

Disaster Assistance Deadlines Extended for Businesses

After hearing from businesses and landlords impacted by the 2008 disasters, the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Rebuild Iowa Office have worked to extend several program application deadlines.

The following programs have their deadlines extended from June 30 to December 31, 2010. Despite these deadline extensions, businesses are highly encouraged to turn in applications for these programs to their local Council of Government or Entitlement City as soon as possible since funds are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Commercial Rental Revenue Gap Assistance Program

This program assists with cash flow for commercial building owners to offset the loss of revenue from rental space that was physically damaged by the disaster. Up to 12 months of lost rental revenue may be available to businesses who own commercial rental property, up to \$25,000 per unit.

Residential Landlord Business Support Program

This program compensates for lost rental revenue for residential rental landlords providing affordable housing, whose rental units were physically damaged by the disaster. Landlords may receive up to \$15,000 per business tax identification number.

Loan Interest Supplement Program

Funds from this program allow business owners to pay for the interest on a Small Business Administration or private loan for disaster recovery. Those businesses that incurred a physical disaster loan before June 30, 2010, are eligible for this program, and may apply by December 31, 2010.

Flood Insurance Reimbursement Program

This program provides assistance to reimburse businesses for the cost of one year of flood insurance. Businesses are eligible if they had water in their building as a result of a 2008 disaster involving overland flow or sewer backup; or are located in the 100 or 500-year floodplain. Reimbursement is for a one-time, one year of coverage, up to \$5,000 per qualified business. The flood insurance policy start date must fall between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010. In-home businesses are not eligible for this program.

Equipment Reimbursement Assistance Program

The program provides financial assistance to businesses that had equipment, machinery, inventory, supplies, and furniture losses. This program now includes both businesses who owned their own building, as well as those who leased rental space, during the 2008 disasters. The application deadline remains December 31, 2010. Any business awarded funds must be located in a presidentially-declared county at the time assistance is provided.

Expanded Business Rental Assistance Program

The application deadline for this program remains December 31, 2010, but the percentage reimbursement for equipment has increased from 50% to 75% and the cap increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The purpose of this program is to help businesses located in or planning to locate in a business rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. Assistance will be in the form of rental assistance to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months. It also provides assistance in the form of reimbursement for physically damaged machinery and equipment, office equipment, furniture, supplies, and inventory. In-home businesses are not eligible for the funds.

Summaries of these programs can be found on Iowa Department of Economic Development's website at iowalifechanging.com. Click on "Disaster Recovery Assistance" at the bottom right-hand corner, then "Disaster Recovery Business Assistance Programs."