



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA STANDS READY TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF WASHINGTON SEVERE WINTER STORMS AND FLOODING**

**SACRAMENTO** – Low-interest disaster loans are now available to Washington residents and businesses as a result of President Obama’s Federal disaster declaration, announced Darryl Hairston, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The declaration covers **King, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston** and **Wahkiakum** counties following the severe winter storms, landslides, mudslides and flooding that occurred from January 6 through January 16, 2009.

“The U.S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist Washington homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes with federal disaster loans,” said Acting Administrator Hairston. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business or non-profit suffered any property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.687 percent for homeowners and renters and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at (800) 621-FEMA (3362). Additional details on the location of assistance centers can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.

*For more information visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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