



FEMA-4295-DR NR 002

# Fact Sheet

## **FACT SHEET: Mississippi Disaster Survivors: Complete Your U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan Application**

If you're a survivor of the tornadoes that struck the state Jan. 21, applied for FEMA assistance and you've been contacted about a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration, you need to complete and return the loan application as soon as possible.

You may believe that you don't need a loan or that you can't afford a loan. However, obtaining a low-interest SBA disaster loan may be the solution to your recovery needs. And, here's an important point to remember: SBA will work with you to provide a loan that fits your personal budget.

Even if you already have a mortgage on damaged property, SBA specialists can help with an affordable low-interest loan. In some cases, your current mortgage loan could be included in your SBA loan which could give you one overall, affordable loan payment on your home.

A low-interest SBA disaster loan can provide you the funds you need for home repair, rebuilding and property loss. Returning the application also may lead you to Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster recovery grants that do not have to be repaid.

While no survivor is obligated to accept a loan, you will be considered for other federal disaster assistance **only** if you return the SBA loan application.

Before you toss that SBA loan application, keep in mind the following important reasons for you to file the loan application (even if you don't think you currently need a loan):

- **Your insurance settlement may fall short.** As you began to recover from the effects of your personal disaster, you may discover that you were underinsured for the amount of work required to repair or replace your home. An SBA low-interest disaster loan can cover the gap.
- **Don't know how you'll replace household contents or vehicles? SBA may be able to help.** Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate. Both homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace clothing, furniture, cars or appliances damaged or destroyed in the disaster.
- **What about businesses that were damaged?** If you're a business owner, you may be able to borrow up to \$2 million for physical damage and economic injury.

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- **By submitting your SBA loan application, you keep the full range of disaster assistance available as an option.** If SBA does not approve a loan, you may be offered a FEMA grant or grants to replace essential household items, replace or repair a damaged vehicle, cover storage expenses or meet other serious disaster-related needs.

### **SBA loans have low-interest rates**

Interest rates for loans for homeowners and renters can be as low as 1.5 percent. For private nonprofit organizations, rates can be as low as 2.5 percent. For businesses rates can be as low as 3.125 percent.

### **Even if you qualify for an SBA loan, you are under no obligation to accept it.**

Refinancing and relocation loans may be available on a case-by-case basis. Survivors are encouraged to speak with an SBA representative for details.

Loan applications may be submitted online at [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/) or mailed to:

U.S. Small Business Administration  
Processing and Disbursement Center  
14925 Kingsport Rd.  
Ft. Worth, TX 76155-2243

For additional information, contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or TTY 800-877-8339 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

Register with FEMA online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-877-8339. The toll-free lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available.