



## Disaster Field Operations Center East

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### **SBA Physical Disaster Loan Deadline in North Carolina is Oct. 19 for Businesses and Residents Affected by Hurricane Isaias**

**ATLANTA** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) encourages businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters to apply for a disaster loan before the **Oct. 19** deadline. Anyone in the declared counties in **North Carolina** with damages caused by Hurricane Isaias on August 3, 2020 should apply for the disaster loan program.

The declaration covers Bertie County and the adjacent counties of Chowan, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton and Washington in **North Carolina**.

In accordance with health precautions for COVID-19, the SBA will not establish a field presence to assist survivors. However, SBA will continue to provide customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, skype calls, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance. The SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC) to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/>. Virtual customer support representatives are available to help applicants complete the online application during these hours:

#### **Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC)**

Open: Monday - Sunday (7 days/week)

Hours: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time

[FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov)

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

**These services are only available for the North Carolina disaster declaration #16599 as a result of Hurricane Isaias on August 3, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.**

Survivors should contact the Customer Service Representatives at **(800) 659-2955** to schedule an appointment for immediate one-on-one assistance in completing their applications. Requests for SBA disaster loan program information may be obtained by emailing [FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov). The SBA will conduct extensive outreach to ensure that those affected by the disaster are afforded the opportunity to apply for assistance.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans 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.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates are as low as 3 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations, and 1.188 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan increase 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 caused by a similar disaster.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/>.

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](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). 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 **Oct. 19, 2020**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **May 20, 2021**.

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**About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

*The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. 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](http://www.sba.gov).*