



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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Contact: Matt Young
Phone: 404-331-0333

SBA Disaster Loans Available Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration in Florida

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that federal economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes located in the State of Florida as a result of severe storms with excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding and high winds that occurred from May 10, 2009 through June 5, 2009.

These loans are available in the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Putnam, Saint Johns, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union and Volusia.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to assist small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations affected by the same disaster,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Interested small business owners should contact the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Small businesses may visit SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than March 22, 2010.

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance