

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

President Obama has approved federal disaster assistance for Vermont which makes help available for Vermont businesses affected by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene.

Federal Assistance Available to Vermont Businesses

Businesses may be eligible for low interest thirty (30) year loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) to assist with the cost of repairing storm damages. Rental property may also be eligible for an SBA loan if property has been damaged or destroyed and losses are not covered by insurance. (Businesses are not eligible for assistance through FEMA's Individual Assistance programs.)

To apply, go to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>, or contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. You may email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Even if you have insurance for your business, you should file your claim right away with the SBA in case some of the damage is uninsured.

You can also access this assistance through FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or at www.disasterassistance.gov.

State Assistance Available to Vermont Businesses

The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) would like to hear from impacted businesses. The agency is documenting damage to businesses and properties (both for and non-profit businesses, including multi-family housing providers and services). This information will help Vermont receive federal assistance for recovery. Please call 802-828-3211.

- The Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) has emergency loan funds available for business owners. Applications may be obtained by calling 802-828-5627, or you may download a form at www.veda.org
- If you are experiencing problems with your insurance company, please contact BISHCA at www.bishca.state.vt.us or 802-828-3301.
- For volunteer resources, clean-up information, and to connect with state agencies, call 2-1-1.

As always, if Congressman Welch can assist you please call our office at 888-605-7270 or visit www.welch.house.gov.