PeopleFund is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) serving all of Texas. Its mission is to create economic opportunity and financial stability for underserved people by providing access to capital, education, and resources to build healthy small businesses. It has created thousands of jobs and empowered an even greater number of Texans on a path to prosperity and the American Dream.

Success Story: Phoenix Arising Aviation Academy, Austin, TX

While attending Cornell University, Zay Collier undertook a project transforming engineering education at the primary and secondary school level, affording him the opportunity to see the direct impact of educational reform on the lives of students. This sparked his desire to create hands-on experiential learning through aviation to engage and maintain students’ interests. Phoenix Arising Aviation Academy enables students to translate aviation into critical thinking and vital life skills. A $25,000 loan from PeopleFund provided the working capital Zay and his wife Tasha needed to grow Phoenix Arising into a successful nonprofit, serving youth and adults in the Austin community.