



OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Release Date: Aug. 21, 2025

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Release Number: AK 21247-01

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SBA Offers Relief to Alaska Businesses and Private Nonprofits Economically Affected by the Bear Creek Fire Group and Nenana Ridge Complex Fire **Economic injury loans available for working capital needs**

WASHINGTON — The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans for small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Alaska who sustained economic losses caused by the Bear Creek Fire Group and Nenana Ridge Complex fire beginning June 19. The SBA issued a disaster declaration in response to a request received from Gov. Mike Dunleavy on Aug. 19.

The disaster declaration covers the Alaskan political jurisdictions of the Bering Strait Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA), Delta/Greely REAA, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Iditarod Area REAA, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Yukon Flats REAA and Yukon-Koyukuk REAA.

Under this declaration, SBA's [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs including faith-based with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage. They may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred.

“SBA loans help eligible small businesses and private nonprofits cover operating expenses after a disaster, which is crucial for their recovery,” said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. “These loans not only help business owners get back on their feet but also play a key role in sustaining local economies in the aftermath of a disaster.”

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for businesses and 3.625% for PNPs 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.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call 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.

The deadline to return economic injury applications to the SBA is **May 20, 2026**.

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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.