

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Offers Rural Disaster Assistance in Clinton County, New York

WASHINGTON – Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses and residents in Clinton County in **New York**, affected by flooding that occurred July 9 and 10, 2023, announced <u>SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman</u> of the <u>U.S. Small Business Administration</u>. SBA acted under the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act to declare a disaster in response to a request received from Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"SBA's mission-driven team stands ready to help **New York** businesses and residents impacted by severe storms and flooding," said Administrator Guzman. "We're committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild."

Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 6, SBA customer service representatives will be available at a Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application. The centers will be open as indicated below. No appointment is necessary.

<u>Disaster Loan Outreach Center</u> Clinton County

Ellenburg Town Hall

13 Brandy Brook Rd

Ellenburg Center, NY 12934

Opening: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Hours:** Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed: Sunday

Permanently Closes: Friday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize future disaster damage. Approved loans may qualify for a loan amount increase of up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 4% for businesses, 2.375% for private nonprofit organizations and 2.5% for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online via the SBA's secure website at sba.gov/disaster.

To obtain disaster loan information call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services) or send an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

The deadline to apply for property damage is <u>Jan. 30, 2024</u>. The deadline to apply for economic injury is <u>Sept. 3, 2024</u>.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. 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, 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.