



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes
SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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SBA Disaster Assistance Tops \$21 Million; Economic Injury Funds Still Available for Affected Businesses

ATLANTA – More than \$21 million in U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Loans have been approved for disaster victims in Illinois who were affected by the severe storms and flooding that occurred from September 13 through October 5, 2008.

“Currently, **753** disaster loans have been approved in the amount of **\$21,402,600** for affected victims,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East. “We are pleased to be able to get these loans approved so the residents and businesses of Illinois can start rebuilding and begin resuming their normal lives.”

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes still have time to submit SBA disaster loan applications for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). These loans are designed to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage. The filing deadline to return SBA loan applications for economic injury is **July 3, 2009**.

Business owners that need assistance in completing their loan application or need assistance with other aspects of their business can utilize the services of one of SBA’s Small Business Development Centers. Their services include:

- One-on-one business counseling and management assistance.
- Assistance with the development of business plans.
- Help accessing marketing information and the development of business plans.
- Business Financing Programs.
- Assistance with financial analysis and planning.
- Access to business education and training opportunities.
- Help in completing applications for loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

“We encourage business owners; especially those that were denied disaster loans and need help with their business to utilize the services of our business counselors. Our offices are spread throughout Illinois and our services are free.” said Mark A. Petrilli, State Director, Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

For the location of the SBDC nearest you, visit the website for the Illinois Small Business Development Centers at www.ilsbdc.biz.

(more)

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Anyone may obtain an SBA Disaster Loan application or program information by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (or 1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST or by emailing our customer service center at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications may be downloaded from www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Applications may be returned to one of the Centers or mailed to: U. S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas, 76155.

Disaster victims may also apply on SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> .

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.