



# DISASTER NEWS

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

**Release Date:** January 23, 2007

**Release Number:** AR 10764-01

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## *Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses*

**Sacramento, CA** – Small businesses in 74 **Arkansas** counties (plus neighboring counties in **Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas**) may now apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by extreme drought beginning June 1, 2006,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply:

**Primary Arkansas counties:**

Arkansas	Ashley	Baxter	Benton	Boone
Bradley	Calhoun	Carroll	Chicot	Clark
Cleburne	Cleveland	Columbia	Conway	Crawford
Crittenden	Cross	Dallas	Desha	Drew
Faulkner	Franklin	Garland	Grant	Hempstead
Hot Spring	Howard	Independence	Jackson	Jefferson
Johnson	Lafayette	Lawrence	Lee	Lincoln
Little River	Logan	Lonoke	Madison	Marion
Miller	Mississippi	Monroe	Montgomery	Nevada
Newton	Ouachita	Perry	Phillips	Pike
Polk	Pope	Prairie	Pulaski	Saline
Scott	Searcy	Sebastian	Sevier	Sharp
St. Francis	Stone	Union	Van Buren	Washington
White	Woodruff	Yell		

Neighboring **Arkansas** counties: Craighead, Fulton, Greene, Izard, Poinsett, and Randolph;

Neighboring **Louisiana** parishes: Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, East Carroll, Morehouse, Union, Webster, and West Carroll;

Neighboring **Missouri** counties: Barry, Dunklin, McDonald, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Stone, and Taney

Neighboring **Mississippi** counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Desoto, Issaquena, Tunica, and Washington;

Neighboring **Oklahoma** counties: Adair, Delaware, Le Flore, McCurtain, and Sequoyah;

Neighboring **Tennessee** counties: Dyer, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton

Neighboring **Texas** counties: Bowie and Cass

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

(more)

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of the Arkansas Governor.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms may be obtained by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955, or by visiting the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **August 14, 2007**.