



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 75 Texas counties 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 and high winds in 20 primary counties beginning January 1, 2008, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions and incident dates in each disaster:

Primary Texas counties:

Aransas	Bee	Borden	Colorado	DeWitt	Garza
Glasscock	Gonzales	Grimes	Guadalupe	Hays	Jim Wells
Karnes	Kendall	Lavaca	Lee	Live Oak	McMullen
Robertson	Walker				

Neighboring Texas counties:

Atascosa	Austin	Bandera	Bastrop	Bexar	Blanco
Brazos	Brooks	Burleson	Caldwell	Calhoun	Comal
Crosby	Dawson	Dickens	Duval	Falls	Fayette
Frio	Gillespie	Goliad	Houston	Howard	Jackson
Kent	Kerr	Kleberg	La Salle	Leon	Limestone
Lubbock	Lynn	Madison	Martin	Midland	Milam
Mitchell	Montgomery	Nueces	Reagan	Refugio	San Jacinto
San Patricio	Scurry	Sterling	Travis	Trinity	Upton
Victoria	Waller	Washington	Webb	Wharton	Williamson
Wilson					

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 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 these disasters 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 Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **May 12, 2009**.

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

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