

Florida Bridge Loan Program

In an effort to assist businesses impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Governor Charlie Crist has activated Florida's Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, which will provide emergency, short-term loans to established small businesses in the following counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.

Short-term loans of up to \$25,000 will be available to owners of small businesses (less than 100 employees) in counties impacted the recent oil spill. The interest-free loans come in terms of 12 month maturities. To be eligible, a business owner must have been operational for one full year prior to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on April 20, 2010, and demonstrate physical damage or economic injury as a result of the oil spill.

Applications for businesses will be available Monday, June 14, 2010. To receive an application or more information on the program, please contact the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development at (850) 487-2568, or the [Florida First Capital Finance Corporation](http://www.ffcfc.com/) (<http://www.ffcfc.com/>) at (850) 681-3601.

Criteria for these loans is explained at: <http://www.floridaoilhelp.com/info.html#eligibility>