



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: November 6, 2007
Release Number: MO 11089-01

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 48 Missouri counties (plus 18 neighboring counties in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee) 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 the severe drought that began April 4, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Missouri counties:

Bollinger	Butler	Cape Girardeau	Carter	Dunklin
Howell	Iron	Jefferson	Madison	Mississippi
New Madrid	Oregon	Pemiscot	Perry	Reynolds
Ripley	Scott	St. Francois	Ste. Genevieve	Stoddard
Washington	Wayne			

Neighboring Missouri counties:

Crawford	Dent	Douglas	Franklin	Ozark
Saint Louis	Shannon	Texas		

Neighboring Arkansas counties:

Clay	Craighead	Fulton	Greene	Mississippi
Randolph	Sharp			

Neighboring Illinois counties:

Alexander	Jackson	Monroe	Randolph	Union
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Neighboring Kentucky counties:

Ballard	Carlisle	Fulton	Hickman
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Neighboring Tennessee counties:

Dyer	Lake
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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 Connor declared this disaster at the request of Governor Matt Blunt.

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.

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 **June 30, 2008**.