

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center West

Release Date: July 5, 2023 **Contact:** Mark W. Randle, (916) 735-1500,

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Oklahoma Businesses and Residents Affected by Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes and Flooding

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Oklahoma businesses and residents affected by the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding that occurred June 14 – 18, announced <u>Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman</u> 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. J. Kevin Stitt on July 1.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Grady, Kiowa, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Rogers, Stephens, Tillman, Tulsa, Wagoner and Washington in Oklahoma.

"SBA's mission-driven team stands ready to help Oklahoma's small businesses and residents impacted by the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding," 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 Director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. "Beginning Friday, July 7, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Garfield continued. The centers will be open on the days and times indicated below. No appointment is necessary.

COMANCHE COUNTY

Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Dr. E.A. Owens Multipurpose Center
Haywood Room
1405 SW 11th Ctr.
Lawton, OK 73501

Opens 9 a.m. Friday, July 7

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

TULSA COUNTY

Disaster Loan Outreach Center Owen Park Community Center 560 N. Maybelle Ave. Tulsa, OK 74127

Opens 9 a.m. Friday, July 7

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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 the same type of disaster 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 \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.375 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.5 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.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/. 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. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Sept. 1, 2023. The deadline to apply for economic injury is April 3, 2024.

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Recently, U.S. SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman <u>announced a policy change</u> granting 12 months of no payments and 0% interest. This pertains to all disaster loans approved in response to disasters declared on or after September 21, 2022, through September 30, 2023. This policy change will benefit disaster survivors and help them to decrease the overall cost of recovery by reducing the amount of accrued interest they must repay. Details are available through the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. Individuals with verbal or hearing impairments may dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday to Friday, or email: <u>disastercustomerservice@sba.gov</u>.

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.