



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Working Capital Disaster Loans Available in Minnesota Due to Secretary of Agriculture Declaration for Ongoing Drought

ATLANTA - The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) announced today that Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available in parts of **Minnesota** for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations affected by the drought that began June 20, 2023.

The declaration covers the primary counties of Carlton and Saint Louis and the contiguous counties of Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and Pine in **Minnesota**; and Douglas in **Wisconsin**.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to eligible entities, affected by the same disaster,” said Kem Fleming, director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA’s [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#) program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Apart from aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers, but nurseries are eligible to apply for EIDLs for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of **4 %** for small businesses and **2.375 %** for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant’s financial condition. Eligibility is based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/> and should apply under SBA declaration **#18081**.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services), or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than **April 15, 2024**.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.