

## Disaster News Release

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

U. S. Small Business Administration – Area 2 Disaster Office – One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 1-800-359-2227 (404) 347-3771

Immediate Release - December 13, 2001

SBA Number: MISSISSIPPI #3383

For More Information Contact: Don Waite or Matt Young (404) 347-3771 (For media use only)

## SBA TO OPEN DISASTER OFFICE IN BOLIVAR COUNTY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

**JACKSON, MS** – Help with completing SBA disaster loan applications just got a lot easier for Bolivar County homeowners, renters, and business owners with the opening of a disaster loan assistance office in Cleveland, according to SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

**SBA will open a temporary disaster assistance office on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Delta State University, Broom Hall - Room 135, in Cleveland**. The office will be open December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Beginning Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, help will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., until further notice.

According to Allen, SBA staff will be available at the Cleveland office to answer questions about the disaster loan program and provide individual help with completing applications. "This is a temporary office and will only be open as long as there appears to be a need."

Allen said, "If you're a homeowner, renter, landlord, or business owner, and had any damage from the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that began on November 24<sup>th</sup>. I hope you'll come in to speak with one of our loan officers. You need to do this even if you had some insurance for your damages. We can process your application without insurance settlement information. Be sure to register with FEMA before coming in."

Even if you have insurance, you should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) and register for assistance as quickly as possible. This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs, Allen said.

The deadline for SBA applications is February 5, 2002.

# # #

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