

In the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia, small business owners in several north central Florida counties may find assistance via the Small Business Administration (SBA). For those who have experienced damage to assets or incurred reduced revenue, the SBA is offering disaster loans to assist. Find detailed information below:

Eligibility Criteria

The Florida counties eligible for SBA disaster loans include Citrus, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee, and Taylor. The Florida counties of Alachua, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hernando, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, and Sumter can only apply for economic injury loans (also Lowndes and Echols in Georgia).

Application Deadlines

For applications the following deadlines apply:

- For physical damage claims: October 30, 2023
- For economic injury claims: May 31, 2024

Types of SBA Disaster Loans

Home Disaster Loans: Available for homeowners or renters, these loans can be used to repair or replace disaster-affected real estate and personal items, including cars.

Business Physical Disaster Loans: Whether a small business or a larger entity, if physical damage to your business-owned property occurred (including real estate, inventory, machinery, etc.), application can be made. Non-profit organizations like charities, churches, and private universities can also apply for this loan.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL): Specifically designed for small businesses and most private non-profit organizations, EIDLs provide the necessary working capital to meet financial obligations. If the disaster has negatively affected your ability to meet obligations, this loan type might be appropriate.

Application Information

The SBA prefers applicants apply online for a disaster loan. For questions, an SBA disaster call center operates Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET and on weekends from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET. Call 800-659-2955 for support.