



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Rick Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 77 Oklahoma counties (plus neighboring counties in Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico 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 combined effects of extreme weather and flooding conditions that occurred in the following 75 primary Oklahoma counties beginning January 1, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Oklahoma counties:

Adair	Alfalfa	Atoka	Beaver	Beckham
Blaine	Bryan	Caddo	Canadian	Carter
Cherokee	Choctaw	Cimarron	Cleveland	Coal
Comanche	Cotton	Craig	Creek	Custer
Delaware	Dewey	Ellis	Garfield	Garvin
Grady	Grant	Greer	Harmon	Harper
Haskell	Hughes	Jackson	Jefferson	Johnston
Kay	Kingfisher	Kiowa	Latimer	Le Flore
Lincoln	Logan	Love	Major	Marshall
Mayes	McClain	McCurtain	McIntosh	Murray
Muskogee	Noble	Nowata	Okfuskee	Oklahoma
Okmulgee	Osage	Ottawa	Pawnee	Payne
Pittsburg	Pottawatomie	Roger Mills	Rogers	Seminole
Sequoyah	Stephens	Texas	Tillman	Tulsa
Wagoner	Washington	Washita	Woods	Woodward

Neighboring Oklahoma counties:

Pontotoc Pushmataha

Neighboring Arkansas counties:

Benton	Crawford	Little River	Polk	Scott
Sebastian	Sevier	Washington		

Neighboring Colorado counties:

Baca

Neighboring Kansas counties:

Barber	Chautauqua	Cherokee	Clark	Comanche
Cowley	Harper	Labette	Meade	Montgomery
Morton	Seward	Stevens	Sumner	

(more)

Neighboring Missouri counties:

McDonald Newton

Neighboring New Mexico counties:

Union

Neighboring Texas counties:

Bowie	Childress	Clay	Collingsworth	Cooke
Dallam	Fannin	Grayson	Hansford	Hardeman
Hemphill	Lamar	Lipscomb	Montague	Ochiltree
Red River	Sherman	Wheeler	Wichita	Wilbarger

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 Brad Henry

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. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **May 1, 2008**.