



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 MARCH 22; THERE IS STILL TIME TO APPLY

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding small businesses that **March 22** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans available in 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 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. Agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with a 4 percent interest rate and 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. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 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 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