Ascendus is a nonprofit small business lender working to create economic opportunity by providing entrepreneurs with access to the capital and the business support they need to create and grow healthy enterprises and contribute to thriving local economies.

Ascendus seeks to build the financial resiliency of small business owners so that they can be fully equipped to handle near-term challenges and achieve long-term self-sustainability and business success.

CDFI Story: Tiffany Diaz, Bronx, NY

Tiffany Diaz founded her daycare in the South Bronx to give back to her community. She received an Ascendus loan to improve her business, including fixing the backyard and buying new furniture.

When Tiffany’s city shut down in 2020 because of COVID-19, she went from serving 35 children to five. She received a PPP loan from Ascendus, providing her and her employees with the salaries they depended on. “The loan saved us,” she said.

Now that Tiffany’s daycare is fully reopened and she is caring for the children of essential workers, she feels a stronger commitment to her community than ever.

Financial and Social Impact

- More than $200 million provided to over 23,000 small business owners across the country since 1991
- 1,108 small business provided with over $11.7 million in capital in 2020
- $10.7 million in urgent relief provided to 890 small business owners since March 2020 to withstand and recover from the impact of COVID-19

Contact

80 Maiden Lane
Suite 903
New York, NY 10038

Name: Victoria Richardson,
VP of Development & Communications

Phone: 646.833.4546
Email: vrichardson@ascendus.org

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