



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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**Release Date:** Oct. 13, 2010  
**Release Number:** 11-xxx, MA 12342

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## **SBA Disaster Loans Available following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration in Massachusetts**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that federal economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes located in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties in **Massachusetts** as a result of the unseasonably late frost and freeze that occurred on April 28 – May 17, 2010.

“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 in Atlanta.

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 3 percent interest for non-profit organizations, 4 percent for small businesses 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. EDT or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov](http://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 <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

**Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than May 31, 2011.**

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