



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Disaster Loan Deadline Is March 11; Small Business Owners Still Have Time To Apply

ATLANTA- The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding disaster victims that **March 11** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans that are available to small businesses located in the counties of Benton, Gibson, Knox, Newton, Posey, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo and Warren in the State of Indiana as a result of excessive rain and flooding beginning January 1, 2008.

“These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Illinois. SBA recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included,” according to Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to assist small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations affected by the same disaster,” Skaggs added.

Under this declaration, SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Eligible small businesses, and private non-profit organizations may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size of the entity, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Disaster victims should contact 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 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST (the center will be closed Monday, February 16th in observance of President’s Day) or by emailing our customer service center at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at 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 Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than March 11, 2009.

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