



U.S. Small Business Administration

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 multiple disasters, including frosts, drought, high temperatures, heavy rainfall, overland flooding, hail, high winds and insect and disease pressure beginning January 1, 2008 in 39 primary North Dakota counties, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the disasters.

Primary North Dakota Counties: Adams, Benson, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, La Moure, Logan, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Slope, Stark, Towner, Ward, Wells and Williams;

Neighboring North Dakota Counties: Barnes, Cavalier, Dickey, Griggs, McIntosh, Nelson, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sioux, Steele, Stutsman, Traill and Walsh;

Neighboring Minnesota Counties: Clay, Kittson, Marshall, Norman and Polk;

Neighboring Montana Counties: Fallon, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Wibaux;

Neighboring South Dakota Counties: Brown, Campbell, Corson, Harding, Marshall, Perkins and Roberts;

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these 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 Ed Schafer declared these disasters 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 Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling **(800) 659-2955**, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

SBA's Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply is **August 31, 2009**.

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

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