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Community Development



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**ACCION TEXAS INC. and CITI
TO SHOWCASE
PROPRIETARY AND NATIONALLY HERALDED
LOAN PROCESSING SYSTEM
FOR SMALL BUSINESS LENDING
Microloan Management System™ (MMS™)
Is Industry Standard And Used Nationwide
WORKSHOP IS PART OF
THE 28TH ANNUAL
OPPORTUNITY FINANCE NETWORK
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

WHAT: **Accion Texas Inc.** – the nation’s largest microlender, which provides affordable capital, education and other resources to aspiring and existing small business owners who don’t have access to commercial lending sources – and **Citi** will showcase the **Microloan Management System™ (MMS™)**, its **proprietary internet-based loan origination and processing software system**, at a special day-long training and information session during the 28th annual Opportunity Finance Network National Conference in downtown San Antonio. Accion Texas created the web-based MMS™ program with a **generous grant from Citi** (along with other funding partners) to help microfinance organizations and other small business lenders increase efficiency, improve portfolio quality, speed up turnaround on loan applications and reduce default rates – all with the goal of generating more loans for deserving entrepreneurs across the country and around the world.



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More than 1,000 people are registered to attend the OFN National Conference in San Antonio October 15-18 to share achievements and new information and learn the latest best practices among community development financial institutions (CDFIs). These institutions work to create entrepreneurial opportunities in underserved markets. Attendees include funders, investors, policymakers, business owners and others whose mission is to help all deserving communities gain access to affordable financial products and services.

WHEN: **Monday, October 15**
9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Best timeframe for photos and interviews)

WHERE: La Quinta Convention Center
Bowie East Room, 303 Blum Street

WHO: Catherine Meyrat, Vice President of Strategy, Accion Texas Inc.
Nelly Rojas Moreno, Chief Credit Officer, Accion Texas Inc.
Barbara Eckblad, Director of Lending, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative
Greg Henderson, VP of Finance, Accion New Mexico-Arizona-Colorado
Nearly two dozen MMS™ trainees representing microfinance and small business lending organizations from across the country

WHY: Small business start-ups and development have grown dramatically in recent years – especially among underserved communities. Organizations such as Accion Texas, which manages the nation's largest microloan portfolio, make capital and other services available to entrepreneurs who don't have access to traditional sources of financing and business education. With grants from **Citi**, **The Kresge Foundation and Tides Economic Justice Fund**, Accion Texas created **Microloan Management Services™ MS™** for its own operations and as a service for other lending organizations that work with this target group, enabling them to originate, process and approve more microloans and small business loans, thereby assisting more small businesses as they start, sustain and grow.

BACKGROUND: Established in 1994 in San Antonio, Accion Texas Inc.'s financial and business-support services help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create employment and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. Accion Texas Inc. has the nation's largest microloan portfolio and is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Loans range from as small as \$500 to as high as \$5 million. Since its inception, Accion has made more than 12,500 loans totaling more than \$130 million. Accion now operates in eight states – Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. For more information, visit www.acciontexas.org.

ACCION

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VISUALS and INTERVIEWS:

Representatives of two dozen lending organizations from Texas and other states interacting at computer stations, discussing procedures and observing functions on a colorful large screen. Accion representatives and current MMS™ clients will be available to discuss the advantages of the system and how it has helped increase loan production and serve increasing numbers of small business owners in several U.S. markets, including San Antonio.

