

Economically Damaged Business as a result of the 2008 Flood Need to Register with FEMA

If you are in one of the Presidentially declared disaster counties, **PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ECONOMICALLY DAMAGED BUSINESSES WITH FEMA** for an identification number which then makes your business eligible to apply to SBA.

The importance of doing this is paramount. If federal assistance dollars become available, businesses which have not applied for a FEMA identification number and applied to SBA for assistance will not be eligible.

The following information is from IDED's frequently asked questions on Disaster Assistance:

"Immediate financial assistance for businesses following disasters, including floods and tornados, is available from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA offers disaster recovery loans at 4% for up to 30 yrs at a maximum of \$2 million.

To qualify for assistance, a victim must be located in one of the Presidential declared disaster counties. A copy of that map is located at <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/index.php?topic=disaster>.

Step one for all disaster victims seeking federal assistance is to register with FEMA for an identification number. Applicants may register on their website <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm> or by phone by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. Persons with speech or hearing disabilities may call TTY at 1-800-462-7585.

Once a FEMA identification number is secured, applicants may file with SBA by downloading an application from their website at: http://www.sba.gov/tools/Forms/smallbusinessforms/daforms/TOOLS_SBF_DISAST_ASSIST_FORMS.html. The completed application must then be mailed to directly to SBA. Applications can be processed as quickly as 7-10 days if filled out correctly.

For assistance completing the SBA application, go to a local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). To find one, visit: <https://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/drcLocator.jsp>. Some DRC locations will have Business Recovery Centers with staff on the ground to help with paperwork and questions. In addition, disaster victims may also go to one of the existing Small Business Development Centers which are located at http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/sbdc/sbdclocator/SBDC_LOCATOR.html. *Businesses are offered assistance with pulling together lost records that are necessary for these applications."*