



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by Severe Winter Storms and Flooding

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 severe winter storms and flooding that occurred from January 12 through January 22, 2007. These storms caused snow, significant sleet, freezing rain, ice and flooding.

The declaration covers the following Missouri counties:

Barry	Barton	Camden	Christian	Dade	Dallas
Franklin	Greene	Hickory	Jasper	Jefferson	Laclede
Lawrence	Newton	Polk	Pulaski	St. Charles	St. Louis
St. Louis City	Stone	Texas	Webster	Wright	

The declaration also covers **Madison, Monroe** and **St. Clair** Counties in Illinois and **Cherokee** and **Crawford** Counties in Kansas.

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 severe winter storms and flooding. “We look forward to working with small business owners who were affected by these storms to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses,” said Administrator Preston.

Preston’s action responded to a request received on May 4, 2007 from Governor Matt Blunt. 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 severe winter storms and flooding to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing,” said Judd.

According to Samuel C. Jones, SBA’s Regional Administrator, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers 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,**” he said. SBA representatives will be at the following locations on the days and times indicated:

(more)

Aurora, MO

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
121 E. Olive Street
(corner of Elliott Ave. and Olive St.)

Open Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29
9 am to 1 pm

Opens Tuesday, May 15

Lebanon, MO

Chamber of Commerce
186 N. Adams Avenue
(southeast courthouse annex)

Open Thursdays, May 10, 17 and 24
9 am to 1 pm

Opens Thursday, May 10

Florissant, MO

Florissant Valley Chamber of Commerce
420 W. Washington Street
(next to Commercial Bank)

Open Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29
Open Thursdays, May 17, 24 and 31
9 am to 1 pm

Opens Tuesday, May 15

Springfield, MO

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
202 S. John Q Hammons Parkway
(corner of John Q Hammons Pkwy and St. Louis St)

Open Wednesdays, May 16, 23 and 30
9 am to 1 pm

Opens Wednesday, May 16

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 **February 8, 2008**.