



Disaster NEWS RELEASE

**Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses for all sizes**

U. S. Small Business Administration – Area 2 Disaster Assistance Office–One Baltimore Place–Suite 300 – Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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SBA DISASTER LOANS TOP \$5 MILLION FOR NOVEMBER / DECEMBER STORMS FEBRUARY 5TH APPLICATION DEADLINE TWO WEEKS AWAY

JACKSON, MS – You have just two weeks left to apply for low-interest disaster loan assistance through the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Disaster Assistance Program, if you had damages caused by the November 24 through December 17, severe storms, tornadoes and flooding, according to Mike Allen, SBA’s Disaster Area Director.

Allen reminded that homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners located in the 17 Mississippi declared counties are eligible to apply for this assistance. “If you didn’t have enough insurance to cover the cost to repair your damaged real estate and personal property, these loans can help,” Allen said.

To date, SBA has approved low-interest disaster loans totaling \$5,030,900. Of that total, \$2,788,300 has gone to applicants in Madison County, \$896,700 to applicants in De Soto County and the remainder to applicants in another 6 counties. Allen says these numbers will increase as last minute applications come in for processing at the February 5th deadline.

“SBA’s disaster loan program is committed to helping homeowners, renters, and business owners recover from losses caused by natural disasters. Since 1989, SBA has invested almost \$160 million in the State of Mississippi through its disaster loan program,” Allen said.

If you have disaster-related needs, and haven’t registered for assistance yet, please call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA(3362). This is a very important step to take if you need some help recovering from this disaster.

Help with completing your SBA application remains available by calling toll-free 1-800-359-2227. These telephones are answered 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday.

Applications will not be accepted after the February 5, 2002 deadline.

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Information about the disaster program is available on SBA’s homepage at www.sba.gov