U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION APPROVES DISASTER LOAN PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IMPACTED BY SEVERE WEATHER

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Rick Scott announced today that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved his April 5, 2011 request for a Physical Disaster Declaration to aid Hillsborough County residents impacted by the severe weather event on March 31. This declaration makes available low-interest disaster loans to eligible affected households and businesses in Hillsborough County and the neighboring counties of Hardee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk.

“I am grateful to Administrator Mills, Director Skaggs and our federal partners at the SBA for granting this critical disaster assistance,” said Governor Scott. “These low-interest loans are an excellent resource to help residents recover from the damaging severe weather that swept the state last week.”

Under this declaration, qualified residents may be eligible for home and/or business disaster loans to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate or property. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future. This declaration also makes available the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program to eligible small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition. Loan applications for physical damage can be filed until the close of business on June 6, 2011 and economic injury applications can be filed until the close of business on January 9, 2012.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955, by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or by visiting www.sba.gov.


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