

SBA to Open Disaster Centers in Connecticut - June 24, 2010 Tornado

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is setting up disaster assistance offices in Fairfield County beginning next week to assist homeowners, renters and businesses affected by a June 24 tornado. The SBA approved Governor Jodi M. Rell's request for a disaster declaration which makes low-interest loans available for property owners as they recover from the damaging storms. The aid also is available for property owners in the adjacent Connecticut counties of Litchfield and New Haven – as well as three adjacent counties in New York.

Center locations and hours of operation are as follows:

Stratford Police Department, Training Room, 900 Longbrook Avenue

Opening: Wednesday, October 27, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Days and hours: Thursday, October 28, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 29 to

Saturday, October 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closing: Saturday, October 30 at close of business

Bridgeport Public Library, 925 Broad Street

Opening: Tuesday, November 2, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Days and hours: Wednesday, November 3 to Thursday, November 4, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closing: Saturday, November 6 at close of business

Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 for disaster damaged personal property. Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. Interest rates for the loans vary, depending on whether the borrower has access to credit elsewhere.

The SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, for working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

The deadline for applying for loans to cover physical damage is December 17; the deadline for loans to cover economic injury is July 18, 2011.

For more information, contact the SBA at (800) 659-2955, by e-mail at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or online at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.