



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Businesses and Residents of Illinois Affected by June Severe Storms and Flooding

WASHINGTON –Illinois businesses and residents affected by the severe storms and flooding on June 26-28, 2019 can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Acting Administrator Christopher Pilkerton announced today.

Acting Administrator Pilkerton made the loans available in response to a letter from Gov. JB Pritzker on Sept. 20, 2019 requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Cook and Will counties and the adjacent counties of DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake and McHenry in **Illinois** and Lake County in **Indiana**.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the people of **Illinois** with the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist businesses of all sizes, homeowners and renters with federal disaster loans,” said Pilkerton. “Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

SBA’s Customer Service Representatives will be available at the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to answer questions about the disaster loan program and help individuals complete their applications.

The Center is located in the following community and is open as indicated:

Cook County

Village of Steger Community Center

[3501 Hopkins Avenue](http://3501HopkinsAvenue)

Steger, IL 60475

Opening: Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed: Sunday

Closed: Monday, Oct. 14 (Columbus Day)

Closes: Thursday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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“Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said SBA’s Illinois District Director Robert Steiner.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans 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.

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Kem Fleming, center director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase 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, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as **4** percent for businesses, **2.75** percent for nonprofit organizations, and **1.938** percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov. 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. 25, 2019**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 26, 2020**.

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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 www.sba.gov.



**Cook County Department of Homeland
Security and Emergency Management
SBA Disaster Loan Assistance FAQs
September 27, 2019**

How many homes were surveyed?

Cook County DHSEM surveyed 584 buildings in the affected area.

What are the Criteria for SBA Disaster Loan Assistance?

To meet the SBA Disaster Threshold, there must be at least 25 homes in a county with damage up to 40% of the total value of the home. DHSEM identified 36 homes in Cook County meeting these criteria, and Will County also met this threshold.

Why is this not a federally declared disaster?

Although the June 2019 severe storms and flooding in Cook and Will Counties did meet the criteria for SBA Disaster Loan Assistance, it did not meet the standards to qualify as a federally declared disaster.

How do I apply for a loan in person?

Operated by the U.S. Small Business Administration, a Disaster Loan Operations Center will be located at the **Louis Sherman Community Center, 3501 Hopkins St. in Steger**. The center will open on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019 at 11 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Thereafter it will be open Monday through Friday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and will be closed Sundays and Columbus Day, Oct. 14, 2019. The center will close on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019 at 4 p.m.

How do I apply for a loan online and by mail?

Residents and business owners impacted by severe storms and flooding on June 26-28, 2019 should visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/Index> for information on the types of loans available. This flooding event in and around Steger is SBA Disaster Declaration IL-00056.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov.

Mail completed applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

How long do I have to apply for a loan?

Although the in-person DLOC will close on **Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019**, those who qualify for Disaster Loan Assistance will have until **Monday, Nov. 25, 2019** to return applications for physical property damages. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **Friday, June 26, 2020**. Any individual or business needing additional information, or wishing to apply for a loan, should contact the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.



Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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What assistance is available for those affected by recent flooding?

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering Disaster Loan Assistance for those affected by severe storms and flooding on June 26-28, 2019 in the Chicagoland area. SBA Disaster Declaration IL-00056 includes Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kankakee, McHenry, Kendall and Grundy Counties in Illinois and Lake County in Indiana.

What area was affected?

The hardest-hit area in Cook and Will Counties was the Village of Steger, where a Disaster Loan Operations Center is being set up for residents. Additionally, portions of Park Forest and South Chicago Heights were also particularly hard hit. These communities are in Cook County Commissioner Districts 5 and 6.

Who is eligible for help?

If you are in a declared disaster area and have experienced damage to your home or personal property, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the SBA — even if you do not own a business. As a homeowner, renter, property owner or business owner, you may apply to the SBA for a loan to help you recover from a disaster.

What types of loans are available?

A variety of different loans are available for those who qualify. Homeowners, renters, property owners, businesses and most private nonprofit organizations may apply for loans for damage related to residences and buildings.

Renters and homeowners may also apply for loans to replace or repair personal property — such as clothing, furniture, cars and appliances — damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Businesses and most private nonprofits may apply for loans to repair or replace real property, machinery, equipment, fixtures, inventory and leasehold improvements.

How do I know if I qualify?

Details on the loan program may be found here:

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/DisasterLoanFactSheets>

What organizations and municipalities are involved in Disaster Loan Assistance?

The Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) collaborated with the Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Village of Steger to conduct the damage survey. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency managed the process, and the Small Business Administration is making loans available through their Disaster Loan Assistance program.