



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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Contact: Michael Lampton (404) 331-0333

Michael.Lampton@sba.gov

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North Carolina SBTDC Teams with SBA to Help Businesses And Non-Profit Organizations Recover from Hurricane Florence

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Region IV Administrator, Ashley D. Bell is encouraging those affected by Hurricane Florence on Sept. 7-29, 2018 in **North Carolina** to register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and submit completed SBA disaster loan applications to get the help they need. North Carolina’s Small Business and Technology Development Centers (SBTDC’s) are ready to help business owners develop a business recovery plan.

The SBA’s low-interest disaster loan program is the primary source of federal funds for long-term recovery for uninsured damages caused by a declared disaster. “We are coordinating efforts with our SBA resource partners along with federal, state and local stakeholders in the declared disaster area to ensure those affected can get back to where they were before the disaster struck,” said Bell. “Taking time to complete and submit the SBA’s disaster loan application package is an important part of the process.”

“Many business owners impacted by Hurricane Florence may initially be overwhelmed by the recovery process. This is especially true if their home or the homes of their employees were affected,” says Carol McLaurin, who directs business recovery efforts for the Small Business and Technology Development Center. “There is an array of federal and state business recovery resources available. Our staff is equipped to help business owners understand and effectively navigate those resources.”

Developing an overall business recovery plan is an important first step. Experienced SBTDC business counselors can meet with business owners in person, via video or telephone to help:

- Assess the financial impact on the business
- Reconstruct financial statements
- Develop recovery strategies
- Evaluate options for working with creditors
- Determine how much capital the business needs to borrow
- Prepare SBA disaster loan or other state-based disaster loan applications

SBTDC staff are experienced in providing detailed guidance in properly preparing SBA disaster loan applications. Ensuring documentation is complete and correct can improve a business’s chances for obtaining a loan.

(more)

The SBTDC has assisted NC businesses for nearly 35 years and has extensive experience in helping navigate the recovery process. Services are free and confidential.

The SBTDC has locations across the state including Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greenville, Pembroke, Nags Head and Wilmington. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-228-8443, or fill out an intake form at www.sbtcd.org/hurricaneflorence.org.

To be considered for all forms of federal disaster assistance, applicants should register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Survivors may apply for an SBA disaster loan online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov.

Additional details on the locations of Disaster Recovery Centers and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **Nov. 13, 2018**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 14, 2019**.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.