



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: March 14, 2007

Release Number: MO 10796-03

Contact: Rick Jenkins

Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Amends Declaration, Offers Disaster Loan Assistance to Small Businesses in St. Charles County

Sacramento, CA – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced that SBA has added **St. Charles County** to its February 1, 2007 disaster declaration of 13 Missouri counties. That declaration made SBA low-interest Economic Injury Loans available to small businesses affected by the severe winter storms which caused freezing and heavy snow in **Camden, Hickory** and **Morgan** counties from November 30 through December 2, 2006.

“SBA amended its declaration after it received additional information provided by the state on March 9, 2007,” said Dennis Melton, SBA’s St. Louis District Director. “SBA also added **Franklin, Lincoln, St. Louis** and **Warren** counties in Missouri and **Calhoun, Jersey** and **Madison** counties in Illinois because they neighbor St. Charles County,” he continued.

“So far, SBA has made more than \$800,000 in low-interest disaster loans to Missouri small businesses to help them recover from the financial effects of the winter storm,” said Melton.

“The amended declaration now covers the primary counties of **Camden, Hickory, Morgan** and **St. Charles** in **Missouri**, the neighboring counties of **Benton, Cooper, Dallas, Franklin, Laclede, Lincoln, Miller, Moniteau, Pettis, Polk, Pulaski, Saint Clair** and **St. Louis** in Missouri, and **Calhoun, Jersey** and **Madison** in Illinois.

“SBA’s disaster declaration makes these low-interest loans available to small businesses in these counties to help them meet financial needs caused by a decrease in customer sales because of the freeze and snow,” Melton continued. These are working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years.

“Small business owners may use these loans to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills the business can’t pay because of the disaster’s impact. These loans provide vital economic assistance to businesses affected by the freeze and snow to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing,” he said.

Information about SBA’s disaster loan program is available by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955** or visiting SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **November 1, 2007**.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance

###

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841