

SBA tries to ensure Recovery Act funds

SBA issued the following statement from Administrator Karen Mills regarding efforts to ensure continued funding for two key provisions in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

SBA's most popular American Reinvestment and Recovery Act provisions - the increased guarantee and reduced fees in the two largest lending programs - have helped engineer a significant turnaround in SBA lending. Continuing those American Reinvestment and Recovery Act provisions is SBA's top priority. Through the original \$375 million and the additional \$125 million appropriations for these two provisions, SBA has supported more than \$20 billion in lending to small businesses across the country and seen its average weekly loan volume increase by nearly 90 percent since February 2009.

Through American Reinvestment and Recovery Act we brought nearly 1,100 lending institutions back to the SBA's programs that had not made an SBA loan since at least 2007. All told, these steps have benefitted tens of thousands of small businesses and supported hundreds of thousands of jobs during these tough economic times. However, we know there is still more work to be done. As the President has requested, we will continue to work with Congress to extend these programs through September 2010.

"The additional \$125 million appropriation approved in December to extend SBA's 7(a) loan guarantee to 90 percent and reduce or eliminate borrower fees on both the 7(a) and 504 loans will be used faster than expected. Loan volume has surged since earlier this week when an Information Notice was released to lenders. SBA communicated with its lending partners today that it will re-activate the Recovery Loan Queue no later than Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. The Queue is an efficient and transparent process that will ensure that every remaining dollar possible is made available to help small businesses drive economic recovery across the country.

"The SBA advocates for small businesses across the federal

government and will continue its efforts to keep America's small businesses on a path to recovery and long-term success. Small businesses are a central piece of President Obama's Jobs Plan because they have been and will continue to be a key engine for job creation across the country. With that in mind, President Obama laid out an aggressive agenda for providing small businesses with the support they need to create jobs and drive economic recovery. That agenda includes proposals in three key areas: expanding access to capital; providing tax incentives to encourage job creation; and maximizing the potential of innovative, high-growth companies," Mills said.

SBA's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Programs:

SBA received \$730 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to support economic recovery programs for small businesses. Included in the appropriation was \$375 million to support raising the government guarantee to 90 percent on SBA's 7(a) loans and reducing some lender and borrower fees on its 7(a) and 504 loans, the agency's two largest lending programs. The funds for these popular provisions ran out in November 2009. SBA received an additional \$125 million appropriation in December 2009 along with authority to continue both of the programs through February.

SBA is in the process of finalizing the plan for transitioning its 7(a) and 504 programs back to their pre-American Reinvestment and Recovery Act terms and communicating those plans with its lending partners. This plan, when implemented, will include re-activating the Recovery Loan Queues no later than Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. The Queues will operate in the same manner as when originally implemented in November 2009. Sometimes previously approved loans are later cancelled or never disbursed for a variety of reasons.

The Queues take this into account and beginning on the transition date will allow eligible small businesses, in consultation with their lenders, to choose to be placed in the queue for pos-

sible approval for an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act loan if funding becomes available. Small business owners and lenders will have transparent access to the queue via www.sba.gov/recovery and will be able to remove themselves from the queue at any time to be considered for a non-American Reinvestment and Recovery Act SBA loan with all applicable fees and, for 7(a) loans, standard guaranty levels.

The authorization for the 90 percent guarantee on 7(a) loans ends Feb. 28, 2010, though funds may be exhausted sooner. Furthermore, applications in the Queues after Feb. 28, 2010 will only be eligible for decreased or eliminated borrower fees when funds become available.

UNICEL

Unicel lets you stay connected for less!

Unicel participates in the Lifeline/Link Up Telecommunications Assistance program, offering discounted wireless service plans to qualified low-income individuals.

50% OFF
activation fee

\$17⁷⁷
monthly credit

You may be eligible if you're enrolled in:

- Food Stamps
- General Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- Medicaid
- Free School Lunch Program
- Or if household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level

Additional programs apply to individuals residing on federally recognized tribal reservations.

Toll Blocking: Available free of charge. Toll blocking restricts the ability to make long distance and roaming phone calls. Unicel will not collect a service deposit if eligible consumers elect toll blocking.

Visit your local Unicel retail store for more information.

SHOP IN-STORE, ONLINE AT UNICEL.COM OR CALL 1-800-GO-CELLULAR (462-3558)

All UNICEL plans include the following services or functionalities: voice grade access to the PSTN, local usage, dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent, single-party service, and access to emergency services, operator services, interexchange service and directory assistance. Offer is subject to terms of wireless service agreement, Data Services Terms and Conditions and calling plan details. Additional charges will be included for each line of service to help Unicel defray its costs of complying with federal and state regulatory obligations, as follows: our current USF charge (rates are adjusted quarterly), 4.34% KS USF charge, additional cost recovery fees of \$1.95 and, if roaming charges are incurred, roaming taxes as passed on by our roaming partners and a \$2.00 roaming administration fee. These charges are not taxes or government-required charges. \$30 activation fee and \$200 early termination fee apply to each line. Credit check and security deposit/first month's advance payment may be required if customer elects toll capability or optional features with service. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges apply. Digital features and service not available in all areas and may vary due to atmospheric, topographical and other conditions. Requires use of approved wireless handset. Must be at least 18 years old with positive ID and have user address in the Unicel home coverage area. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. **KS residents: Unicel is obligated to provide service within its designated ETC service area upon reasonable request. Consumers should direct any complaints regarding service issues to the Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.**

Important Opening

The Norton Telegram is taking applications to fill a vacancy in the advertising department.



This is a full-time position, and compensation is based on ability to sell to an established, and expanding market. The commission allows for bonuses when sales have exceeded established goals.

Some computer knowledge helpful but not necessary. Training in sales will be provided.

Interested? Please submit a resume in person, or mail to:

**Dana Paxton — The Norton Telegram
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654**

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

e-mail: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
215 South Kansas Avenue, Norton, Kansas

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: field bindweed, musk thistle, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, bur ragweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, hoary cress, quack grass, Russian, knapweed, kudzu and pignut. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Norton County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

Failure to observe this notice may result in the County:

(1.) Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowners expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,

(2.) Filing criminal charges for non-compliance. Conviction for non-compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non-compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock or livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be labeled with a label provided by the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture and must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the State and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds.

Additional information may be obtained from the Norton County Noxious Weed Department or by contacting the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, 901 S. Kansas, Topeka, KS 66612.