



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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MILITARY RESERVISTS DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

WASHINGTON – Small businesses that employ military reservists who are called to active duty, and are interested in applying for a Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan (MREIDL) may now download the application from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Web site.

The MREIDL program provides loans to eligible small businesses to cover operating expenses that would have been met, but cannot be met because an essential employee was called to active duty during a period of military conflict in his or her role as a military reservist.

"With the possibility of continued conflict in America's war on terrorism, men and women from across the country who serve in America's reserve military forces will answer the call to support the nation's military effort," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

"Some of these men and women may be key employees at small businesses, and their call-up, even for a short period of time, can have a financial impact on small companies," Barreto added. **"This low-interest loan program can provide the money necessary to support these small businesses, and the availability of the on-line form will simplify the application process."**

To download the application, visit the Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

Small businesses may apply for MREIDLs of up to \$1.5 million if they have been financially affected by the loss of a key employee. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot otherwise be paid. The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years. The SBA determines the amount of economic injury, the term of each loan and the payment amount, based on the financial circumstances of each borrower.

The filing period begins the date the essential employee is ordered to active duty and ends 90 days after the date the employee is discharged from active duty.

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Businesses interested in applying for an economic injury disaster loan can contact one of the four SBA disaster area offices to obtain an application. Below are the phone numbers for the offices, and the states each office serves:

Niagara Falls, NY 14303

1-800-659-2955

Serves: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia and West Virginia

Atlanta, GA 30308

1-800-359-2227

Serves: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin

Ft. Worth, TX 76155

1-800-366-6303

Serves: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming

Sacramento, CA 95853-4795

1-800-488-5323

Serves: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Washington

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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