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News Release

SBA APPROVES \$16 MILLION IN DISASTER LOANS FOR TROPICAL STORM IRENE

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Vermont residents and businesses recovering from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene have been assisted by **more than \$16 million in disaster-assistance loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.**

“The FEMA team gets a lot of the headlines, but our partners at the SBA have been critical in helping Vermont homeowners, renters and businesses with low-interest disaster loans,” said Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo. “The amount of money they have put on the streets is truly remarkable.”

“The size and number of loans we have approved is a testament to just how much damage Tropical Storm Irene caused,” said Carl Sherrill, a spokesman for the SBA. “We urge all Vermonters who received but have not yet filled out an SBA application to do so, even if you don’t want a loan.”

That’s because individuals and families who do not qualify for an SBA low-interest disaster recovery loan may be eligible for additional FEMA grants, Sherrill said.

The SBA has issued 5,842 loan applications to homeowners and businesses in Vermont. To date, a total of 842 have been returned, and 276 applications totaling \$16,138,800 have been approved.

SBA makes loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and non-profits. The SBA may be able to offer a loan that will provide money for recovery if an insurance claim is delayed or denied. If the claim is paid, the insurance settlement can be used to pay off the SBA loan.

For more information, call 800-659-2955 or 800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities. Applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov or completed online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ele/>.

The SBA has also established three assistance centers where not only businesses but homeowners can get face-to-face help reviewing their cases and filling out applications. The centers are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Windham County

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
72 Cotton Mill Hill – 2nd Floor
Brattleboro VT 05301

Windsor County

Town of Hartford Building
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction VT 05001

Springfield Development Corporation
14 Clinton Street
Springfield VT 05156

Those who have been affected by the storm have until **November 15 to register for federal disaster assistance** with both FEMA and the SBA.

In addition to the SBA loans, more than **\$18 million in housing and other assistance grants** has been provided to individuals and families by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has approved more than 3,000 Vermonters for aid.

Of that \$18 million approved so far, nearly **\$17 million went toward housing assistance grants to help repair, rebuild or replace housing and for rental assistance**, as well as more than **\$1 million for assistance with other needs**, such as replacement of personal property or medical expenses.

FEMA's registration number is: **800-621-FEMA (3362)**. If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585 directly; if you use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362. Online registration is available at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or at FEMA's mobile website, m.fema.gov for Smartphone or tablet users. Online registration saves you time and allows you to check the progress of your application online.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585; or call 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS).

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an

SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA either through the U.S. Mail, online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>, or their local Disaster Recovery Center to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

SBA disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov or completed on-line at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

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