



U.S. Small Business Administration

# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE TOPS \$5 MILLION FOR KANSAS TORNADO VICTIMS**

**Sacramento, CA** – Elizabeth Auer, Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Kansas District Office, announced today that SBA has approved over \$5 million in disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses damaged by the tornado that struck Greensburg earlier this month.

“SBA’s disaster assistance employees are committed to helping Kansas residents and business owners rebuild their homes, their businesses and their lives as fast as possible,” said Auer. “SBA will be here as long as it takes to get the job done,” she added. Individuals and business owners who sustained damages are encouraged to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling the tele-registration number at (800) 621-3362 or (800) 462-7586 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. “Don’t miss out on any assistance you may be entitled to by not registering for help,” she said.

SBA Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) are still available at the Disaster Recovery Centers at **211 East Florida Street in Greensburg**, **100 East Elm Street in Haviland** (the Hockett Auditorium on the campus of Barclay College) and the **City Park at the corner of Cooper and Main in Trousdale**. All three centers are open seven days a week. The Greensburg center is open from 8 am to 6 pm. The Haviland and Trousdale centers are open from 9 am to 7 pm.

“SBA CSRs can issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application,” said Auer. Representatives from Kansas Small Business Development Centers (KSBDCs) are available at the Disaster Recovery Centers to help business owners recreate business records and to provide free business counseling.

“SBA is the Federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and covers the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations,” she continued.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

(more)

SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs of small businesses, which suffered economic injury relating to the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

These low-interest loans are available to residents and businesses in **Barton, Edwards, Kiowa, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Pratt** and **Stafford** Counties. EIDLs only are also available to businesses in the neighboring Kansas counties of Barber, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Dickinson, Ellis, Ellsworth, Graham, Ford, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kingman, Lincoln, Mitchell, Norton, Pawnee, Reno, Rice, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline and Smith; and the Nebraska counties of Franklin and Harlan.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit a Disaster Recovery Center may obtain information by calling the SBA toll-free at **(800) 659-2955** between 8 am and 9 pm EDT, Monday through Friday, or 9 am and 3 pm EDT on Saturday and Sunday. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339. Individuals and business owners may also visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

Business owners who want KSBDC assistance in recreating their business records or getting financial counseling, but are unable to visit the DRC, may call KSBDC toll free at NetWork Kansas (877-521-8600) between 8 am and 6 pm CDT, Monday through Friday, to make other arrangements. They should clearly state that their call relates to disaster assistance.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **July 5, 2007**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **February 6, 2008**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

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