

## State grants, loans available

Up to \$80 million in state-issued grants and zero-interest loans are now available for eligible businesses in 20 parishes, including St. Tammany, still recovering from the 2005 hurricane season.

Louisiana's Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program is offering each chosen business up to \$100,000, with 20 percent of that money allocated in the form of a grant and 80 percent in a two-year, zero-interest loan. After two years, interest on the balance is only 4 percent.

The deadline to send in applications is July 18.

Developed by the Louisiana Economic Development and Louisiana Recovery Authority, the latest fund of financial assistance consists of funds remaining from the first phase of the program last year and new monies allocated this year by the Louisiana Legislature. The total is \$80 million.

The St. Tammany Parish Economic Development Foundation is urging interested businesses to seek the Foundation's free guidance in filling out applications. Contact [stedf.org](http://stedf.org) or 809-7596 for help.

For more information on the program, interested businesses can visit [LouisianaForward.com/BRGL](http://LouisianaForward.com/BRGL), or call the program's 24-hour, toll-free helpline at 1-877-610-3533.

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