



News Release

September 23, 2024
Release Number: 4886

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Charleston County Residents, Businesses Eligible to Apply for Low-Interest Disaster Loans Following Tropical Storm Debby

Charleston County residents and businesses affected by Tropical Storm Debby during the incident period of August 4-August 22, 2024, are eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) made available at the request of South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster.

Applications and additional disaster assistance information can be found at 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 deadline to submit applications related to physical property damage is **November 18, 2024**. The deadline for applications regarding economic injury is **June 18, 2025**.

SBA Eligibility Information:

- Loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.
- Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20% 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, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage.
- 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. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.
- Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.25% for nonprofit organizations, and 2.813% for homeowners and renters, with terms of up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

SBA Customer Service Information:

- The SBA will open Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in Berkeley and Orangeburg Counties on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024**, and **Monday, September 30, 2024** to answer questions about the program and help applicants complete their applications.
 - **Charleston County**
 - Wiltown Community Center
 - 5779 Parkers Ferry Road, Adams Run, S.C. 29426
 - Hours:
 - Mondays: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Wednesdays: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 - Saturdays/Sundays: CLOSED
 - **Berkeley County**
 - Berkeley County Administration Building

- 1003 U.S. Highway 52, Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461
- **Orangeburg County**
 - Bowman Library
 - 7105 Charleston Highway, Bowman, S.C. 29018
- **Hours for the Berkeley and Orangeburg Counties:**
 - Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Closed Sundays
 - Permanently Closing Wednesday, October 9 at 4 p.m.

In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those needing assistance should contact Charleston County at (843) 202-6917 during regular business hours.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, please visit www.charlestoncounty.org.

