



U.S. Small Business Administration

# DISASTER NEWS

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## **SBA Disaster Loans Available in South Carolina Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that federal economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes located in the counties of Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Barnwell, Edgefield, Hampton, Jasper, McCormick and Oconee in the State of South Carolina as result of drought conditions which began on January 1, 2008 and continuing.

These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Georgia. “The Small Business Administration recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included,” according to Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to assist small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations affected by the same disaster,” said Skaggs.

Under this declaration, SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to farm-related and non-farm-related small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered economic injury as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA, but nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

Eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

To obtain a loan application or program information, call the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. EDT or by emailing the Customer Service Center at [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). The Customer Service Center will be closed from December 25 – 28, 2008 for the holidays. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be returned to the Centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155.

Victims may visit SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

**Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than August 12, 2009.**

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance)