

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Opens Mobile Business Recovery Center in DeSoto County to Assist Floridians Recovering from Hurricane Ian

ATLANTA – The <u>U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)</u> announced today it will open a temporary **Mobile Business Recovery Center** (BRC) in **Arcadia** to help Floridians applying for SBA disaster loan assistance due to Hurricane Ian that began Sept. 23. The Mobile BRC will begin serving the public on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Yellow Deli, 22 N. Polk Ave. in Arcadia. It will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 12 to 14.

"Our Business Recovery Centers are one of the most powerful resources at SBA's disposal to support business owners in the midst of a disaster," said Francisco Sanchez, Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Assistance. "Business owners can meet in-person with our specialists to apply for SBA disaster loans and get information on the full breadth of our programs designed to help them navigate their recovery."

SBA's disaster declaration includes Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Saint Johns, Sarasota, Seminole and Volusia counties in **Florida**, which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs): Alachua, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Clay, Duval, Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Marion, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Pasco, and Sumter in **Florida**.

All BRCs will operate as indicated below until further notice:

SBA Business Recovery Center		SBA Mobile Business Recovery Center	
Collier County		Collier County	
The Naples Players <u>701 5th Avenue South</u> Naples, FL 34102		Museum of the Everglades 105 Broadway Avenue W Everglades City, FL 34139	
Hours:	Monday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Hours: Saturday – Monday, Oct. 8 to 10, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	

SBA Mobile Business Recovery Center

DeSoto County

<u>Yellow Deli</u> 22 N. Polk Ave. Arcadia, FL 34266

Opening: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 12 to 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SBA Business Recovery Center	SBA Business Recovery Center	
Hillsborough County	Lee County	
Chloe Coney Urban Enterprise Center <u>1907 E. Hillsborough Ave.</u> Tampa, FL 33610	Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral <u>360 Santa Barbara Blvd. S.</u> Cape Coral FL 33991	
Hours: Monday – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Hours:Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.Closed:Friday, Saturday and Sunday	

SBA Business Recovery Center	SBA Business Recovery Center
Lee County	Seminole County
The Hub at SWFL, Inc. 25071 Chamber of Commerce Drive Bonita Springs, FL 34135	Sanford Information Center 230 E. First St. Sanford, FL 32771
Hours: Monday – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Hours: Monday – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SBA Customer Service Representatives will be available as indicated above to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners in completing their applications. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has established protocols to help protect the health and safety of the public. All visitors to the BRCs are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <u>https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/</u> and should apply under SBA declaration **# 17644.**

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at <u>DisasterAssistance.gov</u> or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial

7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services) or sending an email to <u>DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov</u>. Loan applications can also be downloaded from <u>sba.gov/disaster</u>. 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 <u>Nov. 28, 2022</u>. The deadline to return economic injury applications is <u>June 29, 2023</u>.

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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 <u>www.sba.gov</u>.