



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 300303

Release Date: March 16, 2009
Release Number: 09-319, SC 11423

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SBA Disaster Loan Deadline Is April 15; Small Business Owners Still Have Time To Apply

ATLANTA- The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding disaster victims that **April 15** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans due to the hail storm from May 11 – 20, 2008. Loans are available to small businesses located in Burke, Columbia and Richmond counties in the State of Georgia.

“These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of South Carolina. The Small Business Administration 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,” said 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 applicant, 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. EDT, or by sending an email to 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 April 15, 2009.

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