The Episcopal Church's Program of Economic Justice Loans Representative Borrowers

The Economic Justice Loan Program is a justice ministry through which the Episcopal Church uses its investment assets to provide capital for communities and groups that lack full and equal access to financial and related resources.

The Church uses its economic resources (investments) to enhance peoples' ability to improve their economic well being and empower them in their economic lives. Through the program, the Church invests assets to promote greater economic justice for the economically powerless and oppressed.

Under this program the Episcopal Church does not lend directly to the end users of funds. Instead, the Church lends only to community development financial intermediaries, such as loan funds, banks or credit unions. Set out below is information on a representative sample of intermediaries that have borrowed from the Church under this program.

Below is a compilation of the organizations' website reports.

**Loan to Chicago Community Loan Fund of Illinois**

The Episcopal Church made a five-year low interest $350,000 loan to Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF). CCLF is a social investment intermediary providing low-cost, flexible financing to community development organizations engaged in affordable housing, social service and economic development initiatives that benefit low- and moderate-income families and neighborhoods throughout metropolitan Chicago.

CCLF partners with over 25 banks, foundations and corporations, as well as numerous individual contributors, including organizations such as the Preservation Compact, City of Chicago NSP, Chicago Rehab Network, Chicago Community Network, and Housing Action Illinois.

The Episcopal Church loan has contributed into the financing and technical assistance by CCLF which has helped create or preserve:

More than 5,500 affordable and mixed-income housing units.

Approximately 1,000 jobs

Over 1.7 million square feet of facility and commercial space that provides job opportunities, goods and services, and social service resources for under-resourced neighborhoods.

**Loan to The Reinvestment Fund of Philadelphia, PA**

The Episcopal Church made a five year low interest $350,000 loan to The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), of Pennsylvania. TRF is a national leader in the financing of neighborhood revitalization, working initially in Greater Philadelphia, but today has changed into a progressive, results-oriented, socially responsible community investment group that works across the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Episcopal Church's loan to TRF represented an opportunity to build:

Housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and for communities with high potential for market recovery.

Businesses and commercial real estate assets that anchor neighborhoods, provide jobs, and seed further economic growth.

Community facilities like charter schools and social service organizations that improve the choices and resources available to families.

Sustainable energy projects that encourage efficiency and the application of clean technologies to build a sustainable energy future for our region.
Loan to Community First Fund of Lancaster, PA

In 2008, The Episcopal Church made a five year low interest loan to Community First Fund of Lancaster, PA. Community First Fund is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), an SBA guaranteed lender, and have received a high rating by the CDFI Assessment Rating System (CARS®).

Its targeted financing is starting and growing businesses, creating affordable housing and expanding community facilities. Since inception Community has made 800 loans totaling nearly $31 million. The $350,000 loan extended by the Episcopal Economic Justice Committee has contributed into job creation that is lasting, quality homes for affordable prices, sustainable community service programs for low-income neighborhoods, and restored downtowns that are attractive and enduring.

Loan to Minority Capital Fund of Jackson, MS

The Episcopal Church made a five year low interest $150,000 loan to Minority Capital Fund of Mississippi (MinCap). MinCap is an organization that serves business owners that cannot obtain financing from a bank because of either derogatory credit, insufficient management skills, inadequate collateral of lack of personal wealth to meet the equity investment requirement.

MinCap provides loans for equipments, inventory, working capital, start-up capital or interim financing for new and existing businesses.

The Episcopal Church’s loan has helped MinCap assist small businesses with emphasis on minority and women owned enterprises located in Mississippi.

Loan to Northern Economic Initiatives, Marquette, MI

The Episcopal Church made a five year low interest $250,000 loan to Northern Economic Initiatives (NI), Marquette, MI. Northern Initiatives is a private, non-profit community development corporation that provides rural entrepreneurs with access to capital, information and markets.

Start-ups and fast growing businesses are among the most common types of businesses that benefit from NI’s lending program, but Northern Initiatives also offers a wide range of loan packages designed to meet diverse business needs, whether they originate from small entrepreneurs or large manufacturers. Loans can be freestanding or made in conjunction with funds from local banks to complete a larger financing package (subordinated debt).

