

**For Immediate Release – County of Berks – Press Release**

***SBA Declares Disaster in Berks, Implements Disaster Relief Loans***

**Reading, PA — 10/19/2023 – UPDATE** — The SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center located at Albright College for several weeks to serve local victims of the July 9 storms has closed. Residents, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations with physical damage can still apply for SBA disaster assistance remains online through November 27, 2023. Businesses and non-profits organizations with economic loss can apply for disaster assistance through June 28, 2024. The SBA fact sheet provides disaster survivors with the information needed **to submit an electronic loan application**

<http://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela>. The disaster survivors may also contact **SBA's disaster Customer Service at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for assistance.**

**Reading, PA — 09/29/2023 – ORIGINAL POST** — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) officially declared the July 9 flooding event in Berks County a disaster and has authorized offering disaster relief loans to qualifying county residents and businesses. SBA disaster relief loans can offer lower interest rates, longer terms, and faster approvals than conventional loans.

According to information from the SBA, there are three types of loans available:

- Business Physical Disaster Loans – Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) – Working capital loans to help a variety of qualifying for-profit and non-profit businesses meet ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.
- Home Disaster Loans – Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.

Application deadlines for physical damage loans is November 27, 2023. The deadline for economic injury loans is June 28, 2024. Details will be posted on the Berks County website at [www.countyofberks.com](http://www.countyofberks.com)

In addition to the ability to apply online, a physical location in Berks County will be established in the coming days where individuals can meet with SBA staff to have questions answered and receive assistance in applying. Specifics on where that location will be and its hours of operations will be provided when they become available.

Links to Berks County SBA Disaster Loan information pages:

<https://www.countyofberks.com/getmedia/266e9df9-8592-4746-b16b-edb32c993d18/PA-18207-Disaster-Declaration.pdf>

[https://www.countyofberks.com/getmedia/5d96ce96-a496-4a11-8887-bcd45cab171/2023\\_09\\_28\\_PA\\_18207\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.countyofberks.com/getmedia/5d96ce96-a496-4a11-8887-bcd45cab171/2023_09_28_PA_18207_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

En español - [https://www.countyofberks.com/cmsadmin/getmedia/a5ee2210-8e10-4b42-999c-3f9f9f6907bc/2023\\_09\\_28\\_PA\\_18207\\_Fact-Sheet-\(en-Espanol\)](https://www.countyofberks.com/cmsadmin/getmedia/a5ee2210-8e10-4b42-999c-3f9f9f6907bc/2023_09_28_PA_18207_Fact-Sheet-(en-Espanol))

Links to SBA Disaster Relief Loan webpages:

<https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/article/Home-and-Personal-Property-Loans>

<https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/article/Business-Physical-Disaster-Loans>