



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Opens Business Recovery Center in Glynn County, Georgia

ATLANTA – The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) announced today it will open a Business Recovery Center (BRC) in **Glynn County** on **Monday, Sept. 18**, at the Ballard Community Center in Brunswick, GA. SBA is opening the Center to assist Georgia businesses with losses due to Hurricane Idalia that occurred August 30.

“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 Recovery and Resilience. “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.”

The disaster declaration covers Cook, Glynn, and Lowndes County in **Georgia**, 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): Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Camden, Colquitt, Echols, Lanier, McIntosh, Tift, and Wayne in **Georgia**; and Hamilton and Madison in **Florida**.

Customer Service Representatives at SBA’s Business Recovery Centers will assist business owners complete their disaster loan application, accept documents for existing applications, and provide status on loan applications. The Centers will operate as indicated below until further notice:

<p><u>Business Recovery Center</u> Lowndes County</p> <p>Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce 16 N Ashley St. Valdosta, GA 31602</p> <p>Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed: Sundays</p>	<p><u>Business Recovery Center</u> Glynn County</p> <p>Ballard Community Center 30 Nimitz Dr. Brunswick, GA 31520</p> <p>Opening: Monday, Sept. 18, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Hours: Monday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed: Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023</p>
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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 \(EIDLs\)](#) 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.

Interest rates are as low as **4 %** for businesses, and **2.375 %** for nonprofit organizations, and **2.5%** for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition. Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the initial disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement.

Building back smarter and stronger can be an effective recovery tool for future disasters. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of 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, elevation, retaining walls, and landscaping to help protect property and occupants from future disasters.

Disaster survivors should not wait to settle with their insurance company before applying for a disaster loan. If a survivor does not know how much of their loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, SBA can make a low interest disaster loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided the borrower agrees to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay the loan.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/> and should apply under SBA declaration # **18143**.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at DisasterAssistance.gov 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 DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded from sba.gov/disaster. 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 **Nov. 6, 2023**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 7, 2024**.

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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.