



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LIFTFUND RECEIVES GRANT AND MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT
FROM BANCORPSOUTH, INC.**

San Antonio – LiftFund – the nation’s largest microlender – has received a \$100,000 grant and million-dollar investment from BancorpSouth, Inc. The grant will support entrepreneurs in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas by offering the tools necessary to start, stabilize or grow their business.

“We are honored to receive BancorpSouth’s support,” President and CEO of LiftFund Janie Barrera said. “This is another example of how we work closely with banks to help small business owners and entrepreneurs achieve success. BancorpSouth’s generosity helps us carry out our mission to fund loans, provide education and build thriving communities.”

"BancorpSouth is pleased to provide this investment capital, grant, and other support for LiftFund to assist small business owners and entrepreneurs across our 8-state market area," said Chris Bagley, BancorpSouth President and Chief Operating Officer. "LiftFund, working with SBA and other small business lenders such as BancorpSouth, provides valuable assistance to small business owners and entrepreneurs with limited access to capital."

In addition to the funds received, BancorpSouth will coordinate volunteer opportunities for their employees to provide financial education to LiftFund clients and develop a new referral program for small business owners. Within the newly proposed program, BancorpSouth will share LiftFund’s education, business counseling, and capital opportunities with their customers.

About BancorpSouth, Inc.

BancorpSouth, Inc. is a financial holding company headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi, with \$13.8 billion in assets. BancorpSouth Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BancorpSouth, Inc., operates 286 commercial banking, mortgage, and insurance locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas, including an insurance location in Illinois.

About LiftFund

Established in 1994 in San Antonio, Texas, 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.