

Disaster Recovery Center Opens in South Bend

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Indianapolis, IN – A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) opens Thursday, May 17, in South Bend to help Indiana flood survivors. The DRC will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Disaster Recovery Centers offer in-person support to individuals and business owners. Recovery specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the State of Indiana are available to provide assistance to anyone filling out their applications or updating their status. Voluntary organizations are available and offer a variety of services to help survivors recover.

The DRC is at the following address:

**St. Joseph County
Leighton Center
534 N. Michigan Street
South Bend, IN 46601
Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET, seven days a week**

Survivors may locate open DRCs near them at www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362, (TTY) 800-462-7585. Helpline numbers are open from **7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week**. Additional DRCs will be opening in other parts of the state in the coming weeks. DRC information is also available on the [FEMA App](#).

The registration process is the first step in your recovery and requires information such as insurance policies and bank information for possible direct transfer of funds. Survivors are encouraged to register before visiting a DRC.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers federal disaster loans for businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters.



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Page 1 of 3

The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged property.

If you have phone and/or internet access, you may register in one of the following ways:

- Online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** for voice, 711 and Video Relay Service (VRS). If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585. Information on the registration process is available in ASL at: fema.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/111546.
- Help is available in most languages.
- Download the [FEMA App](#) and apply.

You may have other needs while visiting a DRC:

- If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation, please see a DRC manager when you arrive.
- Language translations are offered through Telephonic Interpretation Services in 200 languages.

Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) crews are canvassing affected areas and are able to register survivors for FEMA assistance, if needed. Telephonic Interpretation Services are available in many languages to assist survivors with language needs. When residents require further assistance, the teams may refer them to a DRC.

If you have already registered, it is not necessary to visit a DRC. You may still want to go speak with a Recovery Specialist to update your status, submit documentation, or find help from the other organizations.

FEMA grants do not have to be repaid. FEMA assistance is nontaxable and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.

For more information on Indiana's recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4363 or the [@FEMARegion5 Twitter account](#).

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Page 2 of 3

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after a disaster.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955 (Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339), emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at sba.gov/disaster.

