Joint Information Center
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Recovery News

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SBA DISASTER LOAN OUTREACH CENTER OPENS JUNE 1 AT BOSTON DRC SITE

ANDOVER, Mass. – The State/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at the Hyde Park Municipal Bldg., 1179 River St. in Boston will transition to a more specialized U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) outreach center beginning Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The current DRC ceases operation today, Friday May 28 at 6 p.m. and will be closed through the Memorial Day weekend. As of June 1, hours of operation for the SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) will be 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday – Friday, until further notice.

Since opening on April 26, the Boston DRC has been visited by nearly 400 area residents seeking answers to disaster questions, help in filling out paperwork or obtaining useful advice about risk-reduction measures to lessen future losses.

After the holiday weekend changeover, the most noticeable difference to applicants will be the change in focus from a full-service center to a one-stop resource for SBA disaster loan information and help. To ease the transition, several FEMA recovery specialists will be at the SBA center for a limited time to assist applicants with FEMA recovery programs.

SBA representatives will be at the DLOC to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, help individuals complete their application and close approved disaster loans.

Anyone who has not registered with FEMA for disaster aid, has questions about their application or needs more information about recovery programs should call FEMA's toll-free helpline at **800-621-FEMA (3362),** 800-462-7585, (TTY) for people with speech or hearing disabilities. Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and multilingual assistance is available. Online registration is available at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

For answers to questions about disaster loan applications, the SBA Customer Service Center can be reached at **800-659-2955,** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For further assistance from SBA, loan applicants can go online at www.sba.gov/services/DisasterAssistance or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Anyone with disaster-related damages can still apply for low-interest loans at the SBA's secure website, https://DisasterLoan.sba.gov/ela/

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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