



September 18, 2017

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN PROGRAM – Gov. Rick Scott has activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide short-term, interest-free loans to businesses damaged by Hurricane Irma. Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network, the program helps businesses bridge the gap between the time damage is incurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims and longer-term Small Business Administration loans. Eligible small businesses with two to 100 employees may apply for short-term, interest-free loans for \$1,000 to \$25,000 for 90- or 180-day terms. To be eligible, a business must have been established before Sept. 4, 2017, and demonstrate economic injury or physical damage as a result of Hurricane Irma. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 31, 2017, contingent on fund availability. Visit <http://www.floridadisasterloan.org> for full details.

U.S. SBA BUSINESS PHYSICAL DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM – Business owners in Volusia County are eligible to apply for U.S. Small Business Administration Business Physical Disaster Loans. These low-interest loans are intended to help repair or replace disaster-damaged property. Businesses and nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace property, including real estate, equipment, inventory, machinery and other business assets. To apply for physical and economic injury loans, businesses must first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.disasterassistance.gov or call the toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. For questions, contact the Florida SBDC Network at 850-898-3489 or Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org. The phone line will be answered during regular business hours; all voice mails and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

U.S. SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM – Federal emergency assistance has been activated due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma. Volusia County businesses can apply to determine if they qualify for U.S. Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). Regardless of physical damage, if you have suffered substantial economic injury and you are a small business, small agricultural cooperative or a private nonprofit organization, you may qualify for an EIDL. The loans provide working capital to help businesses survive until normal operations resume after a disaster. SBA can provide up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses. For more information, go to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans>.

VOLUSIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MOBILE APP – The Volusia County Emergency Management mobile app contains advanced features to help keep Volusia County residents prepared and informed about any emergency at hand. The home screen provides as much information as possible through social media posts, push notifications and news blogs. You also are able to submit damage reports, get contact information and access social media pages. For more details and to download the app, go to www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/emergency-management/em-app.stml.

BUSINESS DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY – The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Small businesses that have incurred losses due to the storm are asked to complete a Business Damage Assessment Survey at the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center website, www.flvbeoc.org. This is not an application for disaster assistance. The survey will help the State Emergency Response Team determine the needs and level of assistance for impacted businesses, including the Emergency Bridge Loan Program and federal assistance; it will also help expedite implementation.

VMA MANUFACTURERS SHOWCASE MOVES TO SEPT. 29 – VMA's We Make It Here! 11th Annual Manufacturers Showcase, originally set for Sept. 13, has been rescheduled to Sept. 29. Showcase hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's ICI Center, Daytona Beach. For more information, visit www.VMAonline.com and click on the "showcase" icon.

PRICE GOUGING INFORMATION – State law prohibits extreme increases in the prices of essential commodities, such as food, water, hotel rooms, ice, gasoline, lumber and equipment needed as a direct result of an officially declared emergency. The amount cannot grossly exceed the average price for those items during the 30 days before the declaration of the state of emergency unless the seller can justify an increase in costs. If you suspect price gouging, obtain as much information as possible in the form of estimates, invoices, receipts and bills. You can report suspected price gouging to the Florida Attorney General's price gouging hotline at 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226). For details, visit the Florida Attorney General's website at <http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/5D2710E379EAD6BC85256F03006AA2C5?OpenDocument>

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.