

# Billions in 9/11 recovery loans were misused

## Many small businesses didn't need assistance, investigation indicates

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*Associated Press*

The government's \$5 billion effort to help small businesses recover from the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was so loosely managed that it gave low-interest loans to companies that didn't need terrorism relief — or even know they were getting it, The Associated Press has found.

And while some at New York's "ground zero" couldn't get assistance they desperately sought, companies far removed from the devastation — a South Dakota country radio station, a Virgin Islands perfume shop, a Utah dog boutique and more than 100 Dunkin' Donuts and Subway sandwich shops — had no problem winning the govern-

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► Tennesseans who got loans say they knew nothing of 9/11 connection.

ment-guaranteed loans.

"That's scary; 9/11 had nothing to do with this," said James Munsey, a Virginia entrepreneur who described himself as "beyond shocked" to learn that his nearly \$1 million loan to buy a special events company in Richmond was drawn from the Sept. 11 program.

"It would have been inappropriate for me to take this kind of loan," he said, stating that the company he bought had suffered no ill effects

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