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News Release

Businesses, Farmers, Ranchers Hurt by Disaster Can Seek Help

TALLHASSEE, Fla. – People, including farmers and ranchers, whose homes were damaged or destroyed may qualify for help from FEMA. To find out who might be eligible, visit DisasterAssistance.gov or call 800-621-3362.

Disaster assistance may be available through other federal agencies to businesses for damaged business property or economic losses as a direct result of a presidentially declared disaster. Farmers and ranchers in Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla, and Washington counties may be eligible.

The USDA Farm Service Agency make low-interest disaster loans to provide working capital and to repair or replace damaged property not covered by insurance. For more information and county meeting dates, log onto <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Florida/index>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low-interest disaster loans up to \$2 million to businesses of any size and private nonprofits to repair/replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans from SBA may help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and nonprofits to meet working-capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available all the designated counties and contiguous counties regardless of the business's property damage.

Apply for an SBA loan online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Or apply in person at any FEMA disaster recovery center and receive personal, one-on-one help from an SBA representative. For more information or to find a center near you, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster or call SBA at (800) 659-2955. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

FEMA's mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

For a list of locations where survivors can obtain commodities (water, food, etc.), visit www.floridadisaster.org/info

For more Hurricane Michael recovery information, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4399.

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