



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in all 33 New Mexico counties (plus neighboring counties in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah) 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 the drought that began on October 1, 2007, in the following primary New Mexico counties,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary **New Mexico** counties: Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Colfax, Curry, De Baca, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Quay, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, San Juan, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Sierra, Socorro, Taos, Torrance, Union and Valencia

Neighboring **New Mexico** counties: Cibola and Los Alamos

Neighboring **Arizona** counties: Apache, Cochise and Greenlee

Neighboring **Colorado** counties: Archuleta, Baca, Conejos, Costilla, La Plata, Las Animas and Montezuma

Neighboring **Oklahoma** County: Cimarron

Neighboring **Texas** counties: Andrews, Bailey, Cochran, Culberson, Dallam, Deaf Smith, El Paso, Gaines, Hartley, Hudspeth, Loving, Oldham, Parmer, Reeves, Winkler and Yoakum

Neighboring **Utah** County: San Juan

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 Bill Richardson.

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 by 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 **March 30, 2009**.

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

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