

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	5.750
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	2.875
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	5.500
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	2.750
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	4.875
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	2.750

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 360505 and for economic damage is 9ZN600. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: August 5, 2004.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-18699 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3607]

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on August 6, 2004, I find that Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and flooding occurring on August 1, 2004, and continuing. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on October 5, 2004 and for economic injury until the close of business on May 6, 2005 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1192.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Berks, Bucks, Chester, and Lehigh in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; New Castle County in the State of Delaware; and Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in the State of New Jersey.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere—6.375%
Homeowners without Credit Available Elsewhere—3.187%
Businesses with Credit Available Elsewhere—5.800%
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere—2.900%
Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) with Credit Available Elsewhere—4.875%
For Economic Injury:
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere—2.900%

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 360706. For economic injury the number is 9ZN800 for Pennsylvania; and 9ZN900 for Delaware; and 9ZO1 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: August 6, 2004.

Jane M. Pease,
Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 04-18696 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3606]

State of Texas

Dallas County and the contiguous counties of Collin, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman, Tarrant, and Rockwall in the State of Texas constitute a disaster area due to excessive rain and flooding that occurred on July 28 through July 29, 2004. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on October 5, 2004, and for economic injury until the close of business on May 5, 2005, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 3 Office, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155-2243.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	6.375
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	3.187
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	5.800
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	2.900
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	4.875

	Percent
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	2.900

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 360606 and for economic injury the number is 9ZN700.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: August 5, 2004.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-18698 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3608]

State of West Virginia

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on August 6, 2004, I find that Fayette, Lincoln, and Logan Counties in the State of West Virginia constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms, flooding, and landslides occurring on July 22, 2004, and continuing. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on October 5, 2004, and for economic injury until the close of business on May 6, 2005, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South 3rd Fl., Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1192.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Boone, Cabell, Clay, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming in the State of West Virginia.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere	6.375
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.187
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.800
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.900
Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	4.875
For Economic Injury:	

	Percent
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere ...	2.900

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 360806. For economic injury the number is 9ZO200.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: August 6, 2004.

Jane M. Pease,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 04-18697 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Solicitation of Public Comments on Prerequisites for Participation in a Demonstration Project Extending Fee Withholding Procedures to Non-Attorney Representatives

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 303 of the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (SSPA) requires the Commissioner of Social Security (the Commissioner) to develop and implement a 5-year nationwide demonstration project that will extend to certain non-attorney representatives of claimants under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act (the Act) the option to have approved representatives' fees withheld and paid directly from a beneficiary's past-due benefits. Currently, this option is available only to representatives who are attorneys. Non-attorney representatives who wish to participate in the demonstration project must meet the prerequisites specified in section 303 of the SSPA, and any additional prerequisites that the Commissioner may prescribe. One of the statutory prerequisites is that the individual must pass an examination, written and administered by the Commissioner, which tests knowledge of the relevant provisions of the Act and the most recent developments in agency and court decisions affecting titles II and XVI of the Act. We are seeking public comments regarding the general topics that should be included in the examination. In addition, we invite your comments on the particular issues described below related to the other statutory prerequisites. Finally, we invite comments on whether individuals who wish to participate in

the demonstration project should be required to meet additional prerequisites not specified in section 303 and, if so, what those additional prerequisites might be.

DATES: To be sure that we consider your comments, we must receive them by September 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to William Storey, Acting Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, by: e-mail to William.Storey@ssa.gov; telefax to (703) 605-8261; or mail to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Suite 1608, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Storey, Suite 1608, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3255, (703) 605-8260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are developing an examination that will be administered to non-attorney representatives who wish to participate in the direct fee payment demonstration project authorized by section 303 of the SSPA, Public Law 108-203, enacted March 2, 2004. Section 303 specifies that the examination is to test knowledge of the relevant provisions of the Act and the most recent developments in agency and court decisions affecting titles II and XVI of the Act.

We have compiled a list of general topics upon which the examination questions might focus. That list is included as an Appendix. We request comments on whether the specific topics listed should be tested in the examination, and on whether there are additional topics that we should include.

To help us determine if a topic should be tested in the examination, we have established a rating system for assigning a rank to each topic. We ask that commenters use the rating system when commenting on both the potential topics listed in the Appendix and any additional topics that may be suggested. The rating system is based on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 indicates that the topic is critical and must be considered in developing the qualifying examination. The criteria for the rankings are as follows:

- 5 = Critical (cannot do the job without knowing this)
- 4 = Very Important (difficulty doing the job well without knowing this)
- 3 = Moderately Important (helpful in doing the job well)
- 2 = Slightly Important (occasionally helpful in doing the job well)
- 1 = Not Important (not needed to do the job)
- X = Cannot Rank (unable to determine

the relative importance)

In addition to passing the examination, non-attorneys who wish to participate in the demonstration project are required by section 303 to meet the following prerequisites:

- The representative has been awarded a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, or has been determined by the Commissioner to have equivalent qualifications derived from training and work experience;

- The representative has secured professional liability insurance, or equivalent insurance, which the Commissioner has determined to be adequate to protect claimants in the event of malpractice by the representative;

- The representative has undergone a criminal background check to ensure the representative's fitness to practice before the Commissioner; and

- The representative demonstrates ongoing completion of qualified courses of continuing education, including education regarding ethics and professional conduct, which are designed to enhance professional knowledge in matters related to entitlement to, or eligibility for, benefits based on disability under titles II and XVI of the Act.

We invite comments on any issues related to:

- The quality and extent of training or work experience that should be considered equivalent to a bachelor's degree;

- The amount of liability insurance that should be considered adequate to protect claimants; and

- The extent and types of continuing education courses that should be required.

We will consider the comments we receive as we develop the demonstration project under section 303 of the SSPA.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 96.001, Social Security-Disability Insurance; 96.002, Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 96.004, Social Security-Survivors Insurance; and 96.006, Supplemental Security Income)

Dated: August 11, 2004.

Fritz Streckewald,

Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Program Policy for Disability and Income Security Programs.

Appendix

Ethics and Professionalism

Conflict of interest
Good character and reputation
Grounds for disqualification/suspension
Privacy Act and disclosure policy
Ethical conduct