



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 123 Texas counties and 13 neighboring counties and parishes in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought that occurred in Texas from March 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary **Texas** counties:

Angelina	Blanco	Bowie	Brazos	Burleson	Callahan	Cass
Cherokee	Clay	Coleman	Fort Bend	Gillespie	Grimes	Hamilton
Hardeman	Hood	Houston	Howard	Jack	Jefferson	Lamar
Lee	Leon	Madison	McCulloch	Mills	Mitchell	Montgomery
Nacogdoches	Parker	Robertson	Rusk	Schleicher	Shelby	Somervell
Sutton	Taylor	Trinity	Walker			

Neighboring **Texas** counties:

Anderson	Archer	Austin	Bastrop	Borden	Bosque	Brazoria
Brown	Burnet	Chambers	Childress	Coke	Comal	Comanche
Concho	Coryell	Cottle	Crockett	Dawson	Delta	Eastland
Edwards	Erath	Falls	Fannin	Fayette	Fisher	Foard
Franklin	Freestone	Glasscock	Gregg	Hardin	Harris	Harrison
Hays	Henderson	Hopkins	Irion	Jasper	Johnson	Jones
Kendall	Kerr	Kimble	Lampasas	Liberty	Limestone	Llano
Marion	Martin	Mason	Menard	Milam	Montague	Morris
Nolan	Orange	Palo Pinto	Panola	Polk	Red River	Runnels
Sabine	San Augustine	San Jacinto	San Saba	Scurry	Shackelford	Smith
Sterling	Tarrant	Tom Green	Travis	Tyler	Val Verde	Waller
Washington	Wharton	Wichita	Wilbarger	Williamson	Wise	Young

Neighboring **Arkansas** counties: Little River and Miller;

Neighboring **Louisiana** parishes: Caddo, Cameron, De Soto and Sabine;

Neighboring **Oklahoma** counties: Bryan, Choctaw, Cotton, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson and McCurtain.

“SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster,” Judd said.

Small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 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% for businesses and 3% for private, non-profit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, non-profits 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. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster at the request of Governor Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **November 28, 2011**.

*For more information, visit SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.
SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841*

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