



Disaster Aid Programs for Businesses

Natural Disasters

Following a disaster, business continuity and recovery can be difficult. Disaster assistance programs are available than can aid in funds or loans to repair property damage, is money provided to businesses in an area whose property has been damaged or destroyed following a Presidential declared disaster and whose losses are not covered by insurance. Loans may be available to businesses that have suffered an economic loss as a result of the disaster.

Disaster Declaration Terms

- **Presidential Major Disaster Declaration:** Event whose impact is more than state or local governments can handle alone and warrants supplemental federal aid when the President declares a major disaster for the affected area at the request of a state governor. Puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help disaster victims.
- **Emergency Declaration:** More limited in scope and without the long-term federal recovery programs of a Major Disaster Declaration. Generally, federal assistance and funding are provided to meet specific emergency needs or to help prevent a major disaster from occurring.

To find out what disaster declarations have been made for your area, go to <http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>.

Business Disaster Assistance: Federal

- **Small Business Administration**
 - ❑ Provides low interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery & equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster.
 - ❑ **Business Physical Disaster Loans:** Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment.
 - ❑ **Economic Injury Disaster Loans:** Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster.
 - ❑ **Mitigation Loans** may also be available to aid in preparing your business before a disaster situation.

To obtain Disaster Loan Program information, find a SBA Disaster Recovery Center in your area, or to receive a status update, call 1-800-659-2955 or go to www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

- www.Business.gov
 - ❑ Business.gov is an official site of the U.S. Small Business Administration and contains information and resources that helps small businesses understand their legal requirements and locate government services from federal, state and local agencies.
- **U.S. Department of Labor**
 - ❑ **Disaster Unemployment Assistance:** Financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disasters and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- **Internal Revenue Service**
 - ❑ Special tax law provisions may help taxpayers recover financially from the impact of a major disaster in their location.
 - ❑ To learn more go to <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=156138,00.html>.

Disaster Assistance Resources: State

State governments provide a number of services to help businesses prepare and recover from disasters, including disaster unemployment assistance for self-employed individuals, disaster tax relief, and special loans and working capital to help re-build and re-open.

- To find agencies and disaster assistance programs in your State, go to http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/State_and_Territories/Agencies_by_Topic.shtml.

Information adapted from publications from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Development of this educational material was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health with funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture MOU-2010-HSEMD-004. June 2010.