The Episcopal Church’s loan enabled NI to help rural businesses increase their sustainability and market reach through a variety of training and consulting services; it also contributed to raising the funding necessary to assist small businesses get started, grow and provide jobs in rural communities in Michigan.

Loan to Vermont Community Loan Fund, Montpelier, VT

A nonprofit, mission-driven lender, Vermont Community Loan Fund (VCLF) provides loans, grants and ongoing technical assistance for the development of affordable housing, community facilities, local businesses, child care programs and other projects that benefit lower-income Vermonters; Offer socially-responsible investors a safe, sensible tool for investing in Vermont.

The Episcopal Church made a loan of $350,000 to VCLF which, in turn, invested in small businesses, affordable housing, community facilities, and child care facilities.

VCLF also administers the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and the Building Bright Futures Fund. These grants are for eligible small businesses and home and center-based child care, respectively.
Loan to Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Berea, KY

The Episcopal Church made a $350,000 loan to Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE) in Berea, KY. FAHE is a network delivering housing in the Appalachian region. Its service area is characterized by substandard housing, economic hardship, and inadequate infrastructure. Many of the targeted communities have the drive, but lack the delivery capacity to supply housing, employment, and educational opportunities on their own.

In 2009, the FAHE network provided housing solutions to 4,000 families. Its JustChoice Lending program, the FAHE mortgage and homeownership division, made more than $1.8 million in mortgage loans to 225 families in the region.

Loan to Accion, San Antonio, TX

The Episcopal Church made a $250,000 loan to Accion in Texas. ACCION Texas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide loans to small business owners lacking access to commercial credit.

ACCION Texas provides entrepreneurs across the state access to credit and business support services not available from the commercial banking sector. Based in San Antonio, ACCION Texas has 13 satellite offices in the cities of Austin, Arlington, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, and McAllen.

ACCION Texas has successfully fulfilled its mission, with 10,000 loans totaling over $88 million throughout Texas. Average loan size is approximately $15,000 and a 36 month term. With its corporate headquarters in San Antonio, it has satellite offices in 10 other Texas cities and makes loans up to $100,000. It recently began lending operations in Louisiana.

Loan to Coastal Enterprises, Wiscasset, ME

The Episcopal Church made a $350,000 loan to Coastal Enterprises (CEI) in Wiscasset, ME. CEI is a private, nonprofit Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) which was founded in 1977. CEI provides financing and support in the development of job-creating small businesses, natural resources industries, community facilities, and affordable housing. CEI’s primary market is Maine, but, in recent years, has expanded several of its financing programs to northern New England, upstate New York and beyond. CEI applies Triple Bottom Line of economy, equity and ecology criteria in its investment and development strategies.

The Episcopal Church’s loan along with other investments enabled CEI to offer financing (venture capital, new market tax credits, and SBA 504 loans) and development services (housing counseling and business counseling).

Loan to Shorebank Enterprise, Cleveland, OH

The Episcopal Church made a $350,000 loan to Shorebank Enterprise in Cleveland, OH. ShoreBank Enterprise Group, Cleveland (SEC) is a nonprofit business development organization that works in Cleveland neighborhoods along with its sister organization, ShoreBank. SEC focuses on city-based, early-stage and growing companies, especially minority-owned firms and those located on the east-side.
Loan to Rural Community Assistance Corp, CA

The Episcopal Church made a $300,000 loan to Rural Community Assistance Corp. (RCAC) in Sacramento, CA.

RCAC is a nonprofit organization that provides technical assistance, training and financing so rural communities achieve their goals and visions. Headquartered in West Sacramento, California, RCAC’s more than 100 employees serve rural communities from 40 field locations in 13 western states, plus the Western Pacific.

RCAC provides a wide range of community development services for rural and Native American communities and community-based organizations. RCAC’s major program areas are affordable housing development, environmental infrastructure development and community development finance. In addition, RCAC offers leadership and economic development training and technical assistance.

Loan to Northland Foundation, Duluth, MN

The Episcopal Church made a $300,000 loan to Northland Foundation in Duluth, MN.

The Northland Foundation is a regional foundation serving the communities of northeastern Minnesota. It serves the community through:

- a grantmaking program that provides resources to nonprofit organizations in the region;
- an operating program, KIDS PLUS, that is dedicated to improving the well-being of children and youth; and
- a business finance program that provides financing to assist small and medium-size businesses.