



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Release Date: January 20, 2012
Release Number: 12- 275, MA 12598

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Deadline to Apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans in Massachusetts is February 20

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Massachusetts that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private non-profit organizations that were affected by the apartment building fire in the town of West Springfield that occurred on April 30, 2011.

“Businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the **Feb. 20, 2012** deadline,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) up to \$2 million are available at 4 percent for small businesses and 3 percent for private non-profit organizations of all sizes, with terms up to 30 years. The loans are intended to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. To be considered for this assistance, disaster survivors need to apply by the deadline.

These EIDLs are available to businesses and non-profit organizations in the following counties: Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties in **Massachusetts**; and the neighboring counties of Hartford, Litchfield and Tolland in **Connecticut**.

To obtain disaster loan information and application forms, call the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or send an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan application forms can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Those affected by the disaster may also apply for disaster loans electronically from the SBA’s website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The deadline for economic injury applications is February 20, 2012.

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Program, visit our website at www.sba.gov.