



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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SBA DISASTER LOAN DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 8; THERE IS STILL TIME TO APPLY

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding small businesses that **February 8** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans available in the State of Florida. The SBA declared a disaster as a result of storms, excessive rainfall and flooding, followed by low temperatures, frost and freezes that occurred from Mar. 25, 2009 through Apr. 13, 2009.

These loans are available in the following counties: Bay, Calhoun, Columbia, Dixie, Escambia, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Walton and Washington.

“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 eligible entities 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 eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Victims 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.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST or by sending an e-mail 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.

Those affected by the disaster may apply for disaster loans from SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than February 8, 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