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**News Release**

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Florida SBDC Network Encourages Small Businesses to Complete Business Damage Assessment**

*Survey to Assess Impacts, Disaster Assistance Needs as a Result of Hurricane Sally*

**Florida SBDC Network Headquarters (Pensacola, Fla.)** – The Florida SBDC Network, the state’s principal provider of business assistance, strongly encourages small businesses in the Florida Panhandle impacted by Hurricane Sally to complete the state’s [Business Damage Assessment Survey](#).

The survey, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), is not an application for disaster assistance, but rather assists state officials in determining the extent of impact and need for federal and state disaster assistance.

“The Business Damage Assessment Survey allows the state to understand the level of impact and unique needs the business community has after a disaster event,” said Michael W. Myhre, CEO of the Florida SBDC Network. “It is critical businesses fill out the survey to help to activate vital recovery programs and get communities back to work.”

As a principal responder in the State Emergency Response Team’s Emergency Support Function (ESF) 18 for Business & Industry, the Florida SBDC Network stands ready to assist small businesses after Hurricane Sally. Florida SBDC disaster specialists can assist small businesses in developing strategies to recover and ensure the continued operation of their business.

Upon activation of disaster assistance loan programs, Florida SBDC business consultants, many of whom are Disaster Recovery Institute (DRI) Certified Business Continuity Professionals, will be available to assist small businesses prepare disaster loan applications and with other post-disaster challenges at no-cost.

To take the Business Damage Assessment survey, please visit <https://floridadisaster.biz/>.

For more information regarding the Florida SBDC's service offering and for preparedness and recovery resources, please visit [www.FloridaSBDC.org](http://www.FloridaSBDC.org).

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**About the Florida SBDC Network:**

Since 1976, the Florida SBDC Network, the state's statutorily designated principal provider of business assistance [[Fl. Stat. 288.001](#)], has nourished a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development to provide small businesses the intellectual capital and business experience that enables overall business growth, increased profitability, and economic prosperity. In 2019, Florida SBDCs provided 114,064 hours of professional business consulting to 12,535 client businesses, resulting in 37,966 jobs impacted; \$4.4 billion in sales generated; \$496.5 million in government contracts acquired; \$255.3 million in capital accessed. With over 40 offices statewide, the Florida SBDC is funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Defense Logistics Agency, State of Florida and other private and public partners. The Florida SBDC Network, headquartered at the University of West Florida, is nationally accredited by the Association of SBDCs and prestigious recipient of the President's E Award for Export Service. Florida SBDC services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for individuals with limited English proficiency. For more information, please visit [www.FloridaSBDC.org](http://www.FloridaSBDC.org).