



Disaster Field Operations Center West

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Relief Still Available to Idaho Businesses Hit by April Drought: Don't Miss the Deadline to Apply for an SBA Disaster Loan!

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) is reminding eligible small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Idaho of the Feb. 18, 2025 deadline to apply for low interest federal disaster loans to offset economic losses caused by the drought that began on April 15, 2024.

The disaster declaration includes the primary counties of Bonner and Clearwater, as well as the adjacent counties of Boundary, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce and Shoshone, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula and Sanders in Montana, and Pend Oreille and Spokane in Washington.

Under this declaration, the SBA's [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs that suffered financial losses directly related to the disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred.

“When farmers face crop losses and a disaster is declared by the secretary of agriculture, SBA working capital loans become a lifeline for eligible small businesses,” said [Francisco Sánchez, Jr.](#), associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. “These loans are the backbone that helps rural communities bounce back and thrive after a disaster strikes.”

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 4% for small businesses and 3.25% for PNPs, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

SBA's disaster loan program has been replenished through the American Relief Act of 2025, signed into law by President Biden on Dec. 21, 2024.

The SBA encourages applicants to submit their loan applications promptly. Applications will be prioritized in the order they are received, and the SBA remains committed to processing them as efficiently as possible.

To apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to the SBA no later than **Feb. 18**.

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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.