



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## **SBA Disaster Loan Deadline is August 23** ***Small business owners still have time to apply***

**Hato Rey, PR** - The U.S. Small Business Administration reminds small business owners who suffered economic losses as a result of the severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides that occurred November 10 through November 23, 2003 that the filing deadline for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) is August 23.

SBA's EIDLs are still available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses because of the storms. Eligible small businesses may qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million. These loans are offered at a 3.061 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years, and are limited to those small businesses that cannot recover through their own financial resources.

As a result of the Presidential declaration the primary municipalities of Aibonito, Arroyo, Cabo Rojo, Canovanas, Fajardo, Guanica, Guayama, Juana Diaz, Lajas, Loiza, Luquillo, Maunabo, Naguabo, Naranjito, Patillas, Rio Grande, Salinas, Santa Isabel, Toa Baja, Yabucoa and Yauco, as well as the contiguous municipalities of Adjuntas, Barranquitas, Bayamon, Carolina, Catano, Cayey, Ceiba, Cidra, Coamo, Comerio, Corozal, Dorado, Guayanilla, Hormigueros, Humacao, Jayuya, Juncos, Lares, Las Piedras, Maricao, Mayaguez, Orocovis, Ponce, Sabana Grande, San German, San Lorenzo, Toa Alta and Villalba in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were declared disaster areas.

Interested business owners should contact the SBA Disaster Area 1 Office at 360 Rainbow Boulevard South, Niagara Falls, NY 14303, or call **1-800-659-2955** for more information or to obtain an application. The hearing-impaired may call SBA via the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at **1-800-877-8339**. Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than August 23, 2004.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)*

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