



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 300303

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Contact: Michael Lampton
Phone: 404-331-0333

SBA Economic Injury Application Deadline for Last Year's Disaster in Arkansas is July 13

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding small businesses that **July 13** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans that are available in Arkansas as a result of the combined effects of spring and fall excessive rainfall, flooding and summer drought that began March 1, 2009.

The SBA's disaster declaration includes the following counties: Chicot, Crittenden, Desha, Lee, and Phillips.

"These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in Mississippi. SBA recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East.

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 Skaggs.

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, but nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

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 at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's website at www.sba.gov. 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 website at <http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than July 13, 2010.

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov.