As a community development financial institution (CDFI) and mission-based lender, Accessity’s mission is to open doors of financial opportunity to those historically with less access to capital and business support — entrepreneurs of color, women, immigrant, and low-to-moderate income entrepreneurs — so they can build prosperous businesses and livelihoods for themselves and their families, while also strengthening our communities.

Accessity, formerly Accion serving Southern CA, has served the community since 1994, disbursing more than $57 million in loans. The organization currently manages a portfolio of $15 million in loans to startup and expanding small businesses, primarily diverse entrepreneurs in various industries, including home-based, storefront, restaurant, retail, and mobile businesses.

The organization provided approximately 300 loans with $8.5 million in 2020. During the pandemic, Accessity served over 4,000 small business owners with education, resources and/or loan capital. The organization provided $12 million in low-interest COVID relief lending as an economic first responder.

**CDFI Story – Bertha Orea, owner of the Computerized Cobbler, Escondido, CA**

Accessity helps small business owners like Bertha Orea. Her business, The Computerized Cobbler, is located in a mall in Escondido, California. Bertha’s business decreased due to the pandemic while people stayed home to curb the spread.

Bertha received a COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Loan from Accessity to use as working capital and retain her two employees, while transitioning to online and curbside services for her clients to keep her business running despite the challenges presented by the public health emergency.