

Disaster Field Operations Center East

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Contact: Michael Lampton (404) 331-0333

Michael.Lampton@sba.gov

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SBA Declares Disaster for Severe Storms and Tornado in North Carolina

WASHINGTON – North Carolina businesses and residents affected by severe storms and tornado on Jan. 9, are eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, [SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman](#) announced today.

Administrator Guzman made the loans available in response to a letter from Governor Roy Cooper on Jan. 30, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. Businesses and residents in the declared area can now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA. The declaration covers Catawba County and the adjacent counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, and Lincoln in **North Carolina**.

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

To assist businesses and residents affected by the disaster, the SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC), in Catawba County, at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5:

Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC)

Catawba County

Catawba County Emergency Services

[100 Government Drive](#)

Newton, NC 28658

Opening: Monday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed: Sundays

Permanently Closes: Monday, Feb. 19 at 4 p.m.

Customer Service Representatives will be available at the Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program and help individuals complete their applications.

“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,” said SBA’s North Carolina District Director Michael Arriola.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers [Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDLs\)](#) to help meet

working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

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

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

Interest rates are as low as **4%** for businesses, **3.25%** for nonprofit organizations, and **2.688%** for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at 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 filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **April 1, 2024**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **Nov. 1, 2024**.

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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 or 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.