



GEMA



FEMA

Disaster News

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For Georgia Counties

THREE GEORGIA DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS TO CLOSE AND REOPEN AS SBA DISASTER LOAN OUTREACH CENTERS

ATLANTA – The temporary state/federal Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Coffee, Colquitt, and Lowndes counties will transition to U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs), the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today.

“Other DRCs remain open where people may find in-person help and specialists are also available by phoning FEMA’s toll-free Helpline,” said GEMA Director Charley English. “The SBA presence is another step in reaching out with assistance to Georgians who experienced losses from the late March and early April storms and flooding.”

DRCs are open in **Decatur County** at Chamber 1, 1213 Vada Rd., Bainbridge and in **Tift County** at the Special Purpose Building, 202 Baldwin Dr., Tifton. A Mobile Disaster Recovery Center is open in **Echols County** at Echols County Community Center, 148 Church of God Street, Statenville, through Thursday, May 7.

Both fixed and mobile DRCs operate Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-7 p.m and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are closed on Sunday.

“FEMA remains committed to providing access through a variety of resources for all affected Georgia residents,” noted Terry Quarles, federal coordinating officer for Georgia disaster recovery. “Whether people contact us in-person, by telephone, or on the Internet FEMA’s mission is to be sure disaster survivors register and get all the assistance for which they are eligible.”

The DRC at the C.E. Weir Center, 200 East Bryan Street, Building F, Douglas in **Coffee County** will end operations at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8. On Monday, May 11, SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the Conference Building 200 C South Madison, Douglas.

The DRC at the **Colquitt County** EMA, 164 Veterans Parkway North, Moultrie will end operations at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. On Monday, May 11, SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the same location.

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The DRC at the **Lowndes County** Civic Center, 2102 East Hill Avenue, Valdosta, will end operations at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. On Friday, May 8, SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the same location.

SBA is the nation's primary source of assistance to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes in federally declared disasters. SBA disaster loan interest rates are as low as 2.187 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

SBA representatives at the DLOCs are able to provide disaster loan applications, answer questions, explain the application process, and help individuals complete their loan applications. For more information, visit SBA's Web site at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, call 1-800-659-2955, or e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Individuals can register with FEMA online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling the **FEMA Helpline** toll free **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are staffed seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., local time. Help in all languages is available. Applicants who have already registered can check the status of their applications and get many questions answered about the process.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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.

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 loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov or www.ready.ga.gov/ or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>