



U.S. Small Business Administration

# DISASTER NEWS

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

SBA Disaster Assistance - Field Operations Center - East - 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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Contact: Michael Lampton  
Phone: (404) 331-0333

## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Illinois Residents Affected by Severe Storms and Tornadoes**

**WASHINGTON** – Illinois residents and businesses affected by severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 29 through March 2, 2012 can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills announced today.

Administrator Mills made the loans available in response to a letter from Gov. Pat Quinn on March 21, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Saline County and the adjacent counties of Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Pope, White and Williamson in Illinois.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the people of Illinois with the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes with federal disaster loans,” said Administrator Mills. “Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta. SBA’s customer service representatives are on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program, explain the process, issue and help individuals complete their applications.

The center is located in the following community and will open as indicated:

### **Saline County**

Workforce & Illinois Small Business Development Center  
(Old National Bank 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Southeastern Illinois College  
2 East Locust Street, Suite 200  
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

Opens: Friday, March 23, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Hours: Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed Sunday)  
Thereafter: Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., until further notice

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Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said Judith Roussel, SBA’s Illinois district director.

The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of disaster damage to real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by SBA, to make improvements that lessen the risk of property damage by future disasters of the same kind.

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

Interest rates are as low as 1.875 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Center in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by sending an email to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Those affected by the disaster may also apply for disaster loans electronically from SBA’s website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **May 21, 2012**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 24, 2012**.

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**For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Program, visit our website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).**