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## U.S. SBA Business Recovery Center (BRC)

To Open September 18th in Westfield

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced yesterday that it will open a Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Tioga County on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 10 a.m., at the Westfield Community Building in Westfield. SBA is opening the Center to assist Pennsylvania businesses with losses due to Tropical Storm Debby that occurred on Aug. 9-10.

The disaster declaration covers Lycoming, Potter, Tioga and Union counties which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs): Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan in Pennsylvania; and Allegany, Chemung and Steuben in New York.

"Our Business Recovery Centers are one of the most powerful resources at SBA's disposal to support business owners," said Francisco Sánchez, Jr., associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration. "Business owners can meet in-person with our specialists to apply for SBA disaster loans and get information on the full breadth of our programs designed to help them navigate their recovery."

**Customer Service Representatives** at SBA's Business Recovery Center will assist business owners complete their disaster loan application, accept documents, and provide updates on an application's status. Walk-ins are accepted, but you can schedule an in-person appointment at an SBA Business Recovery Center in advance. The Center will operate as indicated below until further notice:

Business Recovery Center (BRC) Tioga County

Westfield Community Building

429 E. Main Street

Westfield, PA 16950

Opening: Wednesday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed: Sunday

**Businesses and private nonprofit organizations** may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

**For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations**, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

**Loans up to \$500,000** are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

**Interest rates** are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.25% for nonprofit organizations, and 2.813% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

With the changes to FEMA's Sequence of Delivery, **survivors are now encouraged to simultaneously apply for FEMA grants and the SBA low-interest disaster loan assistance** to fully recover. FEMA grants are intended to cover necessary expenses and serious needs not paid by insurance or other sources. The SBA disaster loan program is designed for your long-term recovery, to make you whole and get you back to your pre-disaster condition. Do not wait on the decision for a FEMA grant; apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster).

**Applicants may also call the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955** or send an email to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

**The filing deadline** to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 12, 2024. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2025.