

For Immediate Release – County of Berks – Press Release

SBA to Open Disaster Loan Outreach Center at Antietam Pool on November 14

Reading, PA — 11/09/2023 — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is opening a second Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the Antietam Pool at 905 Bryam Street in Reading. The center will be in mobile offices located in the north end of the pool parking lot. The center will open on Tuesday, November 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will remain open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center will close permanently on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

This center is open to anyone impacted by the July 9 storms and flooding. The center can assist qualifying county residents and businesses affected by the flooding to apply for SBA disaster relief loans and help identify other forms of assistance. SBA disaster relief loans can offer lower interest rates, longer terms, and faster approvals than conventional loans.

According to information from the SBA, there are three types of loans available:

- Business Physical Disaster Loans – Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) – Working capital loans to help a variety of qualifying for-profit and non-profit businesses meet ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.
- Home Disaster Loans – Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.

Residents, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations with physical damage can apply for SBA disaster assistance online through November 27, 2023. Businesses and non-profits organizations with economic loss can apply for disaster assistance through June 28, 2024. The SBA fact sheet provides disaster survivors with the information needed **to submit an electronic loan application** <http://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela>. The disaster survivors may also contact **SBA's disaster Customer Service at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for assistance.**

In addition to the ability to apply online, a physical location in Berks County will be established in the coming days where individuals can meet with SBA staff to have questions answered and receive assistance in applying. Specifics on where that location will be and its hours of operations will be provided when they become available.

Links to Berks County SBA Disaster Loan information pages:

[SBA News Release about Opening Second Disaster Loan Outreach Center](#)

[SBA July 9, 2023 Disaster Relief Fact Sheet](#)

En español - [https://www.countyofberks.com/cmsadmin/getmedia/a5ee2210-8e10-4b42-999c-3f9f9f6907bc/2023_09_28_PA_18207_Fact-Sheet-\(en-Espanol\)](https://www.countyofberks.com/cmsadmin/getmedia/a5ee2210-8e10-4b42-999c-3f9f9f6907bc/2023_09_28_PA_18207_Fact-Sheet-(en-Espanol))

Links to SBA Disaster Relief Loan webpages:

<https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/article/Home-and-Personal-Property-Loans>

<https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/article/Business-Physical-Disaster-Loans>