



Small Business First (SBF)

Eligible Applicants – For-profit small businesses involved in:

- Agricultural enterprise/production
- Computer related services
- Daycare operations
- Defense Conversion
- Hospitality (Must be in business for 5 years with 5 full-time employees)
- Manufacturing
- Other Industrial Enterprises
- Construction
- Recycling

A small business is defined as having 100 or less full-time employees.

Eligible Use – May utilize funding for land acquisition, site improvements, acquisition of existing building, building renovation, leasehold improvements, new construction, machinery and equipment, working capital, and certain soft costs.

Loan Amount - \$200,000 or 50% of the eligible project costs, whichever is less. Loans for working capital cannot exceed \$100,000.

Interest Rate – Interest rates are low and fixed for the life of the loan. Rates are updated on a quarterly basis and have historically been below 5%. To find out the current rate, please contact us.

Term – Up to 3 years for working capital; up to 10 years for machinery and equipment; up to 15 years for real estate. A blended term will apply for mixed funds.

Equity Requirement – For existing businesses (more than two years of operations), borrowers may be required to provide a minimum of 10% of the project cost. For start-ups or changes in ownership, borrower may be required to provide up to 15% of the project cost. Other factors of the loan may reduce the need for equity into the project.

Job Criteria – Within three years of disbursement, one full-time job to be created or, in some cases retained, for every \$25,000 of SBF funds used in the project. Job creation and retention requirements are not applicable to agricultural enterprises.

Fees – \$500 non-refundable application fee. In addition, a 1.5% closing fee and \$650 for document preparation are charged (other closing costs generated as a result of the transaction such as appraisal fees are the responsibility of the borrower).

For further assistance or additional information, please contact

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