DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, nonfarm businesses in all 29 Utah counties and neighboring counties in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "These loans offset economic losses because of the drought that began April 7, 2012, in the following primary Utah counties," announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

Primary **Utah** counties: Box Elder, Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Summit, Tooele, Uintah, Utah and Washington;
Neighboring **Utah** counties: Beaver, Cache, Davis, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Morgan, Piute, Rich, Salt Lake, Wasatch, Wayne and Weber;
Neighboring **Arizona** counties: Apache, Coconino, Mohave and Navajo;
Neighboring **Colorado** counties: Dolores, Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Rio Blanco and San Miguel;
Neighboring **Idaho** counties: Cassia and Oneida;
Neighboring **New Mexico** county: San Juan;
Neighboring **Nevada** counties: Elko, Lincoln and White Pine;
Neighboring **Wyoming** counties: Sweetwater and Uinta;

"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, nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit 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, nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, nonprofits 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 July 12, 2012.

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

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

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* . Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **March 12, 2013**.

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