

Zero-Interest Emergency Bridge Loans Assist Small Businesses After Disasters

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan (EBL) program is activated to help speed up recovery for small businesses that have been impacted by a disaster.

The program offers small business owners short-term, zero-interest loans to meet immediate financial obligations until long-term funding is secured, such as federal or commercially available loans, insurance claims, or other resources. Business owners must demonstrate economic injury or physical damage from the disaster to qualify.

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program was first activated in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Since then, the program has helped thousands of businesses by providing more than \$127 million dollars in loans to alleviate the economic impacts of disasters across the state.

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Designated Counties:

Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, and Volusia

Amount:

Up to \$50,000. Only one loan per applicant.

Terms:

Zero-interest for one year.

Eligibility:

Loans will only be made to an individual or individuals who own at least 51 percent of an eligible business located in an impacted county established prior to September 24, 2022, have a credit score of 600 or above, and demonstrate economic injury or physical damage.

Repayment:

Loans must be paid in full by the end of the one-year loan term.



To apply and to learn more about the eligibility requirements, visit www.FloridaJobs.org/EBL.

For questions regarding the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program, email emergencybridgeloan@deo.myflorida.com or call 833-832-4494.