

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center West

Release Date: June 14, 2024 **Media Contact:** Corey D. Williams,

(916) 735-1500, <u>Corey.Williams@sba.gov</u>

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SBA to Open Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Blair

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – <u>Francisco Sánchez Jr.</u>, associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration, today announced the opening of its Disaster Loan Outreach Center to meet the needs of businesses and individuals who were affected by severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes that occurred April 25 - 27. The center will be located at the First Lutheran Church beginning Monday, June 17 in Blair.

"SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their electronic loan application," Sánchez continued. The center will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Disaster Loan Outreach Center First Lutheran Church 2146 Wright St. Blair, NE 68008

Opens at 9 a.m. Monday, June 17

Mondays - Fridays, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

SBA disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 3.25 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, survivors must first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <u>SBA.gov/disaster</u>.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at SBA.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to apply for property damage is July 15, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Feb. 3, 2025.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.