



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATION'S LARGEST NONPROFIT SMALL BUSINESS LENDER NOW ACCEPTING LOAN APPLICATIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA – LiftFund – a nonprofit small business lender that manages the nation's largest microloan portfolio – is now accepting loan applications online from South Carolina entrepreneurs. This will give small business owners in the area the online tools they need to start, stabilize or grow their businesses.

In 2014 South Carolina ranked 46th nationally for startup activity; today, according to the 2015 Kauffman index, the state ranks 29th nationally. Overall, South Carolina is one the top five states to have increase its entrepreneurial activity over the last year.

“Our goal is to extend our reach into a community where entrepreneurs are extremely active and in need of a good small business foundation,” President and CEO Janie Barrera said. “We have a mission to offer small businesses and entrepreneurs a pathway to success; South Carolina is the perfect example of us continuing to make good on our mission.”

LiftFund provides startup and small business loans from \$500 to \$250,000. It also offers counseling and financial education to help entrepreneurs learn how to start, grow and manage their businesses and to establish and maintain good credit.

In addition to South Carolina, LiftFund is now accepting loan applications in four other states: Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Georgia. These states are adjacent to LiftFund's existing markets of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

“Now, with technology, what is a state border?” Barrera said. “Our focus is on empowering clients to chart their own economic paths by providing them with access to capital and business advice.”

The 21 year old organization lent over \$25 million last year. For the fourth consecutive year, LiftFund was named one of the best nonprofits in the U.S. by Charity Navigator– America's premier charity evaluator that rates organizations on such criteria as accountability, transparency and financial reporting.

Residents of the state of South Carolina can apply for a small business loan online by visiting www.Liffund.com or calling 1-888-215-2373.

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 over 16,000 loans totaling more than \$190 million. LiftFund operates in twelve states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and soon Georgia.