Joint Information Center
Andover, MA

Recovery News

Release Date: June 3, 2010
DR1895NR061
FEMA news desk: 978-623-3538
MEMA Peter Judge: 508-820-2002

LAKEVILLE RECOVERY CENTER TO BECOME SBA OUTREACH SITE

ANDOVER, Mass. – The Disaster Recovery Center in Lakeville, which has served more than 1,250 Southeastern Massachusetts residents during its eight weeks of operations, will transition to a more specialized U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) as of June 7, 2010.

The SBA outreach center will remain at the same location with the same operating hours: the Free Public Library, 4 Precinct Street in Lakeville, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, until further notice.

The full-service Lakeville recovery center was one of the first to open after the March 29 presidential disaster declaration. Officials said visitor traffic has slowed considerably in the past few weeks, prompting the change in focus.

To ease the transition to a one-stop resource for SBA disaster loan information and help, several Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recovery specialists will be at the DLOC for a limited time to continue assisting applicants with FEMA recovery programs.

At the DLOC, SBA representatives will be able to answer questions about the SBA's low-interest rate disaster loan program for homeowners, renters and businesses, issue applications, explain the application process, help individuals complete an application and close approved disaster loans.

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/

Anyone who has not registered with FEMA for disaster aid, has questions about their application or seeks 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.

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.

###