach centers (DLOC) and business assistance centers throughout Texas. So far, SBA has approved nearly \$443 million in low-interest loans to Texas residents and businesses hurt by Hurricane Ike,” said Gonzalez.

Individuals and business owners may obtain the location of a DRC or SBA DLOC near them by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Information on SBA programs may also be obtained at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. 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>. 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.

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 Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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