



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance Area 3 – 14925 Kingsport Road – Ft. Worth, TX 76155

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SBA Economic Injury Loans Available in Louisiana *Business owners urged to apply*

FORT WORTH, TX -- Businesses in some Louisiana parishes can now apply for disaster loan assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to eligible small businesses that suffered a substantial loss of income as a result of severe storms and flooding that occurred May 12 through 19, 2004. These loans are not intended to cover physical damages resulting from the disaster. Businesses in the following parishes are eligible to apply:

Acadia	Cameron	Lafayette	St. Mary
Allen	East Baton Rouge	Livingston	Tangipahoa
Ascension	East Feliciana	Pointe Coupee	Vermilion
Assumption	Evangeline	St. Helena	West Baton Rouge
Avoyelles	Iberia	St. John the Baptist	West Feliciana
Beauregard	Iberville	St. Landry	
Calcasieu	Jefferson Davis	St. Martin	

To obtain an application, interested businesses should call the SBA toll-free number 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired. The deadline for filing an application is **March 8, 2005**.

This disaster loan is a working capital loan that can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable, and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this loan program. The loan program is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster-related needs and will supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans are available for up to \$1,500,000 for actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 2.75 percent and terms may extend to thirty (30) years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant. To qualify, businesses must be small by SBA size standards. Businesses that can meet their financial needs through other sources are not eligible. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for these loans; however, they may be eligible for disaster assistance from other Federal agencies. SBA can also increase a Borrower's loan with physical damage by 20% to assist with mitigation measures.

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For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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