



Report Card

March 2008

*Strengthening communities.
Building assets.
Improving lives.*

Business Lending (February 2008)

Austin's Bistro, LLC
Monroe, LA
Italian Delicatessen

A & S Ice Cream, Inc.
Ridgeland, MS
Marble Slab Creamery Franchise

ECD/HOPE Lending Activity (Through February 29, 2008)

	Month	YTD
Commercial Lending	\$ 875,626	\$ 955,626
Mortgage Lending	\$ 715,206	\$ 1,160,726
Consumer Loans	\$ 311,619	\$ 493,401

Program Activity

MEPC Report Examines Foreclosure Issues, Solutions in Mississippi

A newly released report from the Mississippi Economic Policy Center shows that Mississippi has the highest percentage of borrowers with past due payments and the eighth highest

foreclosure rate in the country. The report analyzes Mississippi's foreclosure process and concludes with recommendations for addressing the needs of families currently in foreclosure and preventing foreclosure for current and future homeowners in Mississippi.

Industry experts and analysts attribute the state's high rate of delinquency and foreclosure to two primary factors:

- Mississippi has the highest rate of subprime lending in the country.
- Hurricane Katrina has had a major impact on delinquency and foreclosure rates in the past two and a half years.

The study is available at www.mepconline.org.

Funding for Healthcare Center Improves Access in Rural Louisiana

Residents in central and southwest regions of Louisiana now have more options when it comes to affordable healthcare. ECD/HOPE provided financing for construction and renovation of community health centers through a loan, secured by the USDA's Community Facilities

Guaranteed Loan Program, to Outpatient Medical Center.

With those funds, the Center has expanded patient capacity and created a new state-of-the-art dental wing. Outpatient Medical Center operates clinic facilities in Leesburg, Natchitoches, and Tallulah, Louisiana.

Partners Bring Affordable Housing to North Gulfport

The North Gulfport Community Land Trust (NGCLT) is renovating and restoring two historic North Gulfport homes with the assistance of a loan from ECD/HOPE. The houses will be sold at an affordable price to local low-income families.

By providing funding for this unique development project, ECD/HOPE is supporting NGCLT in its mission to preserve the culture and historic character of the African-American community of North Gulfport.

News in Brief

President Taps Bynum for Continued Service on Community Development Advisory Board

President Bush has appointed ECD/HOPE CEO Bill Bynum to a second term on the Community Development Advisory Board, which advises the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). The CDFI Fund's mission is to expand the capacity of financial institutions to provide credit, capital, and financial services to underserved populations and communities in the United States.

The 15-member board includes the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior and Treasury; the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or his or her designee; and nine private citizens appointed by the President. Bynum has chaired the board since his initial appointment in 2002.

2007 Commercial Lending Sets Record

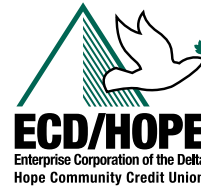
Small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the Mid South received \$16.1 million in financing from ECD/HOPE last year, the highest dollar figure for financing in the organization's 13-year history. The organization made 93 loans during the year, and closings have generated additional financing of \$6.5 million from other partners.

Increases in loan activity were attributable to many factors, including the expansion of the microlending program, continued activity in hurricane recovery areas, and financing for low-income housing tax credit projects.

Make a Difference!

You can support ECD/HOPE's work simply by making a federally insured deposit. You'll get competitive rates, and you'll be helping businesses, homeowners and communities. Call us at 1-877-654-HOPE for a membership application.

Visit our web sites at www.ecd.org or www.hopecu.org for more information. Call us at 601-944-1100 to be removed from our mailing list.



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