



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by Windstorm

Sacramento, CA – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses that were economically impacted by a severe windstorm that occurred on December 14 and 15, 2006. The declaration covers the counties of **Chelan, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Yakima.**

SBA's disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest loans available to help small businesses meet financial needs caused by a decrease in customer sales as a result of the windstorm. "We look forward to working with small business owners who were affected by the windstorm to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses," said Administrator Preston.

Preston's action responded to a request we received on April 5, 2007 from Governor Christine O. Gregoire. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the windstorm to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing," said Judd.

According to Nancy R. Gilbertson, Director of SBA's Seattle District Office, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at SBA's Seattle District Office to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application. "You don't need an appointment to meet with a customer service representative. **If a business owner is unable to meet with SBA, they may call (916) 847-2612 to schedule an appointment at their business location,**" she said. SBA representatives will be at the following location on the days and times indicated:

Seattle, WA

SBA's Seattle District Office
2401 Fourth Avenue, Suite 450

Wednesday, April 11

Wednesday, April 18

Wednesday, April 25

Wednesday, May 2

9:00 am to noon & 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Business owners also may obtain information by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955** or by visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339. The deadline to apply for these loans is **January 9, 2008.**

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

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