



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 23 Wyoming counties (plus neighboring counties in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah) 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 in the eleven primary Wyoming counties listed below beginning January 1, 2007, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Wyoming counties: Big Horn, Converse, Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Washakie and Weston

Neighboring Wyoming counties: Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Crook, Goshen, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Park, Sheridan, Teton and Uinta

Neighboring Colorado County: Moffat

Neighboring Idaho counties: Bear Lake, Bonneville and Caribou

Neighboring Montana counties: Big Horn and Carbon

Neighboring Nebraska County: Sioux

Neighboring South Dakota counties: Custer, Fall River, Lawrence and Pennington

Neighboring Utah counties: Daggett, Rich and Summit

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 Conner declared this disaster at the request of Governor Dave Freudenthal.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. However, in drought disasters nurseries are 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 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 **July 7, 2008**.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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