

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is Offering Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses in Florida Affected by Red Tide and Algal Blooms

SBA Customer Service Representatives are currently available in Lee County

What is available? Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) through the U.S. Small Business Administration are currently available. EIDLs are working capital loans to help small businesses and private, non-profit organizations meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. **Eligible entities may qualify for loans up to \$2 million.** The rates for these low-interest loans range from 2.5% for non-profits to 3.61% for small businesses, with terms up to 30 years.

Who can qualify? Lee County small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses and private, nonprofit organizations affected by red tide algal blooms beginning November 1, 2017.

When can applications be submitted? Applications are currently being accepted.

THE APPLICATION FILING DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2019.

How to apply? Applicants may apply 1) online; 2) by mail; 3) in-person at a disaster center.

- Apply online at the Small Business Administration secure website:
DisasterLoan.sba.gov/ela
- Apply by mail. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be returned to a center of mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.
- Apply in-person. **SBA's Customer Service Representatives are currently available at the Business Recovery Center located in Lee County at:**

**City/County Annex Building
1825 Hendry Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**