



Disaster Field Operations Center West

Release Date: May 17, 2024

Media Contact: Corey D. Williams,
(916) 735-1500, Corey.Williams@sba.gov

Release Number: CA 20322-01

Follow us on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Blogs](#) & [Instagram](#)

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Businesses and Residents Affected by the Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to California businesses and residents affected by the severe winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, announced [Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman](#) of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request SBA received from Gov. Gavin Newsom’s authorized representative, Director Nancy Ward of the California Office of Emergency Services, on May 16.

The SBA Rural disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available to both rural and non-rural areas of Butte, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz counties.

“SBA’s mission-driven team stands ready to help California’s small businesses and residents impacted by the severe winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides,” said Administrator Guzman. “We’re committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild.”

“Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster,” said [Francisco Sánchez Jr.](#), associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration. “Beginning Monday, May 20, SBA customer service representatives will be available at the Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each business owner complete their application,” Sánchez continued. The virtual center will be open on the days and times indicated below. No appointment is necessary.

Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Opens at 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 20

Monday – Friday (5 days/week)

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FOCWAssistance@sba.gov

(916) 735-1501

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business

assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 3.25 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to apply for property damage is July 16, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Feb. 18, 2025.

###

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.