



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Financially Hurt by the Alamosa Salmonella Outbreak

Sacramento, CA – Steve Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses economically impacted by the salmonella outbreak in the City and County of Alamosa beginning March 8, 2008.

The declaration covers the Colorado counties of **Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, Rio Grande and Saguache.**

SBA's disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest loans available to help small businesses meet financial needs caused by a decrease in customer sales as a result of the disaster. "We look forward to working with small business owners who were affected by the outbreak to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses," said Administrator Preston.

Preston's action responded to a request received on April 1, 2008 from Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the salmonella outbreak to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing," said Judd.

According to Steven Muhlhauser, Acting Director of SBA's Colorado District Office, beginning Tuesday, April 8, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following location on the days and times indicated to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application.

**The San Luis Valley Development Resources Group
626 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO**

**Tuesday, April 8 through Thursday, April 24
Mondays through Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm**

Individuals and business owners may obtain information by calling **(800) 659-2955** or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may contact SBA at (800) 877-8339. The deadline to apply for these loans is **January 5, 2009.**

*For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance
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