



# DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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## Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

**Sacramento, CA** – Small, non-farm businesses in all 75 Arkansas counties (plus neighboring parishes in Louisiana and neighboring counties in 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 the extremely low temperatures and a hard, late season freeze that occurred in the following primary Arkansas counties on April 7 and 8, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

### Primary Arkansas counties:

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

### Neighboring Arkansas counties:

Ashley	Chicot	Columbia	Grant	Miller
Polk	Sevier			

### Neighboring Louisiana Parishes:

Bossier	Caddo	Claiborne	Morehouse	Union
Webster				

### Neighboring Mississippi counties:

Bolivar	Coahoma	Desoto	Tunica
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### Neighboring Missouri counties:

Barry	Butler	Dunklin	Howell	McDonald
Oregon	Ozark	Pemiscot	Ripley	Stone
Taney				

**Neighboring Oklahoma counties:**

Adair                      Delaware                      Le Flore                      McCurtain                      Sequoyah

**Neighboring Tennessee counties:**

Dyer                      Lauderdale                      Shelby                      Tipton

**Neighboring Texas counties:**

Bowie

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.

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 Governor Mike Beebe.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible 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.

For information and application forms, call toll-free **(800) 659-2955**, or visit SBA’s 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 **January 18, 2008**.