



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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

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SBA Adds Tribal Land to Declaration; Deadline to Apply for Physical Damage Disaster Loans is April 5

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that the **Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians Qualla Boundary Tribal Land** is added to the disaster declaration for Private Non-Profit Organizations (PNPs) that do not provide critical services of a governmental nature. The deadline to submit disaster loan applications is **April 5, 2010** for damages caused by severe winter storms and flooding that occurred on Dec. 18 – 25, 2009.

Non-Profit Organizations located in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Jackson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey counties and the newly added **Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians Qualla Boundary Tribal Land** in North Carolina are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Examples of eligible non-critical PNP organizations include, but are not limited to, food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, schools and colleges.

PNPs may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. The SBA also offers mitigation funds to disaster victims based on 20 percent of the verified physical damage. These funds are designed to help borrowers pay for protective measures to minimize damages of the same kind in the future.

The SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs, such as ongoing operating expenses to PNPs of all sizes. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the PNP suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 3 percent with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

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Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. Also, PNPs may obtain information and application forms by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Applications can also be downloaded from 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.

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

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **April 5, 2010**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **November 2, 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