Opportunity Finance Network Member Profile

Financial and Social Impact

- More than $3.4 million loaned, totaling 24 loans, mostly to nonprofit organizations in Tucson and southern Arizona
- Facilitated two fully-funded loans of $22,500 through a new partnership with Kiva

As a nonprofit U.S. Treasury-certified community development financial institution (CDFI), Growth Partners Arizona (GPAz) delivers responsible, affordable loans to nonprofits and small businesses to help them become bankable and join the economic mainstream.

Since becoming a CDFI in 2017, GPAz has lent statewide to nonprofits and small businesses that improve lives and communities, particularly in CDFI-designated investment areas that traditionally lack access to capital. In early 2020, GPAz began lending to small businesses with loans up to $75,000 and became a Kiva hub, coordinating microloans up to $10,000 to borrowers through Kiva’s online crowdfunding platform.

Success Story – Esperanza en Escalante, Tucson, AZ

GPAz has made three loans to Esperanza en Escalante (EEE), a nonprofit that provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families. Two loans allowed EEE to add 44 one-bedroom apartments to a property that already had transitional housing and support for 75 homeless veterans and family members. A third loan allowed EEE to take advantage of a low-income housing tax credit to build 50 housing units for veterans with families. EEE was founded in 1989 by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106 of Tucson to provide housing, social services, and transportation to help veterans transition into everyday life.