



# DISASTER NEWS

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

**Release Date:** February 3, 2012  
**Release Number:** WA 13013-01

**Media Contact:** Richard Jenkins  
**Phone:** (916) 735-1500

## *Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses*

**Sacramento, CA** – Small, nonfarm businesses in 35 Washington counties and eight neighboring Oregon counties, 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 the combined effects of excessive rain, flooding, below normal temperatures, high winds, frosts and freezes occurring January 1 through July, 31, 2011,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary **Washington** counties: Clallam, Clark, Franklin, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Whatcom and Yakima;

Neighboring **Washington** counties: Adams, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Cowlitz, Ferry, Grant, Grays Harbor, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skamania, Spokane, Walla Walla and Whitman;

Neighboring **Oregon** counties: Clatsop, Columbia, Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Multnomah, Sherman and Wasco.

“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 at the request of Governor Christine Gregoire.

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.

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

Information and application forms are available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://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 **September 27, 2012**.

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