



COUNTY OF LEHIGH

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Notice To Businesses, Residents and Municipalities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Small Business Administration (SBA) Offers Low Interest Loans to Businesses and Residents of Lehigh County Affected by Tropical Storm Isaias

Lehigh County, PA- On Monday, December 21, 2020, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza announced that businesses and residents affected by Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4, 2020, can now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Homeowners, renters and businesses impacted by the flooding may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans through the SBA Disaster Loan Programs. The declaration covers Berks and Philadelphia counties, and the adjacent counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery and Schuylkill in Pennsylvania.

Low-interest 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. Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Economic Injury Disaster Loans may also be available and may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact, whether or not the business sustained physical damage from the storm.

SBA offers long-term repayment options to keep payments affordable, with terms up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

Due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the SBA will provide customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance. The SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application via the SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan@sba.gov.

Virtual customer support representatives are available to help applicants complete the online application during these hours:

Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (VDLOCs)
Open: **Monday – Sunday (7 days/week)**
Hours: **8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time**

Closed: **Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 in observance of the holiday**

Email: FOCE-Help@sba.gov

Phone: **(800) 659-2955**

Businesses and individuals may also 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 emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

Loan applications may be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **Feb. 16, 2021**. The deadline to return economic injury applications **Sept. 20, 2021**.

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