



July 31, 2017

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**Restore La. Begins Statewide Survey
for Flood-Impacted Small Businesses**

\$43 Million Loan Program Still Open for Eligible Business Owners

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Restore Louisiana program is launching a statewide survey this week for small businesses affected by the March and August 2016 floods. The small business survey is separate from Restore Louisiana’s survey of flood-impacted homeowners.

Developed by Gov. John Bel Edwards’ Office of Community Development, the Restore Louisiana Task Force and Louisiana Economic Development, the small business survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and does not require supporting documentation. The survey is available online [here](#). It can be submitted anonymously and is not tied to applying for a loan through the program.

The information gathered will provide crucial data in determining the specific needs of flood-impacted businesses and ongoing development of financial assistance programs.

Meanwhile, the [Restore Louisiana Small Business Assistance Program](#) remains open for eligible, flood-impacted companies and nonprofits. The \$43 million program provides no-interest, partially forgivable loans of \$20,000 to \$50,000.

The money can be used for working capital, rent, mortgage, utilities, non-owner employee wages and inventory. It also can be used for repairing or replacing movable equipment and machinery, though construction-related expenses are not eligible.

If borrowers comply with program requirements, the loans are interest free, and 20 percent of the loan will be forgiven when 80 percent of the principal is repaid. In addition, program participants are referred to small business development centers for technical assistance with business recovery and continuity plans, financial projecting and planning, and disaster preparedness planning. More information and an application are also available at restore.la.gov under the Recovery Assistance tab.

The loan program is funded by the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

About the Restore Louisiana Task Force

The Restore Louisiana Task Force comprises 21 individuals from throughout the state who were appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to oversee the rebuilding process after historic flooding in March and August 2016 impacted 51 disaster-declared parishes. The Task Force's mission is divided into six categories: community planning, economic, health and social services, housing, infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. All task force documents are available at <http://restore.la.gov/resources/>. For more information, visit restore.la.gov.