Opportunity Finance Network Member Profile

ALBANY COMMUNITY TOGETHER, INC. (ACT!)

Albany Community Together, Inc. (ACT!) is a community development financial institution (CDFI) serving Georgia, mainly Southwest Georgia, that provides access to capital and business development services. ACT! was created in 1997 with seed capital from the City of Albany and four local banks.

ACT!’s mission is building wealth and creating economic opportunities in Georgia by providing affordable access to capital and business support services for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. Many of ACT!’s clients are minorities and women. ACT! focuses on helping our clients become asset generators through business ownership.

CDFI Story – Anthony King, owner of Little Caesars franchises, Albany, GA

When Anthony King decided to open his Little Caesars franchises, it was during the worst economic times since the Great Depression. Nevertheless, with a good business plan and a proven business model, he forged ahead with his idea of bringing Little Caesars back to the Albany area. Upon graduating from Mercer University with a degree in marketing, Anthony was disappointed to find that the local banking community was not providing startup capital for new businesses. King came to ACT! for financial assistance after moving back to Albany in 2006.

Armed with his plan and startup cash equity of $100,000, Anthony applied for an ACT! loan, receiving $100,000 to open his first store in 2007. He then received a second loan, paid off the first loan, and opened a second location in Albany. Anthony has grown his franchise enterprise to include South Georgia and North Florida with six locations, employing 160 individuals. Ninety-percent of his employees are from low- and moderate-income households. Anthony partners with Goodwill to hire. When he opened his third location in Tifton, Georgia, in 2010, the manager was an ex-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipient.