



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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## **Deadline To Apply For SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Is January 5, 2009**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in South Carolina that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are still available to small businesses economically impacted by the severe storms and tornadoes which occurred on March 15, 2008.

“Businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the **January 5** deadline,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Small businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply: Aiken, Allendale, Williamsburg and the adjacent counties of Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Clarendon, Colleton, Edgefield, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Lexington, Marion, Orangeburg and Saluda in the State of South Carolina; and the counties of Burke, Richmond and Screven in the State of Georgia.

Loans are available up to \$1.5 million for small businesses that suffered substantial economic injury from the disaster. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. These loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years. The SBA determines the amount of economic injury and the terms of each loan based on the financial circumstances of each borrower. The SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size and type of business and its financial resources.

To obtain a loan application, interested business owners should contact the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST or by emailing our customer service center at [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be 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.

**The deadline for economic injury applications is January 5, 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).*