



2009 RECOVERY ACT



HELPING SMALL BUSINESS START, GROW AND SUCCEED

SBA Program Offers Recovery Capital to Stressed Small Businesses

If your small business is stressed meeting expenses during these tough economic times, the U.S. Small Business Administration has a new loan program that may help.

SBA's America's Recovery Capital Loan Program can provide up to \$35,000 in short-term relief for viable small businesses facing immediate financial hardship to help ride out the current uncertain economic times and return to profitability. Each small business is limited to one ARC loan.

ARC loans can be used to make payments of principal and interest, in full or in part, on one or more existing, qualifying small business loans for up to six months. ARC loans provide an immediate infusion of capital to small businesses to assist with making payments of principal and interest on existing debt. These loans allow borrowers to redirect cash flow from making loan payments to investing in their businesses, to help sustain the business and retain jobs. For example, making loan payments on existing loans with proceeds from an ARC loan can allow a business to focus more funds on core operations, such as buying inventory or making payroll.

About the loan

ARC loans are interest-free to the borrower, carry a 100 percent guaranty from the SBA to the lender, and require no fees paid to SBA. Loan proceeds are provided over a six-month period, and repayment of the ARC loan principal is deferred for 12 months after the last disbursement of the proceeds. Repayment can last up to five years.

The best candidates for ARC loans are small businesses that in the past were profitable but are currently struggling, yet have been making loan payments or are just beginning to miss loan payments due to financial hardship.

ARC loans are made by commercial lenders who are SBA participants. Non-SBA lenders can become SBA participants by working with their nearest SBA district office. Businesses interested in applying for an ARC loan should first contact their current lender.

Eligibility

ARC loans are available to viable, for-profit small businesses in the U.S. that have qualifying small business loans and are experiencing immediate financial hardship.

Your small business must be an established business, have financial statements demonstrating it was profitable in one of the past three years, and be able to project sufficient cash flow to meet current and future loan payments over a two-year period from loan approval. If your business does not meet these criteria, you can discuss your eligibility with your lender. ARC loans are not designed for start-up businesses.

Examples of qualifying loans may include credit card obligations, capital leases, notes payable to vendors/suppliers, Development Company Loan Program (504) first lien loans, other loans to small businesses made without an SBA guaranty, and loans made by or with an SBA guaranty on or after Feb. 17, 2009.

ARC loans are designed to help businesses experiencing immediate financial hardship for reasons such as:

- Loss/reduction of customer base
- Increase in cost of doing business
- Loss/reduction of working capital and/or loss/reduction of short term credit facilities
- Inability to restructure existing debts due to credit restrictions
- Loss/reduction of employees (intellectual capital)
- Loss/reduction of major suppliers (major suppliers out of business)

Borrowers whose loans are already severely delinquent or whose past performance or future cash flow indicates that the business is not viable are not good candidates for an ARC loan.

ARC loans are available for as long as funding is available or until September 30, 2010, whichever comes first.

For more information about the ARC loan program and other SBA programs and services designed to meet economic challenges as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit www.sba.gov/recovery.

For further details on SBA's wide range of programs and services designed to help America's small businesses, contact your local SBA district office, SCORE – Counselors to America's Small Business, Small Business Development Centers, or Women's Business Centers. Visit www.SBA.gov/localresources to find the resource nearest you.

All SBA programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.