



## Disaster Field Operations Center East

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### SBA Opens Business Recovery Center in Collier County For the Red Tide and Toxic Algal Blooms

**ATLANTA** - SBA is opening a Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Collier County, on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. Other Business Recovery Centers in Lee, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota counties are already in operation.

SBA’s Customer Service Representatives have been working diligently to assist small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses and private nonprofit organizations financially impacted by the red tide algal bloom that began on Nov. 1, 2017 and the toxic algal bloom that began on June 1, 2018 to obtain an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan for their working capital needs.

Impacted businesses are encourage to visit one of the temporary locations before they close and get answers to program questions, assistance in applying for an SBA disaster loan and help with the reconsideration process. The Centers are located and open as indicated below.

<p align="center"><b><u>Collier County</u></b>  CareerSource Southwest Florida  <a href="#">3050 Horseshoe Dr. N., #110</a>  Naples, FL 34104</p> <p align="center">Opens: Tuesday, Oct. 16  Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  Closes: Saturday, Oct. 20</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Lee County</u></b>  City/County Annex Building  <a href="#">1825 Hendry Street</a>  Fort Myers, FL 33901</p> <p align="center">Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Manatee County</u></b>  Manatee County Library, Island Branch  <a href="#">5701 Marina Road</a>  Holmes Beach, FL 34217</p> <p align="center">Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Pinellas County</u></b>  Epicenter  <a href="#">13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street, North</a>, Suite 2-200  Clearwater, FL 33760</p> <p align="center">Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Sarasota County</u></b>  Bee Ridge Park  <a href="#">4430 South Lockwood Road</a>  Sarasota, FL 34231</p> <p align="center">Hours: Monday, Wednesday-Friday,  9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	

Eligible entities may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. The SBA offers economic injury loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. The rates on these loans are 3.385 percent for small businesses and 2.5 percent for nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Eligibility for these working capital loans are based on the size and type of business and its financial resources. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoan.sba.gov](https://DisasterLoan.sba.gov).

Applications and program information are available by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be returned to a center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for economic injury is **June 4, 2019**.

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#### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. 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 or 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](http://www.sba.gov).