

## Disaster Loans Available

Written by

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The U.S. Small Business Administration announced this week that federal disaster loans are available to small businesses located in ten counties, including Watauga, Avery, Ashe and Mitchell.

The declaration was issued as a result of a similar action taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops caused by the extreme drought conditions. Under the declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered economic injury as a direct result of this disaster. Eligible businesses can qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million dollars. Interested businesses should contact SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-3955.