

# Hurricane Irma

## Damage Assessment and Business Recovery



Resources are available through FEMA and the SBA for businesses who sustained damage from Irma. For a comprehensive list of the resources, please visit the website [pced.org/disaster](http://pced.org/disaster). Our City website, [ctsfl.us](http://ctsfl.us), also links to the site by clicking storm information. Also, if your business is doing something to help others, please use @pinellasbiz on your social media posts.

- ***If Your Business Has Sustained Damage***

Please visit Florida's Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center. This is the primary portal for private sector preparation, damage assessments and recovery. Please fill out the damage assessment forms. This information helps to assess the damage and begin the recovery process. <http://www.flvbeoc.org/index.php?action=bda>

- ***Federal Assistance from Irma Damage | SBA loans for businesses***

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018. A Disaster Recovery Center will be set up for applicants who need in-person assistance with either FEMA or SBA programs. More information will be provided when the location is established.

- ***Bridge Loans***

Businesses that suffered physical damage and need cash flow assistance while waiting for SBA assistance can also contact Pinellas County Economic Development about applying for Florida's emergency bridge loan program. Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 13, businesses can contact the Pinellas County Small Business Development Center for information about bridge loans at: (727) 453-7200.



Karen Lemmons, Economic Development Manager, 727-943-4932, [klemmons@ctsfl.us](mailto:klemmons@ctsfl.us)