

SBA Storm Relief for Louisiana Businesses

By SBA Press Office

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that low interest federal disaster loans are now available to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Louisiana that sustained economic losses caused by the January 2025 winter storm that occurred January 21 to 24. The SBA issued a disaster declaration in response to a request received from Governor Jeff Landry on February 4.

This disaster declaration covers the counties and parishes of Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Charles, Saint Helena, Saint James, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Landry, Saint Martin, Saint Mary, Saint Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, and West Baton Rouge in Louisiana, as well as Amite and Pike counties in Mississippi, and Newton and Orange counties in Texas.

Under this declaration, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs that suffered financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage. They may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million, with interest rates of 4 percent for small businesses and 3.625 percent for PNPs, and with terms up to 30 years.

The SBA determines eligibility and sets the loan amount and terms based on each applicant's financial condition. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement.



Beginning Friday, February 7, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at a Virtual Business Recovery Center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete

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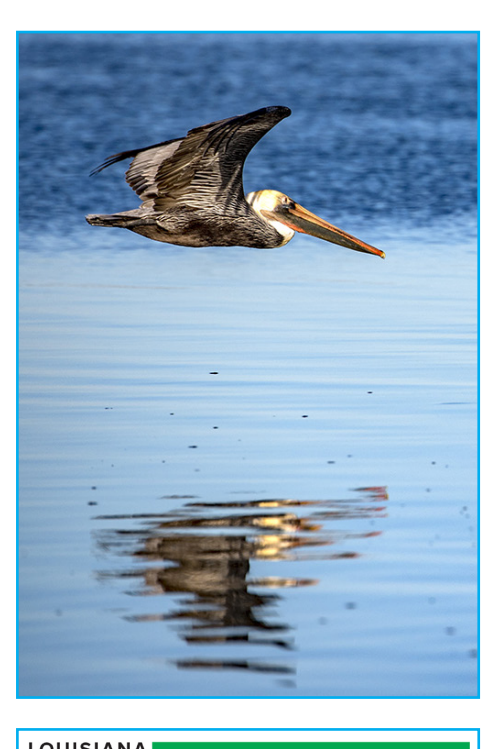
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NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Virtual Community Meeting for the Development of 1141 Esplanade Avenue

Thursday, February 13, 2025 • 5:30 pm

New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and its selected development partners, HRI Communities and New Orleans Restoration Properties, will host a virtual community meeting for updates on the development of 1141 Esplanade Avenue. The planned development includes 50 units of mixed-income housing with two ground floor commercial spaces. During the February 13 meeting, the project team will update the community on the project's current status, design, and development timeline.

[Click here to register in advance](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please contact Project Manager Leslie-Johns McCann with any questions at leslie.mccann@nola.gov or (504) 658-4412.

Small Business Exchange Louisiana DEI

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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2025

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123658967219>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 9:30 am–11:00 am CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basics-of-sbas-8a-business-development-orientation-and-sam-registration-tickets-1030102924577>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, February 27, 2025, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-1013616774057> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc. is **DBE certified** by the Louisiana UCP.

Certificate of Proclamation
Louisiana Business Journal
In recognition of the 38th publication since Hurricane Katrina and to the rebuilding of business in your community.

Mitchell J. Landrieu
MAYOR MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU - CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
June 15, 2010
DATE

