U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Physical Disaster Loan Deadline Approaching in Citrus County Area For Businesses and Residents Affected by September Severe Storms and Flooding

ATLANTA – <u>The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)</u> is reminding businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in **Florida** of the **Jan. 14** deadline to apply for physical damage disaster loans. Anyone in the declared counties with damages from the severe storms and flooding on Sept. 15-19, 2021, should apply for the low-interest disaster loan program.

"Waiting to file an SBA application could cause unnecessary delays in receiving disaster assistance, and survivors may miss the application deadline. Submitting the loan application is an essential part of the disaster recovery process," said Kem Fleming, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

The declaration covers Citrus County, and the adjacent counties of Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter in **Florida**.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <u>DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s</u> and should apply under SBA declaration # 17270, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by emailing <u>DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov</u>. Loan applications may be downloaded at <u>sba.gov/disaster</u> Completed applications should be returned to the center or 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 **Jan. 14, 2022**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **Aug. 15, 2022**.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. 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 <u>sba.gov</u>.