

**PRESS RELEASE** April 27, 2007

**CONTACT: Katherine E. Arno**  
**Director of Training and Communication**  
**Maine Small Business Development Centers**  
**Phone 207-780-4853**  
**E-mail: [karno@maine.edu](mailto:karno@maine.edu)**

**Single Information Source for Maine's Small Businesses  
with Patriots' Day Storm Damage**

**PORTLAND, MAINE:** A single online source for disaster aid information has been established for Maine's small businesses that suffered property and economic losses due to the Patriots' Day Nor'easter. "This comprehensive information source will make it easy for business owners to find any and all forms of assistance available to help them," said John Massaua, State Director of the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC), which is maintaining the online site.

Aside from Maine SBDC, sources of information on the new site include the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (Maine DECD). Visitors to the site can also conveniently submit requests for additional information. To access the online resource, visit the FYI section on the home page of [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org), then click on the Patriots' Day Storm Small Business Disaster Aid icon. The same process may also be used at [www.mainebusinessworks.org](http://www.mainebusinessworks.org).

"The most important thing that a small business can do now is report its damage whether or not it is covered by insurance," said Massaua. Both FEMA and the SBA have not as yet pronounced any Maine County as a Disaster Area to cover individual business damage. To do so, total damage must reach a certain dollar value. Instructions on how damage (both physical and economic losses) can be reported are found at the new online site.

***About Maine SBDC/SBTDC:*** *Maine SBDC/SBTDC is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in association with the SBA/OSBDC, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Southern Maine, and leading economic and/or community development hosting organizations, including the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Eastern Maine Development Corporation, and the Northern Maine Development Commission and with support from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) and other contractors, allies and stakeholders. Accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) and administered by USM's School of Business, Maine SBDC/SBTDC operates a network of service centers and outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state.*