U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Release Date: Aug. 20, 2026
Release Number: IL-20035-01

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SBA Offers Relief to Illinois Businesses, Private Nonprofits, and Residents Affected by Severe Storms

Low-interest disaster loans now available

WASHINGTON —The U.S. Small Business Administration announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans for Illinois small businesses, private nonprofit organizations, and residents affected by severe storms occurring July 27. The SBA issued a disaster declaration in response to a request received from Governor JB Pritzker on Aug. 17.

The declaration covers the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will, and Lake County in Indiana, which are eligible for both physical damage loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from SBA.

Businesses and private nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for home and personal property loans and may borrow up to $100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to $500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their physical damage, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind rated garage doors, and installing a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

“When disasters strike, SBA’s Disaster Loan Outreach Centers play a vital role in helping small businesses and their communities recover,” said Chris Stallings, Associate Administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at SBA. “At these centers, SBA specialists assist business owners and residents with disaster loan applications and provide information on the full range of recovery programs available.”

The SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and private nonprofits — including faith-based organizations — impacted by 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. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills which could not be paid due to the disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.625% for private nonprofits, and 2.875% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA determines eligibility and sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Beginning **Friday**, **Aug. 21**, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in Cook and Will counties to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help individuals complete their application. Walk-ins are welcome, and you can schedule an in-person appointment in advance at appointment.sba.gov.

The hours of operation are listed below:

COOK COUNTY
Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Village of Hazel Crest
3601 W. 183rd St.
Hazel Crest, IL 60429

Opens at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Temporary Closure on Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day Holiday

Closes permanently at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8

WILL COUNTY
Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Village of University Park
90 Town Center Dr.
University Park, IL 60484

Opens at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Temporary Closure on Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day Holiday

Closes permanently at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8

To apply online, visit 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 **Oct. 19**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **May 18, 2027**.

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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.