



Disaster Field Operations Center East

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SBA to Help North Carolina Businesses Affected by Drought

ATLANTA - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) announced today that federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available in **North Carolina** for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations with economic losses from a drought from May 1, through July 31, 2024.

The declaration includes the primary counties of Alleghany, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Franklin, Johnston, Sampson, and Wilkes, and the adjacent counties of Alexander, Ashe, Bladen, Caldwell, Cumberland, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Jones, Lenoir, Montgomery, Nash, Onslow, Pender, Randolph, Rowan, Stanly, Surry, Vance, Wake, Warren, Watauga, Wayne, Wilson, and Yadkin in **North Carolina**; and Grayson in **Virginia**.

“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 SBA’s Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience](#). “These loans are the backbone that helps rural communities bounce back and thrive after a disaster strikes.”

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. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of **4%** for small businesses and **3.25%** for private nonprofit organizations, 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. Eligibility is based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. 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.

For information and to apply online visit SBA.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call the 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 SBA no later than **May 27, 2025**.

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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.