

Small nonfarm businesses in 24 Oklahoma counties and neighboring counties in Kansas are now eligible to apply for low interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business

Administration, said Tanya Garfield, director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. These loans offset

economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties

that began Sept. 28, 2021, officials said. Primary Oklahoma counties: Creek, Hughes, Noble, Okfuskee,

Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee and Tulsa. Neighboring Oklahoma counties: Coal, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Lincoln, Logan,

McIntosh, Muskogee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Seminole, Wagoner and Washington; Neig

Chautauqua and Cowley. "SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on

farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and

businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Garfield said. Small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives,

small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may

qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet

financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not

occurred, officials said. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of

the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an

interest rate of 2.855 percent for businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations.

A maximum term of 30 years are available to small businesses and most private

nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Garfield said.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of

Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on Oct. 4, 2021.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture

assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster

assistance in drought disasters. Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and

download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer

659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals w

deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. The deadline to apply for economic injury is June 6, 2022.