



U.S. Small Business Administration

# DISASTER NEWS

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Stands Ready to Assist Victims Of Recent Severe Storms and Flooding in Maine**

**WASHINGTON** – Following the announcement of the Presidential disaster declaration in Maine covering several counties as a result of severe storms and flooding April 28, Administrator Steve Preston of the U. S. Small Business Administration issued the following statement:

“We look forward to working with the State of Maine to make low-interest federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses,” said Preston. “We will be swift in our efforts to help Maine disaster victims rebuild their homes and businesses.”

Once local recovery centers are identified in the declared area, SBA officials will provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants.

The declared Aroostook County is eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. The contiguous counties of Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington in the State of Maine are only eligible to apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage in the future.

For small businesses only, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.687 percent for homeowners and renters and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Additional details on the location of Disaster Recovery Center(s) and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is July 8, 2008. The deadline to return economic injury applications is February 9, 2009.

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*For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*