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FEMA – Alberto Pillot: 732-805-4126
NJOEM – Nick Morici: 609-963-6900 x 6209

News Release

SBA DISASTER LOANS – A MAJOR SOURCE OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SOMERSET, NJ – For many New Jersey residents and business owners recovering from the severe storms and flooding of mid-March, completing a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan application is a necessity. SBA disaster loans provide funds to individuals and businesses with uninsured losses.

Federal grants are just one form of disaster assistance available to those living and working in the 12 federally declared New Jersey counties – Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union.

Most of the money for repairs and replacement of flood-damaged real estate and personal property comes in the form of low-interest SBA disaster loans. A completed SBA disaster home loan application is an essential component considered for some disaster-related grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Applicants who receive SBA loan applications must complete and return them to be considered for FEMA grants that cover personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. No one is obligated to accept a loan.

Homeowners, renters, non-profit organizations and businesses of all sizes can apply for SBA loans to pay for recovery costs not covered by insurance or other sources. People with home-based businesses or rental property who have been affected by the floods may also be eligible for SBA loans.

Homeowners can borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters can borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property.

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Business owners can borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA also provides small business owners access to Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) that provide money for ongoing businesses expenses which are needed to recover from the adverse economic impact of a disaster. These disaster loans are available even if the businesses didn't sustain physical damages from flooding.

Loan amounts and terms are determined on a case-by-case basis. Interest rates are as low as 2.625 percent for homeowners and renters, as low as 4 percent for businesses, and as low as 3 percent for non-profit organizations. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and based on each applicant's financial condition. Payment terms as long as 30 years make the loans affordable.

REGISTER FOR ASSISTANCE

To register for FEMA and/or SBA assistance, residents should call FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY/TDD 1-800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired (for relay service, call 711 or 1-800-852-7897) between 7 a.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week. Multi-lingual operators are available to answer calls during this time. Residents may also register online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Residents can also receive assistance at the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) operating in all 12 federally declared counties. Residents can get the location of the DRC closest to their home or business when they register by phone.

SBA representatives at each DRC will assist in completing loan applications, accept loan applications and answer questions about the application process. Questions can also be answered by calling the SBA Disaster Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or 800-877-8339 TTY for people with speech or hearing disabilities, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT. Help is also available by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or online at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Receive up to the minute New Jersey disaster recovery information by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/femaregion2.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.