



## **SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS COVID-19** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- **Question:** Congress passed disaster loans for small businesses. What happens now?
  - **Answer:** SBA is working directly with Governors to provide targeted, low-interest loans to small businesses and private nonprofit organizations that have been severely impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- **Question:** My state received approval, but it wasn't state-wide. Will SBA allow more counties to be approved?
  - **Answer:** In some instances, state-wide declarations are not being made. Instead, they are on a county basis. If your state is experiencing new cases in undeclared counties after an SBA approval, Governors can amend their approved declaration by working with SBA on the county-specific findings.
- **Question:** My state received approval so where do small businesses apply?
  - **Answer:** Small businesses in eligible areas may apply for an EIDL online at: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> or they can also reach out to their local SBA District Offices.
- **Question:** If small businesses need help with their applications, are there any other resources available to help them fill out the applications?
  - **Answer:** SBA has also coordinated with the Resource Partners, including Small Business Development Centers, (SBDCs) who can assist with the application process. The list of SBDCs is available online at: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find/?type=Small%20Business%20Development%20Center&pageNumber=1>

- **Question:** How do I know if a small business is eligible?
  - **Answer:** SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance works with state emergency management divisions to certify certain areas as an "eligible area."
    - The list of eligible areas is also available online at:  
<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/Index> or  
<https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>.
    - The list is updated periodically and on the same day a new declaration is approved.
    - Your state may not have been approved yet but a county in your state may have been approved as a contiguous county on a neighboring state's approval, which allows small employers in those counties to apply for loans.
    - Please check often to see if your area has been added even if your state has not been formally approved.
  
- **Question:** What is an Economic Injury Disaster Loan?
  - **Answer:** The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue.
    - The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, or other bills that can't be paid because of the COVID-19 outbreak.
    - The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses without credit available elsewhere, and businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible to apply for assistance.
    - The maximum term is 30 years.
    - A small business is defined by the SBA's Size Standards in accordance with the Native American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and SBA's Size Standards [Tool](#) can be utilized.
  
- **Question:** What's the timeline like?
  - **Answer:** Once a borrower submits an application, approval timelines depend on volume. Typical timeline for approval is 2-3 weeks and disbursement can take up to 5 days. Borrowers are assigned individual loan officers for servicing of the loan.
  
- **Question:** Where can I find more information?
  - **Answer:** For additional information, borrowers should contact the SBA Disaster Assistance customer service center by calling 1-800-659-2955 or emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).
    - They can also visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://SBA.gov/disaster) for more information.