



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 53 **North Dakota** counties (plus neighboring counties in **Minnesota, Montana** and **South Dakota**) 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, but not limited to, frost damage, early drought, high temperatures, overland flooding, torrential rainfall, severe storms, hail and high winds in the 32 primary North Dakota counties listed below beginning January 1, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary North Dakota counties: **Adams, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Cass, Cavalier, Divide, Dunn, Foster, Golden Valley, Grant, Kidder, La Moure, McLean, Mercer, Mountrail, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Slope, Stark, Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams**

Neighboring North Dakota counties: **Barnes, Benson, Burleigh, Dickey, Eddy, Emmons, Grand Forks, Griggs, Hettinger, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, Morton, Nelson, Ramsey, Sioux, Steele, Stutsman, Towner and Traill**

Neighboring Minnesota counties: **Clay, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Traverse and Wilkin**

Neighboring Montana counties: **Fallon, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Wibaux**

Neighboring South Dakota counties: **Brown, Corson, Harding, Marshall, Perkins and Roberts**

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. Acting Secretary Chuck Conner declared this disaster at the request of Governor John Hoeven.

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 Acting Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

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 **July 28, 2008**.

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

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