



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 2, 2015

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**HUD AWARDS LIFTFUND \$1 MILLION TO BOOST JOB GROWTH AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA REGION**

**SAN ANTONIO** – LiftFund, the nation’s largest microlender, has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of \$1.5 million grant package to stimulate job growth, produce more affordable housing, and business opportunities to the chronically underserved and undercapitalized Lower Mississippi River Delta Region.

LiftFund received the grant through HUD’s Delta Community Capital Initiative (DCCI) and will focus its lending efforts in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Receiving a part of the grant package along with LiftFund are Communities Unlimited and Southern Bancorp Capital Partners (SBCP), both are set to receive more than \$200,000.

“We have been serving the Delta Region since 2009 and are excited to be able to provide additional resources to these communities through our partnership with HUD,” said Janie Barrera, LiftFund President and CEO. “We are here to provide small business and entrepreneurs with the resources and education they need to start, sustain and grow their business.”

Since expanding its services into the Delta Region, LiftFund has made over 950 loans, totaling \$11.6 million. In addition to the jobs created through the disbursement of the loans made possible by the HUD grant, Delta residents and business owners will benefit from LiftFund’s educational training sessions, group and classroom technical assistance, and training on business and credit related topics.

LiftFund received notification of the awarded grant from U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett. “This grant recognizes LiftFund’s leadership in promoting economic development. With these new federal funds, LiftFund can grow even more small businesses with the credit they need to expand,” said U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett.

HUD’s Delta Initiative is a partnership among three federal agencies; HUD, the Department of Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and the Department of Agriculture—Rural Development. The DCCI will increase access to capital for business, provide direct investment and technical assistance to community development lending and investing institutions that focus on small business development to benefit the residents of the Lower Mississippi River Delta Region.

**About HUD**

HUD’s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable

communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and <http://espanol.hud.gov>.

**About LiftFund**

Established in 1994 in San Antonio, as Accion Texas Inc., LiftFund is a financial and business-support service organization that helps entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create employment and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. LiftFund has the nation's largest microlender portfolio and is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Since its inception, LiftFund has made nearly 15,000 loans totaling more than \$180 million. LiftFund operates in eight states – Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. To learn more about LiftFund, go to [www.liffund.com](http://www.liffund.com).