Accion creates economic opportunity by partnering with small business owners to provide access to capital and the business support they need to create and grow healthy enterprises and contribute to thriving local economies. Our clients – often minorities and women - build assets, provide for their families, create employment and strengthen their communities.

Accion Serving the East Coast reaches small business owners through offices in Boston, New York, Jacksonville, Orlando and Miami, and across 41 states through the internet and local partners. We have invested over 180MM to small business owners across the country, creating and sustaining over 100,000 jobs. Serving over 1,200 individuals a year with capital, we are a leading, mission-based lender in the U.S.

**Success Story: We Rock the Spectrum, Jacksonville, FL**

We Rock the Spectrum is a gym designed specifically for children with special needs in mind. “We wanted kids with special needs to have a safe environment to play [and] learn from kids who may not have special needs,” said Marissa. After securing the franchise license and space, Marissa and her co-owner Lea needed a business plan and funding to purchase equipment and make renovations. Yet, as a startup business, they found it difficult to access financing for the necessary equipment for the space. “We didn’t qualify for a regular SBA loan. We had applied at three other banks before Accion. Since we couldn’t qualify for the regular SBA loan, we were able to use Accion’s SBA Community Advantage loan.” After receiving financing from Accion, Lea and Marissa opened their gym in December of 2016. By February, they were already serving over 500 kids and continuing to grow.

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**Financial and social impact, 2016**

- Business loans from $500 to $250,000
- Financial education resources including online and in-person workshops, online resources and one-on-one coaching
- Loans made in 2016: 1,100 totaling $11MM
- Loan repayment rate: 96%
- 3.7 jobs on average are created/sustained with each Accion loan
- 95% of borrowers keep businesses open one year after a loan from Accion

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