



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Rick Jenkins

Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 46 Texas counties (plus neighboring counties in New Mexico and Oklahoma) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought that occurred in the following primary Texas counties beginning January 1, 2008,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Texas counties:

Armstrong	Lubbock	Martin	Oldham	Potter	Sherman
Swisher	Willacy	Zavala			

Neighboring Texas counties:

Andrews	Borden	Briscoe	Cameron	Carson	Castro
Crosby	Dallam	Dawson	Deaf Smith	Dimmit	Donley
Floyd	Frio	Gaines	Garza	Glasscock	Gray
Hale	Hansford	Hartley	Hidalgo	Hockley	Howard
Hutchinson	Kenedy	Kinney	La Salle	Lamb	Lynn
Maverick	Medina	Midland	Moore	Randall	Terry
Uvalde					

Neighboring New Mexico county:

Quay

Neighboring Oklahoma counties:

Cimarron Texas

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ed Schafer declared this disaster at the request of Governor Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling **(800) 659-2955**, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **February 27, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841