



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA Working Capital Loans Available in Massachusetts for Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration for Rain and Flooding

ATLANTA - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) announced today that federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available in **Massachusetts** for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations with economic losses due to rain and flooding occurring on July 9-16.

The declaration includes the primary counties of Berkshire, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk, and Worcester; and the contiguous counties of Middlesex, Plymouth and Suffolk in **Massachusetts**; the contiguous counties of Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland and Windham in **Connecticut**; Cheshire and Hillsborough in **New Hampshire**; Columbia, Dutchess, and Rensselaer in **New York**; Bristol, Newport and Providence in **Rhode Island**; and Bennington and Windham in **Vermont**.

“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.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of **4** percent for small businesses and **2.375** percent for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. 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 DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s/ and should apply under SBA declaration # **18039**.

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 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 the SBA no later than **April 1, 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.