

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES HURRICANE RECOVERY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today the establishment of an economic recovery program to help businesses that suffered losses from last fall’s hurricanes. Funded by the Hurricane Recovery Act of 2005, the program offers \$10 million in state loans to eligible businesses for losses not covered by insurance or federal disaster relief. The program will also rebate a portion of the interest borrowers will pay on federal Small Business Administration disaster loans.

“This program will provide critical loans and rebates to help businesses stay in operation and get back on track,” Easley said. “Small businesses are vital to the growth and development of communities throughout our state. This program will provide vital assistance to these businesses, their employees and the communities that depend upon them.”

The Business Recovery Assistance Program will begin the week of March 21 with a series of information sessions for business owners in the areas most affected by the hurricanes. In addition, business counselors will be available at Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) offices in Cullowhee, Asheville, Hickory, Boone, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, Fayetteville and Elizabeth City to serve as business recovery assistance centers.

Easley, in response to recommendations from the Western Recovery Task Force that he established last October, has already reallocated more than \$90 million in state funds to offset storm losses and help meet recovery needs. By leveraging these state funds, Easley was able to access more than \$100 million in federal dollars for recovery efforts. In addition, the Hurricane Recovery Act which Easley signed in February, appropriates \$247 million to the Disaster Relief Reserve Fund to establish grant programs for housing and economic recovery assistance, restoration of public utilities and the repair, renovation and restoration of public buildings.

For more information about the business recovery program, the location of assistance centers or the informational meetings, visit www.sbtcd.org/disaster or call the SBTDC at 1-800-258-0862.

Information Sessions for business owners seeking relief:

Asheville Wednesday, March 23
Warehouse Studios Location of RiverLink Offices 10 a.m.
170 Lyman St.

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166

Simpson Building Lecture Hall
AB-Tech Campus, 340 Victoria Road

Tuesday, March 22
6 p.m.

Bakersville

County Administration Building
26 Crimson Laurel Ave.

Tuesday, March 22
1 p.m.

Canton

Public Library
11 Pennsylvania Ave.

Tuesday, March 22
2 p.m.

Charlotte

The Ben Craig Center
8701 Mallard Creek Road

Thursday, March 24
2 p.m.
6 p.m.

Clyde

Town Hall
8737 Carolina Blvd.

Tuesday, March 22
10 a.m.

Dillsboro

Town Hall
42 Front St.

Monday, March 21
6 p.m.

Fayetteville

Fayetteville Business Center
2520 Murchison Road

Wednesday, March 23
2 p.m.
6 p.m.

Franklin

Macon County Community Building
1288 Georgia Road

Monday, March 21
2 p.m.

Greensboro

Nusbaum Entrepreneurial Center
1100 Revolution Mill Drive, Suite 300

Tuesday, March 22
1 p.m.
6 p.m.

Marion

County Commissioner Board Room
60 East Court St.

Wednesday, March 23
6 p.m.

Morganton

Burke County Chamber
110 E Meeting St.

Tuesday, March 22
4 p.m.

Winston Salem

Winston-Salem State University
Anderson Conference Center, Room 117C
Martin Luther King & Reynolds Park Road

Monday, March 21
2 p.m.
6 p.m.

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