



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Contact: Rick Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in 17 Washington counties (plus neighboring counties in Idaho and Oregon) 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 drought and wildfires, 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 impact of the following weather conditions and incident dates in each disaster:

EIDL	Primary Counties	Neighboring Counties	Incident Type	Incident Date	Deadline
11112	Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Klickitat, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman	Washington counties of Adams, Benton, Franklin, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skamania, Yakima; Idaho counties of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Latah and Nez Perce; Oregon counties of Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wallowa and Wasco	Drought	Beginning January 1, 2007	July 21, 2008
11113	Klickitat	Washington counties of Benton, Skamania and Yakima; Oregon counties of Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman and Wasco	Wildfires	July 13, 2007 through August 15, 2007	July 28, 2008

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 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 Conner declared these disasters at the request of Governor Christine Gregoire.

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. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

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.