



PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: Jan. 9, 2025 **Contact:** Randle Logan, 202-716-6053, Randle.Logan@sba.gov
Teddy Lake, 202-941-8090, Theodora.Lake@sba.gov
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SBA Offers Financial Relief to Los Angeles County Businesses and Residents Impacted by Devastating Wildfires **Administrator Guzman to Travel to Southern California to Assess Needs**

WASHINGTON – Today, [SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman](#) announced that low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Southern California businesses, homeowners, renters and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations following President Joe Biden’s [major disaster declaration](#). The [declaration](#) covers Los Angeles and the contiguous counties of Kern, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura due to wildfires and straight-line winds that began Jan. 7, 2025.

Administrator Guzman also will join FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell in Southern California this week to assess on-the-ground needs and ensure the SBA is fully prepared to assist businesses, homeowners, and renters impacted by this disaster.

“As heroic firefighters and first responders continue to battle the devastating wildfires sweeping across Southern California, the federal government is surging resources to ensure that Angelenos are prepared to recover and rebuild from this catastrophe,” **said SBA Administrator Guzman**. “In response to President Biden’s major disaster declaration, the SBA is mobilizing to provide financial relief to impacted businesses and residents. Our continued prayers are with the brave individuals working to put out these fires as well as all those who have lost loved ones, their homes, and their businesses to this disaster. We stand ready to support our fellow Americans for as long as it takes.”

Loans are available to businesses of all sizes and PNP organizations to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, and other business assets. The SBA also offers [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) (EIDLs) to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most PNP organizations to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster, even if there is no physical damage. EIDLs may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that would have been met if not for the disaster. Businesses can apply for loans of up to \$2 million.

Disaster loans of up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters also 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% for businesses, 3.625% for PNP organizations, and 2.563% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and 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 and loan repayment can be deferred 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

The SBA encourages applicants to submit their loan applications as soon as possible. Applications will be prioritized in the order received and the SBA remains committed to processing them as efficiently as possible. Funding for the SBA's disaster loan program recently was replenished through the American Relief Act of 2025, signed into law by President Biden on Dec. 21, 2024.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at sba.gov/disaster. Applicants also may call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. People who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability can dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. As soon as Disaster Recovery Centers open throughout the affected area, SBA staff also will be available to provide in-person one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants.

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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.