

Bridge Loan Program for Florida Businesses

Given that the process for the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan may take a few weeks, a Bridge Loan Program for Florida businesses is being offered, which will help bridge the gap between application and funding. The State of Florida activated the disaster bridge loan program to provide affected businesses with immediate access to capital. The main components are that it is a one-year (1) bridge loan with zero percent interest (0%), and is available to all Florida counties.

This loan can be used to bridge the gap in funding from the SBA-EIDL Program, and is in addition to the qualifying ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) advance option available. When apply for this loan, under the source of repayment section, small businesses must select “SBA disaster loan.” The immediacy of this loan will provide short term capital until funding from the SBA loan disaster program becomes available (i.e., cover the approximately thirty day (30) waiting period). The eligibility requirements include:

- Applications will be accepted for qualified for-profit, privately held small businesses that maintain a place of business in the state of Florida. All qualified applicants must have been established prior to March 9, 2020, and have suffered economic injury as a result of the designated disaster. Qualified small business applicants must be an employer business with two to one hundred employees (2 to 100).
- Businesses can receive up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per eligible small business, but loans of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be made in certain cases (as warranted by the need of the eligible small business).
- Term will be one (1) year.
- The limitations include that only one (1) loan may be made per eligible business, and all previous bridge loans received must be paid in full.
- Loans will be interest-free for the loan term, and the interest rate will be twelve percent (12%) per annum on the unpaid balance thereafter, until the loan balance is repaid in full. Loan default is subject to the normal commercial collection process.
- Applications will be accepted by qualified Florida agricultural producers under this program through May 8, 2020, contingent on the availability of funds.