



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 the primary county of **Fremont** and the neighboring Colorado counties of **Chaffee, Custer, El Paso, Park, Pueblo, Saguache and Teller** are eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the drought that occurred in Fremont County beginning January 1, 2008,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

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 available to small businesses and most private, non-profits 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 Ritter, Jr.

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. SBA’s 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 **July 6, 2009**.

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

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