



Home Eligibility & Loan Process Application Resources FAQs

Search

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### Loan Program Instructions

1. Review the [eligibility requirements and loan process](#).
2. Gather the required [support documentation](#).
3. Options for submitting an application include:
  - [Apply online](#) or
  - Download an [application](#), complete it in full and submit it with the required support documentation by mail or courier to: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, C/O Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan, 107 E. Madison Street, MSC-160, Tallahassee FL 32399-4120.
4. For assistance with completing the application, contact the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity toll-free at (833) 832-4494.

### Quick Links

[Florida SBDC Network](#)  
[Florida Department of Financial Services](#)  
[Florida State Emergency Response Team](#)  
[Florida Governor's Office](#)  
[SBA Disaster Assistance](#)

### Info Center

03/16/2020 Press Release: [Governor Ron DeSantis Activates Emergency Bridge Loan Program for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#)

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The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is currently available to small business owners located in all Florida counties statewide that experienced economic damage as a result of COVID-19.

These short-term, interest-free working capital loans are intended to “bridge the gap” between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or federal disaster assistance.

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is not designed to be the primary source of assistance to affected small businesses, which is why eligibility is linked pursuant to other financial sources. **Note:** Loans made under this program are short-term debt loans made by the state of Florida using public funds – they are not grants. Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loans require repayment by the approved applicant from longer term financial resources.

### Loan Details

**Designated Disaster Areas:** All Florida counties statewide per Executive Order 20-52.

**Qualified Applicant:** Applications will be accepted by qualified for-profit, privately held small businesses that maintain a place of business in the state of Florida. All qualified applicants must have been established prior to March 9, 2020, and suffered economic injury as a result of the designated disaster. Qualified small business applicants must be an employer business with 2 to 100 employees.

**Amount:** Up to \$50,000 per eligible small business. Loans of up to \$100,000 may be made in special cases as warranted by the need of the eligible small business.

**Term:** 1 year.

**Limitation:** Only one loan may be made per eligible business. All previous bridge loans received **MUST** be paid in full.

**Interest Rate:** Loans will be interest-free for the loan term (1 year). The Interest rate will be 12% per annum on the unpaid balance thereafter, until the loan balance is repaid in full. Loan default is subject to a normal commercial collection process.

**Application Period:** Applications will be accepted by qualified Florida small businesses under this program through May 8, 2020, contingent on the availability of funds.

### Get Started

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2. Gather the required [support documentation](#).
3. Options for submitting an application include:
  - [Apply online](#) or
  - Download an [application](#), complete it in full and submit it with the required support documentation by mail or courier to: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, C/O Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan, 107 E. Madison Street, MSC-160, Tallahassee FL 32399-4120.

03/19/2020 Press Release: [FL 16353 – SBA Offers Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance to Florida Small Businesses Economically Impacted by COVID-19](#)

4. For assistance with completing the application, contact the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity toll-free at (833) 832-4494.

### Contact Information

For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, please contact the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity by email at toll-free at (833) 832-4494 or email [FloridaBusinessLoanFund@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:FloridaBusinessLoanFund@deo.myflorida.com).

### About the Emergency Bridge Loan Program

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program was first activated following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. It has been activated 26 additional times following disasters and has helped more than 4,750 small businesses statewide to receive more than \$157.5 million in assistance.

[Home](#)   [Eligibility & Loan Process](#)   [Application](#)   [Resources](#)   [FAQs](#)

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