



Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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## SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Missouri Residents and Businesses Affected by Severe Storm and Tornadoes

**SACRAMENTO** – Steve Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that low-interest disaster loans are available to residents and businesses affected by the severe storm and tornadoes that occurred March 30 through April 2, 2008.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston's action makes SBA assistance available. Preston's action responded to an April 21 request from Governor Matt Blunt. The declaration covers the counties of **Camden, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Laclede, Polk** and **Webster.** 

"We look forward to working with Missouri and the people affected by the severe storm and tornadoes to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses," said Administrator Preston.

"Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the severe storm and tornadoes," said Gary Cook, SBA's Kansas City District Director.

"SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center beginning Monday, April 28 on the days and times indicated to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Cook continued.

Dallas County Buffalo City Hall, Boardroom 102 N. Poplar Street Buffalo, MO 65622

Mondays through Fridays from 9 am – 6 pm Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm Monday, April 28 through Thursday, May 15

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help homeowners and business owners with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Individuals and business owners may obtain information by calling (**800**) **659-2955** or visiting SBA's website at <u>www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance</u>. Hearing impaired individuals may contact SBA at (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **June 23, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **January 22, 2009**.