



From the OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

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## **SBA Approves Gov. Edwards' Disaster Declaration Request for Northshore Parishes**

**BATON ROUGE** - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved Gov. John Bel Edwards' request for a disaster declaration due to flooding and severe weather in the Northshore region of the state. Much of the severe weather impacted Washington Parish the day after Christmas. The state received the approval from the SBA Wednesday. According to the SBA, the declaration covers Washington Parish, along with the bordering parishes of St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.

“I want to thank the SBA for making disaster assistance available to the individuals and businesses affected by this event,” Gov. Edwards said. “Getting our homeowners and businesses back on their feet is essential. The availability of these loans will bring some relief as our citizens work to recover and rebuild.”

In response to a request from Washington Parish, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), worked with state and federal leaders on a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to review and validate, the state requested a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) with federal and local leaders to review and validate the most severely damaged homes and businesses across the affected parishes.

Gov. Edwards said the SBA disaster assistance program will provide low-interest disaster loans for uninsured losses incurred by homeowners, renters, businesses and most private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed.

A disaster loan outreach center will be established in the affected area for one-on-one assistance.

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